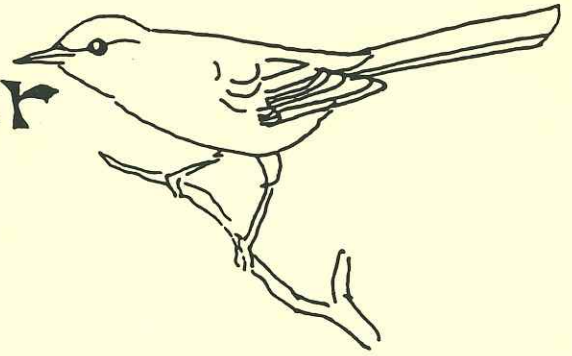


# The Gnatcatcher



## Newsletter of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 2378, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16603

November 1994

### See You In Church !

Monthly program meetings of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society are a splendid benefit for all members in good standing and their guests. They're held in Altoona at the Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church, located at the corner of 5th Ave. and 4th St. in the East End section of Altoona. *Free parking* is always available in the *safe, well-lit church parking lot* directly across 4th St. from the entrance to the church.

The homey meeting room is very suitable for informal lectures and for the showing of color slides. Delicious light refreshments are available during a convivial social adieu after the program, courtesy of alternating JVAS member volunteers.

If you haven't taken advantage of these programs — held at 7:30 on the last Monday evening of the months September through May (except for December) — you're missing out on a valuable benefit of Audubon membership!

*We hope to see you Monday the 28th!*

- Altoonans certainly need no directions to 5th Ave. and 4th St. in the East End. Remember, safe parking is a cinch!

- If you're coming from Bellwood, Tipton, Tyrone, or a point north, take new Rt. 220 south and exit at Pinecroft. Follow Rt. 764 south, which takes you down old Rt. 220, bears right in Greenwood onto E. Walton Ave. and then Walton Ave., and turns right onto Lloyd St. After going seven blocks on Lloyd St., make a left turn off Rt. 764 onto 5th Ave. and travel four blocks to 4th St. The church parking lot will be on your near left corner, with the church entrance across 4th St.

- If you're coming from Sinking Valley or a point northeast, take S.R. 1017 west, which turns into Kettle St. in Altoona. Follow Kettle St. to Walton Ave. and turn left. Go one block to Lloyd St. After seven blocks, make a left turn onto 5th Ave. and travel four blocks to 4th St. The church parking lot will be on your near left corner, with the church entrance across 4th St.

- If you're coming from a point west, south, or southeast of Altoona, take Rt. 220 north to Altoona's 17th St. Exit. Follow 17th St. through town until you come to 6th Ave. (a one-way street). Turn right onto 6th Ave. (which is Rt. 764) and travel to 4th St. Make a right turn onto 4th St. and go one block. The church parking lot will be on your far left corner, with the church entrance across 4th St.

— Ed.

#### **November Program**

*"APPALACHIAN AUTUMN" — JVAS Director Marcia Bonta will present a slide show and talk on the beauties of the autumn months on her Brush Mountain preserve (see page 2).*

*7:15 p.m., Monday, Nov. 28 at Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church, 5th Ave. & 4th St., Altoona*

#### **Field Trips**

*"BEGINNING BIRDING" with trip leader Stan Kotala*

*2:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11 at Fort Roberdeau County Park*

*"CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT" on Saturday, Dec. 17. Call Angeline Stout at 946-1783 for information.*

#### **Next Board Meeting**

*7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 2 at President Stan Kotala's residence. All members are welcome. Phone Stan at 946-8840 for directions.*



## From the Gnatcatcher's Nest ...

What role does Nature play in your life?

For many of us, a love of Nature — or biophilia — becomes a central motivating factor that lasts a lifetime.

Such is the case with the speaker on this month's program, Marcia Bonta, whose deep ecological relationship with Brush Mountain and Plummer Hollow has resulted in two highly acclaimed books describing this spiritual attachment.

Her latest work, *Appalachian Autumn*, chronicles this season's events on Marcia's home ground with particular emphasis on the emotional upheaval caused by the man-made destruction of a portion of the forest she and her family loved.



A praise-song for an Appalachian autumn, the program also covers her family's battle to try to save the hollow from clear-cutting. The slides were taken by her husband Bruce on their property. Their son David contributed an original poem, "Plummer's Hollow Elegy," which sets the tone for the book, and a translation — from the Chinese — of another poem that serves as an epigram for the prologue.

Marcia also will have available all of her in-print books in case anyone wants a signed copy for themselves or for Christmas presents.

We hope that all JVAS members will join us for this very special and uniquely personal program.



## A Welcome to Our New Members!

We welcome the following new members who recently have joined the Juniata Valley Audubon Society. Transfers into our Chapter are marked with an asterisk.

Terry Bowser, of Alexandria  
 William H. Corie, of Manns Choice  
 Pat Croissant, of Huntingdon  
 Sherie L. Diehl, of Duncansville  
 T.M. Diehl, of Manns Choice  
 Edward Fornbacher, of Hollidaysburg  
 Frank D. Garlock, of Broad Top  
 Mrs. Charles F. George, of Altoona  
 Linda Griffiths, of Bedford  
 K. Heininger, of Duncansville  
 Sarah Ann Ivory, of Ashville  
 Mrs. Marie Markwood, of Martinsburg  
 Herman Morgan, Jr., of Altoona  
 Christine Repko, of Gallitzin  
 C. Robertson, of Duncansville  
 Mrs. E.C. Strouse, of Tyrone  
 Wayne Thomas, Jr., of Everett  
 \*Shirley Wagoner, of Huntingdon  
 John Widmann, of Roaring Spring

— Ed.

## Address Change for Audubon Workshops

The Workshops section of Audubon Camps and Workshops program, under the direction of Peg Abbott, is moving to a new headquarters and partnership with the Audubon Center of the Northwoods in Minnesota. Peg will work with Mike Link and the staff of Northwoods to continue the exciting workshops that Audubon has offered since 1989.

More than 15 week-long destinations will be featured in 1995 along with International Ecology Tours in Costa Rica, Venezuela, Belize, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, Argentina, and the Amazon.

The new address and phone numbers are:

NATIONAL AUDUBON ECOLOGY &  
 PHOTOGRAPHIC TOURS

P.O. Box 530

Sandstone, MN 55072

Tel. (612) 245-2648

Fax (612) 245-5272

— Ed.



## CONSERVATION

**O**  
**R** A century ago, a vast system of inter-  
**N** connected rivers, lakes, and wetlands spread  
**E** across much of southern Florida. Beginning  
**R** near Orlando, it extended south through the  
Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee, where  
water spilled and seeped into an expanse of marsh-  
land reaching all the way to the tip of Florida.

Author Marjory Stoneman Douglas called these Everglades marshes the "river of grass." When the summer rains fell, water crept in a broad, shallow sheet through wide vistas of sawgrass, interrupted only by islands of trees. The grassy river ended in mangrove-lined rivers and estuaries that emptied into the Gulf of Mexico and Florida Bay.

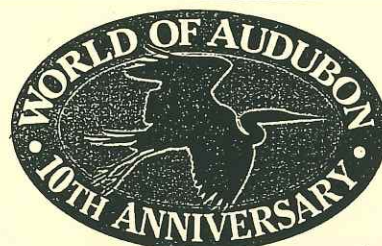
This wet, subtropical realm was a paradise for wildlife. People exploring the marshes in the late 1800s reported hundreds of thousands of wading birds nesting in enormous rookeries. Clouds of ibis, egrets, storks, and spoonbills filled the skies. Florida panthers, the last of three big cats in the East, roamed the marshes. Alligators lived in the inland marshes — crocodiles along the coast.

Fortunately, much of the land within the original Everglades system is set aside in parks and refuges, including Everglades National Park. Now, momentum is growing to restore the water quality and flows needed to heal the ecosystem. Efforts are under way to reconfigure the canal system, to distribute water in a way that mimics the historic flow, and to require that agricultural operations clean up pollutants coming from the fields.

The National Audubon Society is helping to make restoration a reality. Our scientists have designed specific plans to restore the Everglades system to health. Our policy experts work with government agencies to execute these plans. And our activists are pushing public officials to oversee and fund these restoration efforts.

It's not too late. If we work together, we *can* bring back America's greatest wetland.

To receive the quarterly *Everglades Update*, write to National Audubon Society, Southeast Regional Office, 102 East Fourth Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32303. You'll also receive "action alerts" when your help is needed on Everglades issues. — *PF*



National Audubon Society  
&  
Turner Broadcasting  
present

## The World of Audubon 10th Anniversary Special

Join hosts Lauren Hutton and Richard Dean Anderson on this remarkable adventure, featuring Audubon's most powerful and controversial films of the last decade.

Premieres on TBS SuperStation  
Sunday, November 20, 1994  
at 9:00PM (EST)

Encores: Monday, November 21 at 12:00AM (EST)  
Saturday, November 26 at 10:05AM (EST)  
Monday, November 28 at 2:35AM (EST)

**BE SURE TO WATCH!**

**Send Your Bi Lo/Riverside Receipts to Anne**

Please send your grocery receipts from Bi Lo Foods and Riverside Markets to Anne Borland, at 138A Larch St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. She redeems the slips for \$\$\$ for the JVAS. — *Ed.*



### Notes from Plummer Hollow: Death of a Yearling

Too bad that the bawling of a yearling bear cub for its dead sister will reverberate in our dreams and not in those of the bow hunter who shot her in her rear end as she ran away from the hunter's tree stand.

She came down off Laurel Ridge on October 12 to die in our front yard, and her sibling followed to lament her death. My son David and I heard its bawling in early afternoon and ran outside to find a young bear standing over its sister's body. It ran up into the woods when it saw us and continued bawling for several minutes. Then it was quiet.

What kind of a hunter shoots a 110-pound female yearling out of season from behind? It was not an easy or quick death. According to Deputy Game Protector Tom McMann,

who later came to pick up her body, the arrow hit her backbone and then went through to her liver. This caused her to bleed internally so her chest cavity filled with blood and she died, leaving no blood trail for the hunter to trace.



I can't tell you how wonderful it is to encounter live wild black bears in our woods as I have many times. To find one dead, the light gone from its eyes, its wound covered with buzzing flies and masses of white maggots, is a horror.

Most legitimate hunters would consider it a criminal waste to shoot a yearling female bear before she had the chance to produce cubs of her own. But those of us who merely enjoy seeing wild bears roam freely in Penn's Woods, consider it simply criminal. — MB

### Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 17 will be the JVAS's day to census the area for birds. All CBCs are conducted in a 15-mile diameter circle, which is about 177 square miles. JVAS's circle centers on Culp, in Sinking Valley.

According to the National Audubon Society this year will be the 95th anniversary since 27 conservationists decided to protest the traditional bird shoot by counting the birds on Christmas Day in 1900. This year nearly 1650 counts will take place throughout every U.S. state, Canadian province, and around the world.

If you're interested in participating, contact Angeline Stout at 946-1783 (after 4 pm, please). It's important that we try to cover our circle without overlapping; so if you don't have an area, we'll assign you one. If you're a beginner, we'll also have an area being covered by Stan Kotala, who would be glad to have your company. You'll need a map of the area, along with a check-off list that we request you to return by Dec. 28.

After your fun and hopefully great count, please join us at five-thirty for dinner at White Oak Hall at Fort Roberdeau. Bring a favorite dish, a place setting, and your results. We hope to see you there! — AS



### '95 Field Trips

#### *Spring Migration of Cranes and Platte River Conference — March 15-20, 1995*

We're planning a joint field trip with the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania (ACP) to Nebraska to observe the spring migration of cranes and attend the Platte River Conference and the Crane Conference.

The six-day excursion will include five nights accommodations, van transportation, gas allowance, admissions, and taxes. The highlight of the tour will be a field trip to the blinds along the Platte River for observing Sandhill Cranes and — if we're lucky — Whooping Cranes.

The estimated cost, based on double occupancy, is \$385 per person. This includes a donation to the ACP/JVAS. Air fare will depend on where you wish to leave from — the present cost range being \$225 to \$400.

Persons interested in full details of the trip should call Janet at 942-5752 (at home) or 946-1600 or 800-822-8068 (at work). Space will be limited.

#### *Dunlo Strip Mine Reclamation Area of Gallitzin State Forest — April 1995*

Our second trip with the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society to a reclaimed strip mine for observing grassland species will in April at a date to be scheduled.

#### *Warblers and Spring at Presque Isle State Park — May 19-21, 1995*

We'll be driving to Erie on Friday evening for an early start for a full Saturday of birding at Presque Isle State Park. After a Sunday morning return visit to PISP we'll make several stops on the trip back to Altoona. Watch *The Gnatcatcher* for full details.

— JH

### House Finch Eye Disease

Melvin Lane, of Alexandria, writes, "Audubon members are often the first to be called whenever people have *bird* problems, so I think all of our members should be made aware of the House Finch eye disease as soon as possible."

He enclosed a brief from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that indicates that an unprecedented outbreak of conjunctivitis (eye infection) has been reported in House Finches in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (also Purple Finches in Virginia). Sightings have become commonplace at bird feeders in many places and new areas continue to be reported. Bird feeders tend to concentrate larger than usual numbers and multiple species of birds. Because House Finches commonly use bird feeders, sick finches will pose a threat to the health of migrating birds attracted to feeders this fall.

If you observe sick or dead birds at your feeders, the Service recommends that you discontinue feeding, or to clean the feeders weekly and disinfect them with household bleach.

Reports of sick or dead birds should be made to the Bureau of Wildlife Management office in Harrisburg at (717) 787-5529.

— Ed.

***"Climb the mountains and get  
their good tidings. Nature's  
peace will flow into you as  
sunshine flows into trees.  
The winds will blow their own  
freshness into you, and the  
storms their energy, while  
cares will drop off like autumn  
leaves."***

— John Muir



### Dunlo Trip Report

On Sunday, Oct. 23, Paula Ford and Stan Kotala, of the JVAS, led birders from the Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (our old friend, Roy Boyle, a former JVAS member and education chair, his lovely wife Heidi, and Fran Williams, who is well-known to many JVAS members who have attended meetings of the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania), along with Richard Luehrs, of the Big Bend Audubon Society in Kearney, Nebr., on a trip to our chapter's Special Areas Project (SAP) at the Dunlo Strip Mine Reclamation Area of the Gallitzin State Forest.

Stan "Camo Hat" Kotala sighted a large flock of American Pipits in a recently burned field. It was very interesting to see the practices being used to maintain the grasslands on this section of the state forest, and how birds are finding insects in the burned-over areas.

We spent a considerable portion of the morning slogging in the bog. We followed the main "stream" through the bog to its source, botanizing along the way.

#### Birds sighted:

- Northern Harrier (1 male, 1 female)
- Downy Woodpecker
- Horned Lark (15)
- American Pipit (135)
- American Crow
- Common Raven
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- American Robin (39)
- Cedar Waxwing
- European Starling
- Vesper Sparrow (21)
- Fox Sparrow
- Dark-eyed Junco (38)
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Purple Finch (5)

All participants agreed this was a terrific field trip. We visit the site monthly; if you're interested in accompanying us on an SAP trip, call Paula at 695-4799.

— PF

### Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers Formed

Pennsylvania's 46,000 miles of streams provide a wealth of riverine resources. The Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers has been formed after several years of meetings, workshops, and discussions among individuals and representatives of various groups concerned with the issues, threats, and opportunities confronting Pennsylvania's rivers and their related resources. The group's mission is "the protection, sound management, and enhancement of the Commonwealth's rivers and the empowerment of local organizations with the same commitments."

For more information, contact:

Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds  
and Rivers

P.O. Box 765

Harrisburg, PA 17108-0765

Or call Ric Hazard at (717) 236-8825. — Ed.

#### JVAS Officers and Chairpersons

President	Stan Kotala	946-8840
Vice President	Bill King	942-7673
Secretary	Eugene Zielinski	353-8212
Treasurer	Marge Hoyer	684-7376
Membership	Marcia Bonta	684-3113
Newsletter	Charlie Hoyer	684-7376
Conservation	Paula Ford	695-4799
Education	Collette Heller	742-7481
International Issues	Bruce Bonta	684-3113
Field Trips	Janet Huber	942-5752
Hospitality	Barbara Corle	276-3428
Bird-A-Thon	Stan Kotala	946-8840
Historian	Barbara Baird	946-0256
Christmas Bird Count	Angeline Stout	946-1783
Wetlands	Theodora Kreitz	695-0126
A.C.P. Representative	Paula Ford	695-4799
Director	Marcia Bonta	684-3113
Director	Anne Borland	695-9718
Director	Francis Burgoon	695-5857
Director	Dave Kyler	643-6030



### Hoyers Become VIPs



Marge and Charlie Hoyer, of Sinking Valley, were among 21 volunteers who completed the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program's Volunteer Initiative Project (VIP) training in October after participating in two weekend workshops on forest management at Keystone State Park in Westmoreland County. The Hoyers were nominated by Bruce Bonta, of Tyrone, to participate in this innovative program in which trained volunteers promote forest stewardship in their communities by relaying what they've learned to their friends, neighbors, and community groups.

Volunteers start by telling fellow landowners about the Stewardship Program, a technical assistance effort that helps forest landowners manage their woodlands judiciously. Pennsylvania's program is administered through the USDA Forest Service and is directed by the state Department of Environmental Resources Bureau of Forestry in cooperation with other government and private resource agencies. In effect, the goal of Pennsylvania's program is to help the half million private forest land owners in the state manage their forest land wisely. As active participants in the program, VIPs play an important role in spreading the stewardship ethic across the state.

To become volunteers, Marge and Charlie successfully completed more than 40 hours of classroom and field training in forest and wildlife management, ecology, biodiversity, silviculture, erosion control, communication, and other subjects related to stewardship. In exchange for the training, VIPs agree to invest a like amount of time relaying what they've learned to others in the community.

VIPs work closely with an assigned mentor, usually their county service forester, who helps guide and monitor their outreach efforts. One of the first things most VIPs do is develop and implement a Forest Stewardship Plan for their own land, with the help of a stewardship resource professional.

Part of Marge and Charlie's outreach work involves explaining how a complementary effort, the Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP), can help forest landowners cover the cost of managing their land. Through SIP, qualifying landowners may receive up to 75 percent reimbursement for the cost of implementing sound forest management practices on their land. For example, if a landowner pays a resource professional \$460 to write a 10-year forest management plan for his property, he may receive up to \$345 back from SIP. A completed plan qualifies a landowner to receive additional cost-share money for specific practices outlined in the plan. Landowners are eligible to become Forest Stewards and receive cost-share monies under the Stewardship Incentive Program if they own between 5 and 1000 acres. Money is available for management practices ranging from wildlife habitat enhancement to building recreational trails, in addition to traditional timber management planning.

To date, 143 volunteers have successfully completed VIP training, and, by summer 1995, all 67 counties in Pennsylvania will have volunteers actively working to spread the word of stewardship.

To learn more about the VIP or Stewardship programs, contact Marge or Charlie Hoyer anytime at 684-7376 or Marcia or Bruce Bonta at 684-3113. Or phone the Pennsylvania Forest Stewardship Program toll-free at 800-235-WISE.

— Ed.



### Thanks, Tyrone Milling!

The JVAS extends special thanks to our friends at Tyrone Milling, Inc. for the generous discount they gave us on birdseed purchased to fill the feeders at Fort Roberdeau County Park.

We urge all JVAS members to patronize Tyrone Milling for all their feeder needs! Tyrone Milling is located in Ironville at the northern end of Sinking Valley. Their phone number is 684-3400.



### Juniata Valley Site Guides

Our chapter is collecting guides to favorite natural areas in the Juniata Valley. If there's a particular place that you enjoy visiting and that you know well, please write a description of it and submit it for publication to Editor Charlie Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686-0032.

Our first site guide (enclosed with this issue of *The Gnatcatcher*) is a birder's guide to Canoe Creek State Park by Stan Kotala. — Ed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There will be no newsletter issue for December. The deadline for January's issue is January 10. Please submit articles to editor Charlie Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686-0032.

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**Juniata Valley Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 2378**  
**Altoona, PA 16603**

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# Site Guide No. 1: Canoe Creek State Park

By Stan Kotala

Canoe Creek State Park encompasses 958 acres in Turkey Valley, between Brush Mountain and Loop Mountain in Blair County. It is a relatively new park, having been dedicated in 1979, and is composed of former farms and woodlots. Elevations range from 880 feet above sea level where Canoe Creek flows out of Brumbaugh Dam to 1360 feet at the crest of Moore's Hill.

The central feature of the park is 155-acre Canoe Lake. The bottom of the lake slopes gently to a depth of 20 feet. At the northeastern end of the lake there is a 30-acre area of partially submerged stumps. This is where Canoe Creek's cool waters flow into the lake. The creek originates in the forested valley composed of the 7000 acres of the eastern portion of State Game Lands 166. Along the creek within the state park there is a beaver dam complex complete with lodges forming an extremely interesting wetland near the mouth of Canoe Creek at the lake. This area is frequented by Belted Kingfishers, Swamp Sparrows, Green-backed Herons, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Wood Ducks.

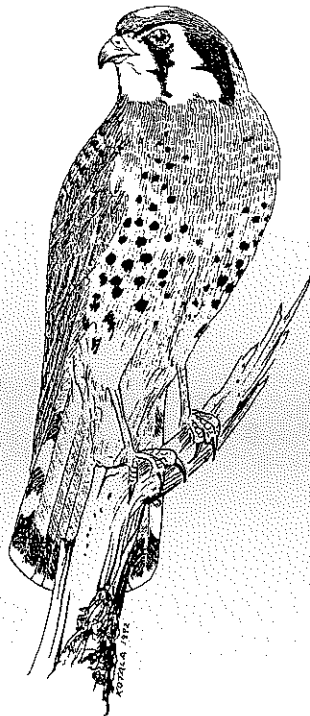
Prior to entering the lake, Canoe Creek is a fast-moving, cold-water stream shaded by oaks, hemlocks, hickories, and beeches almost completely from its source 9 miles northeast of the park within the game lands to the point where it enters the lake. Louisiana Waterthrushes nest along its banks, and the calls of Acadian Flycatchers burst forth from hemlock-bedecked limestone outcroppings along the adjacent trail. The water leaving the lake is somewhat warmer and soon flows into the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. Another interesting forested wetland exists just below the Brumbaugh

Dam in an area with many pin oaks and sycamores, where migrating blackbirds and warblers are often found.

Two other significant streams in the park are Mary Ann's Creek, which enters the northwestern cove of the lake in a marshy area, and New Creek,

which unites with Canoe Creek below Brumbaugh Dam. The area at the mouth of Mary Ann's Creek is dominated by many interesting wetland plants: sedges, rushes, cat-tails, and beautiful marsh marigolds in spring. During the Juniata Valley Audubon Society's first Special Areas Project (SAP) in January 1992 a Virginia Rail was seen in this area by Bill King and Dave Kyler. New Creek flows through a wide, flat area at the western end of the park that is dominated by grasses and shrubs with some interspersed trees. Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks often hunt this area with great success. This area is also a good place to see White-throated Sparrows and White-crowned Sparrows during migration.

The vegetation of the rest of the park is divided equally between open, grassy/shrubby areas and woods. The largest block of forest is on Moore's Hill, the rocky northern and western portions of which slope steeply down to Mary Ann's Creek. Wood Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireos, and Ovenbirds are easily seen and heard here. The eastern slope is less steep as it goes down to the banks of Canoe Creek. Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse are often seen foraging in this area. Oaks, beeches, and hemlocks provide food and cover for birds inhabiting this eastern slope. Screech Owls, Barred Owls, and Great Horned Owls frequently are found roosting there. Just north of this area is a shrubby woodland with large numbers





of redbuds whose pink blossoms make spring days here absolutely delightful. Rufous-sided Towhees are abundant among the hawthorns and crabapples. Where grassy openings exist, Golden-winged Warblers may be found.

The southern slope of Moore's Hill is the gentlest, easing down to the shore of Canoe Lake. Most of this area is open fields with old hedgerows and woodlots. Numerous bluebird houses, kestrel boxes, and wood duck houses have been placed in this area and have been very productive. The shrubby and grassy areas abound with Field Sparrows in summer, and the strange calls of Yellow-breasted Chats are often heard here on foggy mornings. Cooper's Hawks frequently are seen hunting the woodlots, while calls of distant waterfowl drift up from the lake.

With such varied topography, Canoe Creek State Park is a haven for bird life. A Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology Special Areas Project, conducted under the leadership of Juniata Valley Audubon Society Vice President Bill King, has netted more than 170 species there since January 1992.

Birding is easy in this park, thanks to the outstanding trail system maintained by park manager Terry Wentz. A comfortable, flat, bicycle trail runs through the open southeastern portion of the park. Marsh Trail allows good birding through the wetland near the mouth of Mary Ann's Creek and often allows good views of waterfowl such as Coot, Bufflehead, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Pied-billed Grebe, and Tundra Swan.

Limestone Trail follows Mary Ann's Creek into a steeply sloping valley where many migrating warblers may be found on spring days. Moore's Hill Trail allows easy birding, even on the steep northern incline of Moore's Hill. This trail traverses the hill, passing through a variety of habitats such as oak-hickory woods, grassy fields, shrubby hillsides, abandoned limestone quarries, and an old limestone kiln complex (harboring Carolina Wrens), and skirting the beaver dam wetlands near the entry point of Canoe Creek into the lake. Plant enthusiasts will be thrilled by the many fascinating specimens along this trail — among them: Yellow Ladies Slipper, Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Maidenhair Fern, Trilliums,

and Bloodroot. Fisherman's Path allows one to walk along the forested, steep southeastern shore of the lake. The path provides excellent views of waterfowl due to the elevated vantage point close to the water's edge, shaded cover, and very good morning and mid-day lighting. Sugarloaf Trail traverses a hill with many conifers at the western end of the lake, adjacent to Brumbaugh Dam.

Birding focal points of the park are the northeastern end of the lake for waterfowl (19 species of ducks and geese) and herons; Mary Ann's Creek and Marsh and the beaver dam complex for wetland species; Moore's Hill for woodland birds (24 species of wood warblers); and the grassy western end of the park for birds of shrub and grassland, as well as hunting raptors.

Anyone take advantage of the excellent bird-watching opportunities at the park also may want to take part in the many outstanding environmental educational programs given by state park environmental interpreters during the summer months. In addition to a large variety of birds, Canoe Creek State Park hosts the largest maternity colony of Little Brown Bats in Pennsylvania in the Turkey Valley Church, which was recently bought for the park by Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Fund. This was the first property purchased by the WRCF to protect a plant or animal habitat. As if this were not enough, the only known hibernaculum of the federally endangered Indiana Bat in Pennsylvania is in a deep limestone mine on Moore's Hill. The mine area is a State Game Propagation Area and is off-limits to all.

If you want to study the park in greater depth, you may want to stay at one of its eight beautiful, modern cabins overlooking the lake. Within a 15-minute drive from the park is State Game Lands 166, which offers 11,000 acres of excellent forest birding, and the 11-mile Lower Trail of the Rails to Trails project along the Juniata River's Frankstown Branch for outstanding river valley birding. ●