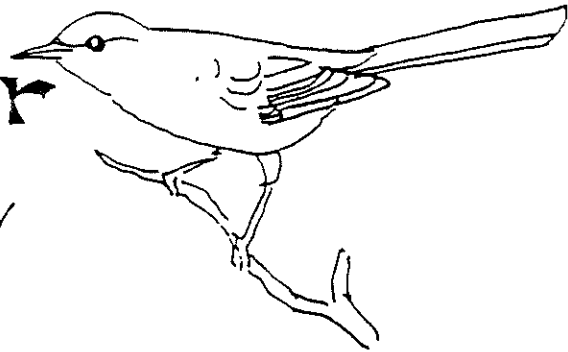


The Gnatcatcher



JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1994

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: BIRDS IN THE BALANCE

This special National Audubon Society program investigates the international issues facing migratory birds.

TIME: 22 February 1994 (Tuesday) at 7:30 PM

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

IN MEMORY OF TRUTH CLOSE by Janet DeMuth

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society lost a charter member and a loyal friend with the death of Truth M. Close in November of 1993.

Being a graduate of Slippery Rock University explained her interest in physical education as well as keeping physically fit. It was her habit to walk two or three miles a day and to eat nutritious meals. Her minor in college was science and this interest and education were very evident to anyone who knew her. She was very knowledgeable about the world around her, including wildflowers, ferns, trees, insects, birds, and geology. She was always willing to share this knowledge with anyone who was interested in the "flotsam and jetsam," as she called it, in her pockets or pressed in her field guide. These things were often used in the crafts that were shared with others.

Truth was always ready to put on hiking boots and a hat, stuff an apple in her fanny pack and head for the hills. It didn't matter whether it was a trip out west with Janet Huber, a week at a state park in a cabin or a tent, a birding trip with Dave, a hike with Audubon friends, or a walk in the parking lot of the church across the road, Truth found something of interest wherever she went. She kept meticulous notes of all her outings and served as the JVAS historian for many years.

Her quiet manner, her faith in God, and her willingness to help will be missed by her family, her church, and her many friends.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS by Angeline Stout

The JVAS Christmas bird count took place on December 18th, 1993. The temperature ranged between 28 and 38° F with 10-15 mph winds. There were 15 observers in the field with an additional 12 at feeders. As a whole, we put in 89 hours and 442½ miles. A total of 56 species were seen with 5,387 individual birds. Ten were single sightings, with Colette Heller claiming three of these. Colette saw her resident red-breasted nuthatch, a ring-billed gull, and a Canada goose. The most noteworthy sighting was Dave Kyler's common yellowthroat.

COYOTE PROGRAM RESCHEDULED

Arnold Hayden, a Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist, was unable to present our January program, "The Coyote in Pennsylvania," due to foul weather. This program has been rescheduled for this fall.

BI-LO / RIVERSIDE RECEIPTS

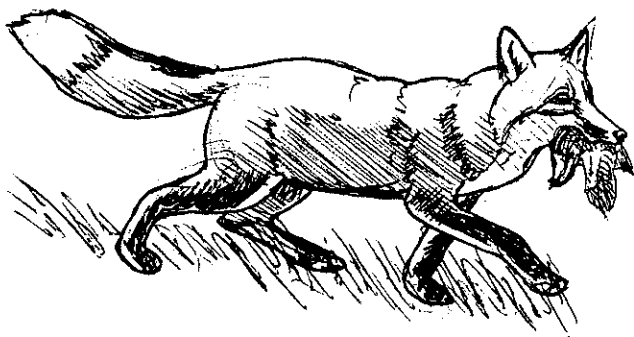
Bi-Lo and Riverside receipts are being collected by Anne Borland, 138a Larch St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Our chapter obtains significant funds from the receipts that you send to Anne. Let's all save those receipts and send them in!

JVAS BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be on Thursday, March 3, at 7 PM at the Altoona Public Library. All members are welcome.

JVAS BANQUET

Our annual banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at the White Oak Hall of Fort Roberdeau County park in Sinking Valley. The tentative starting time is 6 PM. This year's program promises to be one of the most outstanding of all time, as Dr. Tom Dick will present a spectacular slide show of the Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society's wetlands restoration project along Dunnings Creek in Bedford County. This definitely is a "must see" program! In addition, various works of art will be raffled at the banquet. The artwork will be displayed during our February and March meetings. Raffle tickets will be sold at the meetings also! Information regarding the meal and price will be in next month's Gnatcatcher.



Red Fox

by Richard Mock

MIDDLE CREEK FIELD TRIP by Janet Huber

State Game Land 46 was created in 1929 on the border of Lancaster and Lebanon counties and was managed for small game for forty years. With the approval by Pennsylvania voters of Project 70 funds in 1963, the Pennsylvania Game Commission elected to create a waterfowl management area adjacent to this game land. Wetlands which had been marginal for farming were acquired for this project. The Game Commission constructed several small impoundments, created a 400 acre lake complete with nesting islands, provided picnic areas, hiking and nature trails, and built a beautiful visitors' center with its huge windows overlooking the lake. Wildlife lectures are held regularly at the visitors' center, contributing to Middle Creek's tremendous value as a conservation education site.

March will find the lake covered with waterfowl, most notably large numbers of tundra swans. We will explore the area thoroughly, visiting various habitats. We will meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center and leave for Middle Creek at 7:00 AM on Saturday, March 12. Please call me at 942-5752 (home) or 946-1600 (work, Heritage Travel) if you plan on joining us.

"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring."

Aldo Leopold, 1949

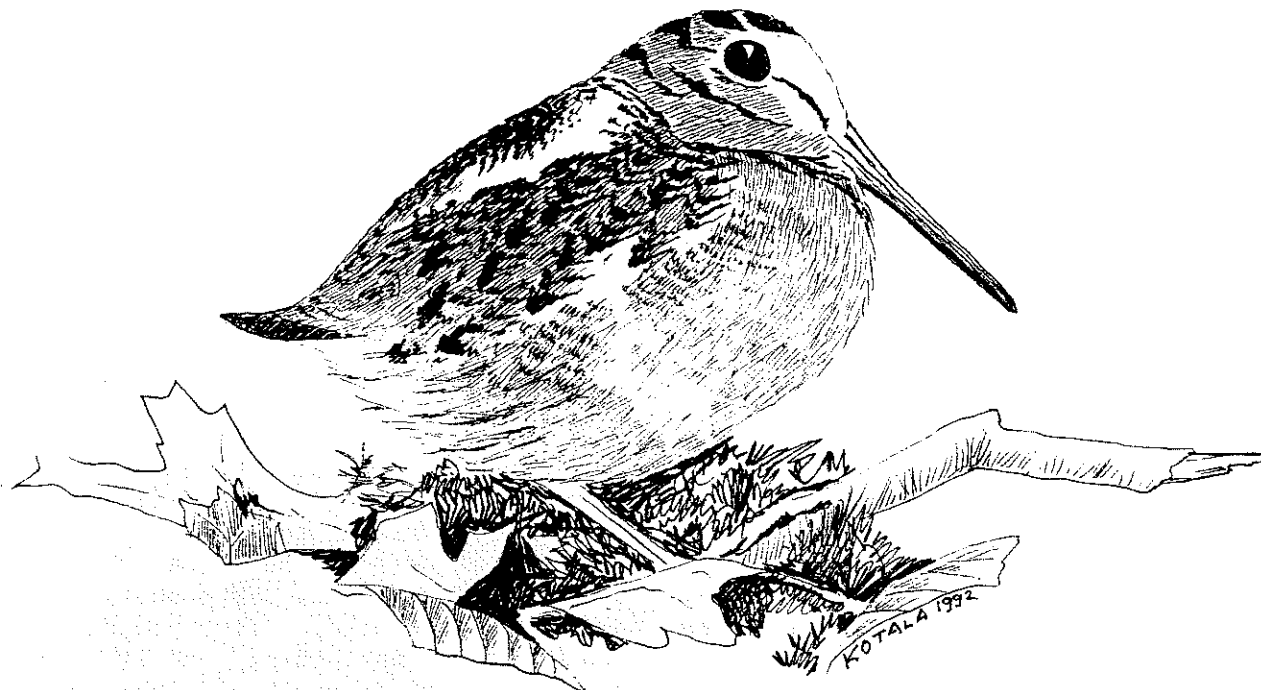
LOWER TRAIL SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT by Stan Kotala

Our newest Special Areas Project is the Lower Trail Rails to Trails project which parallels the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River from Williamsburg in Blair County to Water Street in Huntingdon County. The Special Areas Projects are done in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology in order to document bird species in particular locales.

This project will differ significantly from those in the past in that it will allow birders to be in the field independently at times of their own choosing. Past SAP's required participants to be at the project site on a particular date that was chosen beforehand. For the Lower Trail SAP, you may observe birds anywhere along the eleven mile length of the trail at any time. Use the checklist at the bottom of this page to record the number of each species seen along the trail. Also, give me an idea of where along the trail you did your birding by writing the name of the nearest community (Williamsburg, Covedale, Mt. Etna, Water Street) in the "location" column of the checklist. The list also has spaces for the date, time, sky condition, and wind speed. Make as many copies of the checklist as you like. After you have filled out the list with your sightings from a particular Lower Trail trip, send it to me so that I can compile all the data and send it in to the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology which keeps permanent records of all the Special Areas Projects (There are currently 46 SAP's in progress in the Commonwealth). Send your completed lists to me at R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

PSO SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT - DAILY SURVEY FIELD FORM							
Special Area:				Date:			
Locations:				Start Stop			
Leader(s):				Time			
Participants:				Sky Code			
				Temp (F)			
				Wind Code			
Species	BC	Number Tally	Total	Species	BC	Number Tally	Total
Common Loon				Common Moorhen			
Pied-billed Grebe				American Coot			
Horned Grebe				Killdeer			
Double-crested Cormorant				Greater Yellowlegs			
American Bittern				Solitary Sandpiper			
Green-backed Heron				Spotted Sandpiper			
Great Blue Heron				Semipalm. Sandpiper			
Great Egret				Least Sandpiper			
Blk-cr'd Night-Heron				Common Snipe			
Tundra Swan				American Woodcock			
Canada Goose				Ring-billed Gull			
Wood Duck				Herring Gull			
Green-winged Teal				Common Tern			
Amer. Black Duck				Rock Dove			
Mallard				Mourning Dove			
Northern Pintail				Black-billed Cuckoo			
Blue-winged Teal				Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
Gadwall				Barn Owl			
American Wigeon				E. Screech-Owl			
Ring-necked Duck				Great Horned Owl			
Lesser Scaup				Barred Owl			
Common Goldeneye				Long-eared Owl			
Bufflehead				Short-eared Owl			
Hooded Merganser				Common Nighthawk			
Common Merganser				Whip-poor-will			
Ruddy Duck				Chimney Swift			
Black Vulture				Ruby-th. Hummingbird			
Turkey Vulture				Belted Kingfisher			
Osprey				Red-bell. Woodpecker			
Bald Eagle				Yell-bell. Sapsucker			
Northern Harrier				Downy Woodpecker			
Sharp-shinned Hawk				Hairy Woodpecker			
Cooper's Hawk				Northern Flicker			
Northern Goshawk				Pileated Woodpecker			
Red-shouldered Hawk				Olive-s'd Flycatcher			
Broad-winged Hawk				Eastern Wood-Pewee			
Red-tailed Hawk				Yell-b'd Flycatcher			
Golden Eagle				Acadian Flycatcher			
American Kestrel				Alder Flycatcher			
Merlin				Willow Flycatcher			
Peregrine Falcon				Least Flycatcher			
Ring-necked Pheasant				Eastern Phoebe			
Ruffed Grouse				Great-cr. Flycatcher			
Wild Turkey				Eastern Kingbird			
Northern Bobwhite				Purple Martin			
Virginia Rail				Tree Swallow			
Sora				N. Rough-wing Swallow			

PSO SPECIAL AREAS PROJECT DAILY SURVEY FIELD FORM							
Special Area:				Date:			
Species	BC	Number Tally	Total	Species	BC	Number Tally	Total
Bank Swallow				Pine Warbler			
Cliff Swallow				Prairie Warbler			
Barn Swallow				Palm Warbler			
Horned Lark				Bay-breasted Warbler			
Blue Jay				Blackpoll Warbler			
American Crow				Cerulean Warbler			
Fish Crow				Blk-&-white Warbler			
Common Raven				American Redstart			
Black-cap. Chickadee				Prothonotary Warbler			
Carolina Chickadee				Worm-eating Warbler			
Tufted Titmouse				Ovenbird			
Red-br'd Nuthatch				North. Waterthrush			
White-br'd Nuthatch				Louis. Waterthrush			
Brown Creeper				Kentucky Warbler			
Carolina Wren				Mourning Warbler			
House Wren				Common Yellowthroat			
Winter Wren				Hooded Warbler			
Marsh Wren				Canada Warbler			
Golden-cr'd Kinglet				Yellow-br'd Chat			
Ruby-cr'd Kinglet				Scarlet Tanager			
Bl-gray Gnatcatcher				Northern Cardinal			
Eastern Bluebird				Rose-br'd Grosbeak			
Veery				Indigo Bunting			
Gray-cheeked Thrush				Rufous-s'd Towhee			
Swainson's Thrush				Am. Tree Sparrow			
Hermit Thrush				Chipping Sparrow			
Wood Thrush				Field Sparrow			
American Robin				Vesper Sparrow			
Gray Catbird				Savannah Sparrow			
N. Mockingbird				Grasshopper Sparrow			
Brown Thrasher				Fox Sparrow			
Cedar Waxwing				Song Sparrow			
European Starling				Lincoln's Sparrow			
White-eyed Vireo				Swamp Sparrow			
Solitary Vireo				Wh-throated Sparrow			
Yel-throated Vireo				Wh-crowned Sparrow			
Warbling Vireo				Dark-eyed Junco			
Philadelphia Vireo				Snow Bunting			
Red-eyed Vireo				Bobolink			
Blue-winged Warbler				Red-winged Blackbird			
Golden-w'd Warbler				Eastern Meadowlark			
Tennessee Warbler				Rusty Blackbird			
Nashville Warbler				Common Grackle			
Northern Parula				Brown-headed Cowbird			
Yellow Warbler				Orchard Oriole			
Chestnut-s'd Warbler				*Baltimore* Oriole			
Magnolia Warbler				Purple Finch			
Cape May Warbler				House Finch			
Blk-th. Blue Warbler				Common Redpoll			
Myrtle Warbler				Pine Siskin			
Blk-th Green Warbler				American Goldfinch			
Blackburnian Warbler				Evening Grosbeak			
Yellow-thr'd Warbler				House Sparrow			



THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH GNATCATCHER IS MARCH 8. Please submit articles to the editor, Stan Kotala, R.D. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601.

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