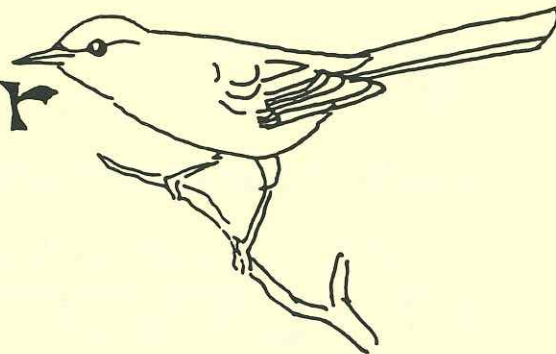


The Gnatcatcher



Newsletter of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 2378, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16603

May 1995

Shuster Scores Zero With League of Conservation Voters

By Paula Ford

The League of Conservation Voters has issued a scorecard on 10 key issues and votes considered by the House of Representatives during the first 100 days of the 104th Congress. Rep. Bud Shuster's score was zero. Rep. John Murtha scored 82%, and Rep. William Clinger scored 9%. The bills are as follows:

1. Safeguarding Children's Health

January 24, 1995. H.R. 5, the "unfunded mandates" bill/Maloney amendment. H.R. 5 would erect new procedural hurdles before Congress could pass legislation to create national standards (such as reducing chemicals or bacteria in water supplies) if the total cost would exceed \$50 million and if state or local governments were expected to implement the legislation without full federal funding. The bill exempted certain programs such as those relating to national defense or civil rights from the new procedural hurdles. Rep. Maloney (D-N.Y.) offered an amendment to add legislation protecting children's health to the list of exemptions. The amendment was defeated 161-261. YES is the pro-environment vote.

2. Suspending Federal Rule-making

February 24, 1995. H.R. 450, a bill to suspend federal rule-making. As passed, H.R. 450 retroactively suspends federal government rule-making. New standards for environmental protection are blocked until December 31, 1995. The House passed an amendment to ban protection for newly determined endangered species for 2 years and re-

(Cont'd on page 3)

May Program

"BIRDING PENNSYLVANIA" — Paula Ford will show slides of various regions and parks.

7:15 p.m., Monday, May 29 at Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church, 5th Ave. & 4th St., Altoona

Field Trips

PRESQUE ISLE — Janet Huber will lead us to one of Pennsylvania's birding hot spots.

May 19, 20, 21

LOWER TRAIL BIRD WALK with trip leaders Dave Kyler and Bill King (see page 2).

7:30 a.m., Sunday, May 28

BEGINNING BIRDING with trip leader Stan Kotala

2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 28 at Fort Roberdeau County Park

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

Next Board Meeting

6 p.m., Monday, July 10 at Mt. Charma Lookout. (The agenda for this meeting will be mailed to board members in early July.)

From the Gnatcatcher's Nest ...

I'm pleased to report that John Flicker, presently the Florida State Director of The Nature Conservancy, was elected unanimously to be the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Audubon Society.

Flicker has spent most of his career with The Nature Conservancy, serving as TNC's Great Plains Director, Chief Legal Counsel for all national and international operations, Executive Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer. For the past 5 years he has led one of the Conservancy's fastest growing and most successful state programs as Florida State Director.

Flicker will assume his new NAS post July 1.

(K)

Lower Trail Special Area Project

April's walk on the Lower Trail was both enjoyable and productive. Eleven intrepid observers witnessed the first of many Neotropical migrants to arrive in our area. These beautiful, multicolored, long-distance wanderers adorned the newly budding trees like so many Christmas tree ornaments and were always in motion.

New warbler species added to the master list included yellow, yellow-rumped, yellow-throated (rare), cerulean, black-and-white, black-throated green, northern parula, American redstart, and Louisiana waterthrush. Swallows included bank, tree, and rough-winged. Hawks were represented by osprey and broad-winged. Completing the list were rufous-sided towhee, chimney swift, yellow-throated vireo, cedar waxwing, brown thrasher, gray catbird, great blue heron, and (our very own Chapter logo species) blue-gray gnatcatcher.

The Lower Trail SAP species list now stands at 64 and counting!

The remaining spring-summer coverage dates are the following Sundays: May 28, June 25, July 23, and Aug. 27. Additional species sighted during the summer will be listed in the Sept. issue of *The Gnatcatcher*.

Please call Dave Kyler at 643-6030 or Bill King at 942-7673 if you'd like to accompany us on any or all of these upcoming summer field walks.

Thanks, and have a great summer! — DK

Woodcock Study

A study of woodcock populations begun in 1987 has just been completed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Lincoln Lang, a biologist with the PGC, stated that Pennsylvania's woodcock population has dropped 61% in the past 7 years. This decline is most likely due to habitat destruction.

(K)

Shower Note

It's not too late to "shower" Robyn Graboski with items for her wildlife rehabilitation program. Call Paula at 695-4799 to make arrangements for pickup. Or bring your items to the May meeting.

— PF

10th Annual Envirothon Competition Results

To help educate students about our natural environment, the Blair Conservation District, Altoona Kiwanis Club, and the Juniata Valley Audubon Society sponsored the 10th annual Envirothon Apr. 27 at Fort Roberdeau County Park. The goal of the competition was to cultivate a desire to learn more about our natural environment through competitive events. The contest, open to five-member teams from Blair County high schools, featured five testing stations: wildlife, aquatics, soils, forestry, and groundwater. Three winning teams were chosen by their highest cumulative point totals.

All contestants received a "Blair County Envirothon" T-shirt made possible by a donation from the Altoona Kiwanis Club. The top three teams were also presented with a trophy for their school.

(Cont'd on page 8)

LCV Scorecard (Cont'd from page 1)

jected amendments that would have allowed the government to continue to set standards for bacterial contamination of meat and to safeguard tap water from pathogens. The bill passed 276-146. NO is the pro-environment vote.

February 28, 1995. H.R. 1022, "risk assessment" and "cost benefit" legislation. Rather than streamlining bureaucratic procedures, so-called "regulatory reform" legislation actually sets up a one-sided array of procedural and analytical roadblocks to environmental protection, while exempting pesticide companies and other corporate interests from these same requirements. In addition, industries resisting new safeguards can lodge legal challenges to the cost and risk assessments, potentially adding years of delay. Under the guise of sound science, this legislation gives corporations power to rewrite dozens of environmental statutes enacted during the past 25 years.

3. Preventing Frivolous Legal Challenges

H.R. 1022. Rep. Roemer (D-Ind.) attempted to amend the bill so that court challenges could not be lodged against the minute details of the many new procedures. He argued that, "this bill could be called the Full Employment Bill for Lawyers and Lobbyists." His amendment would preserve existing legal rights. The Roemer amendment was defeated 192-231. YES is the pro-environment vote.

4. Allowing Rollbacks of Environmental Laws

H.R. 1022. Reps. Barton (R-Tex.), B. Tauzin (D-La.), and Crapo (R-Idaho) offered an amendment to apply H.R. 1022 to existing federal regulations as well as new ones by allowing businesses to force rollbacks of existing health, safety, and environmental rules. Agencies would have to respond to the corporate rollback requests immediately and if they are denied, the denial would be reviewable by the courts. The House rejected the Barton amendment 206-220. NO is the pro-environment vote.

5. Protecting Existing Environmental Laws

H.R. 1022. Rep. Boehlert (R-N.Y.) offered an amendment to prevent the new regulatory procedures from undoing existing laws such as the Clean Air Act of 1990. The amendment was defeated 181-238. YES is the pro-environment vote.

6. Creating Roadblocks to Environmental Protection

H.R. 1022. Over the unanimous objection of the national environmental groups, the House approved risk assessment and cost benefit legislation 286-141. NO is the pro-environment vote.

March 2-3, 1995. H.R. 925, a bill redefining the legal concept of "takings." As approved by the House, H.R. 925 requires the government to use funds that would otherwise go to the Fish and Wildlife Service or other agencies to pay property owners to obey the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, or other environmental statutes. Under H.R. 925, landowners who claim that any portions of their lands were reduced in value by 20 percent would be entitled to compensation from the taxpayers, or if the government cannot afford to pay, the landowner can violate the law. In addition to the potential costs of this radical new interpretation of the Constitution, the bill would require agencies to develop a new layer of bureaucracy to handle the challenges.

7. Crippling Environmental Protection on Private Land

H.R. 925. As authored by the Judiciary Committee, H.R. 925 would apply broadly to federal law. Under a substitute version of the bill offered by Rep. Tauzin (D-La.), the bill would directly target the Endangered Species Act, the wetlands protection of the Clean Water Act, and federal laws that protect water flow in the arid West, potentially crippling them. The House approved the Tauzin substitute 301-128. NO is the pro-environment vote.

8. Paying Polluters Not to Pollute

H.R. 925. The House approved "takings" legislation 277-148. NO is the pro-environment vote. The LCV considers this legislation so environmentally harmful and far-reaching that this vote is scored twice.

9. Overriding 25 Years of Environmental Protection

March 3, 1995. H.R. 9, a bill combining "takings," "risk assessment," and "cost benefit" legislation. In addition to passing each bill separately, the House combined H.R. 925, H.R. 1022, and H.R. 926, a bill which creates new levels of analysis for regulations and allows the Office of Management and Budget to block health and safety protection. Taken together, H.R. 9 overrides 25 years of environmental protection. The House adopted H.R. 9 277-141. NO is the pro-environment vote.

10. Subsidizing Logging on Federal Lands

March 15, 1995. H.R. 1158, 1995 rescissions and emergency appropriations. As part of federal appropriations legislation affecting previously approved spending for 1995, Rep. Taylor (R-N.C.) authored a section to mandate increased logging, at increased cost, on federal lands. To guarantee that the trees will be cut, the Taylor provision would suspend all federal laws that could otherwise prevent this logging. Supposedly providing for "salvage" logging of at least 6.2 billion board feet of trees affected by wildfire or insect infestation, the bill expressly allowed cutting live, healthy trees. Rep. Yates (D-Ill.) offered an amendment to kill the Taylor provision and return the forest program to its previously set 1995 levels. The amendment was defeated 150-275. YES is the pro-environment vote.

For the tally of House votes on the above bills, the chart on page 5 shows the environmental voting records and scores for Pennsylvania congressmen. The data was provided by the LCV via the EcoNet.

Welcome, New Members!

Alexandria: R.J. Dawes; Sarah Endriss; John E. Snyder

Altoona: Gene Bearer; Raymond L. Beck; Robert J. Casce, Jr.; Karen L. Clark; Janet DeMuth; David Dosh; Joseff Ducin; Christine S. Eddy; Mrs. Cindy Edmiston; M. Kenneth Franks; Sandra M. Fry; Thomas R. Furrer; Mary L. Heaton; Barbara Hornung; W.J. Kemp; John Kepler; Jeffrey Kibe; Marilee A. Lafferty; Bertha Laird; Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Sacks; Edward Sarp; Julianne Stalter; Diane L. Strohm; C. Stuart, M.D.; Vaughn Wakefoose; Joan B. Weidlich; Carol A. Wertz

Alum Bank: Raymond & Shirley Bobin

Ashville: Ruth Grogan; Donniea M. Yeckleyp

Bedford: Grub E. Baretoot; Grace Easter; Sarah L. Frear; Brian D. Kinzey; Philip Lapp

Bellwood: Bill Burch; Mrs. D. Mackey

Boynton: S. Crisinger

Breezewood: Frieda M. Born

Buffalo Mills: John V. Laws

Cassville: Laura Beasley Topliffe

Claysburg: Helen Claar

Cresson: Jack Trivet

Duncansville: Kay M. Colville; H. Johnston; Lindsay A. Noffster

Dysart: Jane Algozzini; William A. Wilkinson

East Freedom: C. Clark

Everett: James Bolvin; Kenneth D. Miller

Fallentimber: Jane W. McCartney

Hollidaysburg: Thomas J. Eisenman; Juli Graboski; Henry Gwizdak; Ann Kaltenbrunner; Richard Leiden; Paul Snowberger; Walter L. Spicer; Michelle Stewart; Denny Walls; Kristen Wirick

Hopewell: Perry Floor

Houtzdale: Lola M. Turiano

Huntingdon: Sharon D. Hawn; Ronald Lewis; Belew Megan; Kim Miller; Lola J. Ramsey; Mark Reist; Susan Rose; Beb Williams

Imler: Barbara S. Corle; Ginger Rogers

James Creek: Orlando A. Munoz; John Rhoat

Lilly: Phil Andraychak

Martinsburg: N. Brumbaugh

New Paris: David Bowser III

Pine Grove Mills: Mark Henry

Queen: Mary Susan Claycomb

Roaring Spring: James Ickes; Pat Wareham

Six Mile Run: Melissa Marie Bussard

Todd: Jacob Didyk

Tyrone: Lois Adams; Danelle C. Del Corso; Audrey Gregg; Elna W. Hanly; Russell Smith

Williamsburg: Linda Corrigan; Raymond C. Isenberg

-----+-----
 | Voting Records and Scores: Pennsylvania |
 +-----+-----

House Votes

=====

Key: + is pro-environment; - is anti-environment; ? is absence; P is present

Protecting existing environmental laws -----+	+-----	Creating roadblocks to environmental protection
Allowing rollbacks of environmental laws -----+	+-----	Crippling env. protection on private land
Preventing frivolous legal challenges -----+	+-----	Paying polluters not to pollute
Suspending federal rulemaking -----+	+-----	Overriding 25 years of environ. protection
Safeguard children's health -----+	+-----	Subsidizing logging on federal lands

V V V V V V V V V V LCV Score
 =====

MCDADE (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
KANJORSKI (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	91%
MURTHA (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	82%
FOX (R)	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	27%
COYNE (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
GEKAS (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	?	-	-	-	9%
DOYLE (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	45%
GOODLING (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
FOGLIETTA (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
MASCARA (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	64%
ENGLISH (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
FATTAH (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
BORSKI (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
KLINK (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	82%
CLINGER (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
HOLDEN (D)	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	45%
WELDON, C. (R)	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	36%
GREENWOOD (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	45%
SHUSTER (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
MCHALE (D)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	64%
WALKER (R)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%

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 Washington, DC 20036
 1-202-785-8683
 lcv@econet.apc.org

EcoNet
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 San Francisco, CA 94107
 1-415-442-0220
 econet-info@igc.apc.org

Dumb Turkey?

For years I have idly worked my Lynch's Foolproof Turkey Call whenever I hear a gobbler calling in the spring. Only once did I actually call in a gobbler and his two hens. But then I stayed hidden in the laurel, and he was far enough away that I had to use my binoculars for a good look at his display.

Then came April 18, 1995. It was 46 degrees and partially overcast as I set out on my morning walk. I had heard very little gobbling so far, but out of habit I tucked the turkey call into my pocket. As I followed the Far Field road, I suddenly heard a turkey gobbling close by.

I lay down against the Far Field road bank, clad in my usual jeans and navy blue jacket, and did my rather poor imitation of a hen turkey clucking with my turkey call. To my amazement a tom strode into view and walked past my outstretched legs on the road, looking all around for the clucking hen. He never seemed to notice me although he passed within a foot of my feet.

He paused about 20 feet beyond my left side, spread his tail feathers, and puffed his side feathers in and out like a balloon. Then he thrust his neck forward and gobbled loudly. I had the turkey call resting on my chest so I was able to whine and cluck with it, using my right hand, which he couldn't see from his vantage point.

For nearly a half hour he gobbled and displayed and looked up the bank, below the road, and directly at me, while I answered his every gobble with whines and clucks, most of which were not expertly produced. As a matter of fact, the rotten rubber band holding the scraper to the box snapped after its first use, so I never knew what kind of a sound I would get when I scraped it. But that didn't seem to

matter to this turkey.

Finally, he walked within 5 feet of me to gobble and display. Several times he also made a rattling sound like castanets. I had a superb view of his 6-inch-long beard, his bright eyes, and his magnificent tail feathers. It was like a miracle to me, one of those never-to-be-forgotten encounters with a wild creature on his own turf with no blind or camouflage between him and me. Even at that distance I was able to continue using the turkey call while the gobbler peered around looking for the hen.

At last he strutted past me again and climbed the bank above my head. He tramped around in the woods, sounding like a heavy-footed human being, still gobbling. I answered him with the call for several more minutes until he drifted off into the distance, still gobbling hopefully.

As usual with my wildlife encounters, I had many questions.

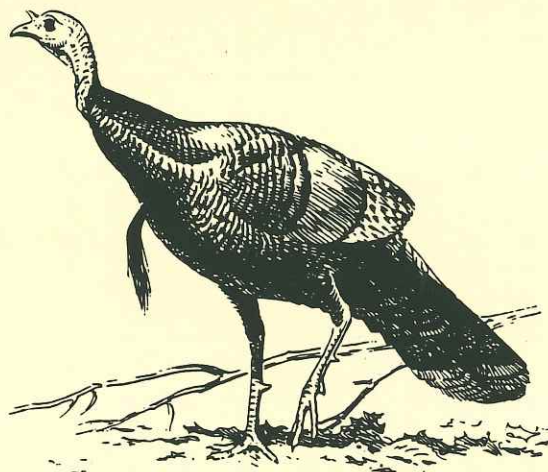
Hadn't he seen me lying there so close? Many times he seemed to be looking directly at me, but I never made a movement while he was watching. I even wait-

ed to continue my walk until he was gone so he wouldn't associate a human with the noise he had heard.

How good is a turkey's eyesight? Birds are known to have keen eyesight. Certainly I have never been able to get that close to a ruffed grouse.

Should I conclude that this particular gobbler was young and dumb, an exception to the wily turkeys' reputation?

Or was this experience my reward for going on a walk even though I had fallen down the steps early that morning and cracked my tail bone and a rib or two?



BOOK REVIEWS

***The Short Hiker: Short Hikes and Gentle Walks in the Heart of Pennsylvania***

By Jean Aron

1994 (revised second edition), self-published

Do you have young children who are just starting to learn about the outdoors? Are you entering your "golden years" and finding you have to slow down a bit — but refuse to go walking in the mall? Or are you a hiking or cross-country ski enthusiast who has recently moved into the area and are looking for places to go?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you need to get a copy of *The Short Hiker*. If, on the other hand, you already own the 1982 edition, you'll still want to get this one. In addition to superior printing, a new appendix of ski trails, improved maps, and updated trail information, Aron has worked in the material from her 1987 supplemental booklet, plus info on more trails since then, for a grand total of 10 new chapters. Altogether, the portrait of nature trails in central Pennsylvania (defined as being within an hour's drive of State College) is now nearly complete.

The Short Hiker is also everything a good, self-published book should be: it's well-written, professional (Aron belongs to virtually every hiking club and trail association in the area), bioregionally focused, and wonderfully idiosyncratic. Aron's map of The Barrens is the best I've seen; she even includes names that she and her friends have come up with for the maze of old jeep trails and railroad beds there. And unlike many hiking guides, the trail descriptions offer much more than just views. Lists of resident wildflowers, birds, and other critters, combined with some historical vignettes, make for a very tantalizing read. There's even an appendix of poems and songs these trails have inspired.

Although the author herself doesn't say it, I'm inclined to believe that many of the nicest natural areas in the state can be found in Rothrock State Forest: Detweiler, Run, Alan Seeger, Big Flat, Bear Meadows, and Martin Gap. Add those in Bald Eagle State Forest, plus the little swimming holes like Colerain, Poe Valley, and Halfway Dam, and

you'll soon realize it's about time Potter County forfeited its claim to be "God's Country" in favor of the Seven Mountains. (Aron does include two trails in the Altoona area: Canoe Creek and the Lower Trail.) Hence the universal appeal of *The Short Hiker*. "Long or short," Aron says, "to hike is to enjoy the world."

If you can't find a copy at your local bookstore, order one from the author for \$12 postpaid (Jean Aron, 227 Kimport Ave., Boalsburg, PA 16827) and plan to spend all summer in the woods!

— Dave Bonta

American Women Afield

By Marcia Myers Bonta

1995, Texas A&M University Press

\$15.95, pb

While most early American natural history writings were by men, the latter years of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century produced several women who wrote with knowledge, insight, and often passion about the natural world. This volume is a collection of biographical vignettes of 25 of these pioneer women naturalists and a sampler of their writings.

Of the 25, the selected writings of Graceanna Lewis, Martha Maxwell, Althea Sherman, Florence Merriam Bailey, Cordelia Stanwood, Margaret Morse Nice, Amelia Laskey, and Ruth Harris Thomas deal with birds. Indeed, these are real gems! Bonta doesn't treat these women as "nature heros," but rather gives us a glimpse of their personalities (often admirable but also eccentric), the conditions under which they worked, and the results of their efforts.

The selected writings aren't always good biology (Sherman cites a close taxonomic relationship between flickers and swifts on the basis of use of the tail feathers as a prop and other behaviors), but there is a lot of good biology presented.

— Jerome A. Jackson
Birder's World

10th Annual Envirothon (Cont'd from page 1)

The winning teams are:

- 1st place — Altoona Area Vo-Tech School
- 2nd place — Central High School
- 3rd place — Altoona Area High School

In all, nine teams from six schools (Altoona, AAVTS, Bellwood-Antis, Central, Tyrone, and Williamsburg) participated in the event. The winning team now will have the opportunity to participate in the state competition, with over 50 county winners,

to be held June 23-24 at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County. The top Pennsylvania team will move on to the national championship in Idaho from July 31 to Aug. 4. This year 28 states and two Canadian provinces will be represented.

Congratulations to the winning teams and to all students and advisors who spent the time necessary to prepare for the event.

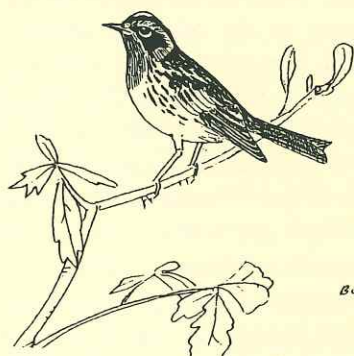
— Donna Fisher

Blair County Conservation District

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last issue until the end of summer. The deadline for September's issue of *The Gnatcatcher* is September 8. Please submit articles to editor Charlie Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686-0032.

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Juniata Valley Audubon Society
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Altoona, PA 16603



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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Canoe Creek State Park
RR 2 Box 560
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
(814)695-6807

The following is a list of programs for May and June at Canoe Creek State Park. All programs meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Children under twelve must be accompanied by an adult. For more information concerning our nature programs please contact the park office at (814)695-6807.

Saturday May 13, 1995

2pm Spring Wildflower Walk

Saturday May 27, 1995

10:45am Salamander Search; children 6 to 12 years old

2pm Salamander Stories and Crafts; children 4 and 5 years old

Sunday May 28, 1995

2pm Frogs and Toads; children 6 to 12 years old

4pm Frog Pond; story and craft for children 4 and 5 years old.

8pm Bat Hike; park and meet at picnic pavilion #1; please bring a flashlight.

Monday May 29, 1995

3pm Birds and Their Nests; children 4 to 10 years old

4:30pm Bluebird Program; slide program and hike

Saturday June 3, 1995

National Trails Day

9am to 11am Hike on the Moore's Hill Trail

2pm Wild Edibles Program

Sunday June 4, 1995

3pm The World of Amphibians and Reptiles; children 6 to 12 years old

4:30pm Wildflower Walk

8pm Snake Program; meet at the amphitheater, in case of rain meet at the visitor center

Saturday June 10, 1995

2pm Flower Gardening for Butterflies and Hummingbirds

Sunday June 11, 1995

3pm Our Solar System; craft activity for children 6 to 12 years old

5pm Earth Prints; activity and craft for children 4 and 5 yrs old

8:45pm Full Moon Observation; meet at the amphitheater

(OVER)

Saturday June 17, 1995

10:30am Wildlife Photography; with guest speaker Joe Emerick

Sunday June 18, 1995

8pm Bat Hike; with bat expert Cal Butchkoski; park and meet at picnic pavilion #1

Saturday June 24, 1995

Programs to be announced at a later date. Please check your local newspaper or call the park office.

Sunday June 25, 1995

2pm Fern Identification Walk

4pm Rocks, Minerals, and Fossils; for children 6 to 12 yrs old and adults.

8pm Indian Artifacts and Folklore; meet at the amphitheater. In case of rain meet at the Visitor Center.

Your JVAS board needs your help in making plans for 1995-1996. Please return this questionnaire as soon as possible, so that we can use the information at our June planning meeting.

How many JVAS meetings did you attend in 1994-95?

_____ 7-8 _____ 3-4 _____ 0
_____ 5-6 _____ 1-2

How many JVAS field trips did you attend in 1994-95?

_____ 7-8 _____ 3-4 _____ 0
_____ 5-6 _____ 1-2

Why did you join Audubon? (Please rank your reasons. 1 = most important)

_____ to get Audubon magazine _____ to promote conservation
_____ to attend field trips _____ to learn more about birds
_____ to meet people with similar interests
_____ other (specify: _____)

What type of monthly meeting topics do you find most interesting?

_____ birding _____ conservation issues
_____ habitat preservation/restoration _____ natural history/wildlife
_____ information/political action
_____ other (specify: _____)

What types of field trips do you enjoy most?

_____ photography _____ birding
_____ hiking _____ plant identification
_____ other (specify: _____)

Which day is more convenient for you for field trips?

_____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____ doesn't matter

Should JVAS "adopt" a section of highway for litter cleanup?

_____ Yes _____ No

I would be willing to

_____ help with chapter "hands on" preservation/restoration work.
_____ write or telephone elected officials.
_____ attend/speak at public meetings/hearings.
_____ help with activist phone tree.
_____ participate in a Special Areas Project.
_____ help with a highway cleanup.
_____ lead a field trip. (specify: _____)

(over)

Have you ever contacted a government official or agency about a conservation issue as a result of (check all that apply)

- ☐ a Gnatcatcher article
- ☐ a news media story
- ☐ an action alert from NAS or ACP
- ☐ information from another environmental organization

Would you be interested in attending a workshop on the following? (check all that apply, circle ones you are willing to help set up)

- ☐ wildlife photography
- ☐ plant identification
- ☐ other (specify: _____)
- ☐ creating backyard habitats
- ☐ bird identification

Which conservation issues should JVAS focus on? (Rank the issues. 1 = most important. If you think a topic is unimportant, leave it blank.)

- ☐ habitat preservation
- ☐ water quality protection
- ☐ protection of neotropical migratory birds
- ☐ other (specify: _____)
- ☐ endangered species
- ☐ wetlands protection

I'd be willing to

- ☐ write articles for the Gnatcatcher.
- ☐ assist in labeling/mailling the Gnatcatcher.
- ☐ assist with fund-raising.
- ☐ help with hospitality for JVAS meetings.
- ☐ serve on the speakers' bureau.
- ☐ help with displays for public events.
- ☐ other (specify: _____)

I suggest the following

speaker for a meeting: _____

place for a field trip: _____

Would you like to be contacted to discuss JVAS? ☐ yes ☐ no

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Thank you very much for your help! Please return this questionnaire to Stan Kotala, RD 3 Box 866, Altoona PA 16601.

Feel free to list additional suggestions or concerns below.