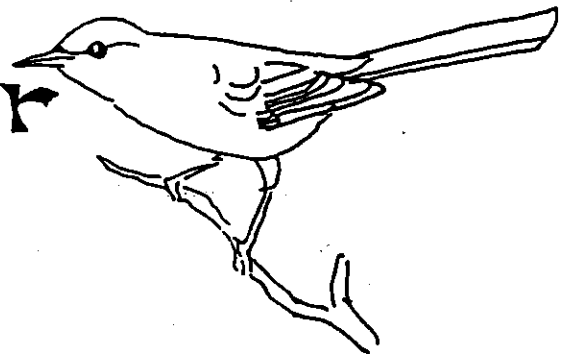


The Gnatcatcher



Newsletter of the
Juniata Valley Audubon Society

R.R. 3, Box 866, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16601

September 1996

JVAS Meetings Moved to Canoe Creek

The JVAS Board of Directors has voted to move our monthly meeting location to the **Visitor Center at Canoe Creek State Park**. This change was made to eliminate parking and safety concerns. In addition, it was felt that the park's Visitor Center would be more conducive to the appreciation of Nature — to which our group is dedicated.

Regular meetings of the JVAS now will be on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. As usual, there will be no meeting in December. The Board, however, also has voted to eliminate the January meeting — very often canceled due to snow — and to substitute a June meeting instead, thus extending the JVAS meeting season.

It's our hope that everyone will be satisfied and that attendance at our meetings will increase because of these positive changes!

If you have any questions, call me at 946-8840.

Stan Kotala
President

Herpetological Atlas Launched

JVAS members Bill King, Debbie Haine, Marcia Bonta, Paula Ford, Charlie and Marge Hoyer, and Stan, Alice, and Helena Kotala have spent the summer wading in streams, turning over logs, and investigating talus slopes! They are participants in the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas Project, an attempt to map the distribution of the 72 species of

Cont'd on next page

September Program

"FALCONRY" — *Jeff Aucker, a local falconer, will discuss the history of this fascinating sport. He'll bring his raptors along for the show.*

7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 16 at the Visitor Center, Canoe Creek State Park, off Rte 22 east of Hollidaysburg

Field Trips

BIKING THE LOWER TRAIL — *Carol Cupper will lead a bike ride from Alfarata to Mt. Etna and back. Meet at the Alfarata Trailhead, near Alexandria. The trip will be followed by dinner at the Main Street Cafe, in Alexandria.*

2:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22.

THIRD ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS at Dickinson College, Carlisle. *(See box on page 6 for more information.)*

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 28-29

"BEGINNING BIRDING" at Canoe Creek State Park with trip leader Stan Kotala. *Meet at the Visitor Center.*

8 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 29

FORT ROBERDEAU SPRUCE-UP. *Bring your shears and shovels to spruce up the JVAS bird observation area at Fort Roberdeau County Park. Spruce-up leader: Stan Kotala*

2:30 p.m., Sept. 29

Next Board Meeting

7 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4 at President Stan Kotala's residence. All members are welcome. Phone Stan at 946-8840 for directions.

From the Gnatcatcher's Nest . . .

Welcome to a new and exciting JVAS year! We've planned a multitude of stimulating programs and invigorating field trips that will be of interest to all of you. From raptors to amphibians, from birding along the Juniata River to investigating ferns at Tytoona Cave, there's something for everyone on this year's JVAS calendar.

Hope to see you all soon!

Stan

. . . Atlas *Cont'd from page 1*

reptiles and amphibians in the Keystone State.

This endeavor is the brainchild of Dr. Arthur Hulse, of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, who is coordinating this 6-year project. Dr. Hulse found a tremendous lack of data regarding the Commonwealth's reptiles and amphibians and took it upon himself to bridge this gap through the use of an army of volunteer "atlasers."

Atlasing involves using 7½-minute USGS topographical quadrangle maps divided into six "blocks" to locate each species found by atlas volunteers. Participants choose the blocks that they would like to survey. One may complete as many blocks as one wishes. And, volunteers may atlas for as many seasons as they like.


Being part of the Herpetological Atlas is easy and it's fun! Atlasing is done at the participant's leisure — wherever and whenever he or she feels like it. One need only record each species seen in one's block for each year. It's much easier than the Breeding Bird Atlas Project completed several years ago!

If you want to get involved, do it now! You'll have plenty of time to look over the field identifica-

tion keys and protocols before next year's atlasing starts! Write to Dr. Hulse and he will send you a guide to the reptiles and amphibians of Pennsylvania, field cards for recording your sightings, and instructions.

His address is:

Dr. Arthur Hulse
Department of Biology
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15705 Ph: (412) 357-2279

If you have any questions, please call Stan Kotala at 946-8840. 

PGC and Shaver's Creek Plan Fall Festival

Seminars, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and a special wildlife photography contest are but a few of the events planned at the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Penn State University's Shaver's Creek Environmental Education Center's "Fall Family Festival" on Sept. 28.

Located at one of the finest raptor facilities in Pennsylvania, the Shaver's Creek Education Center will enlighten visitors with programs on bald eagles and other birds of prey. Additional events include programs on bats, the sport of falconry, snakes and turtles, processing of a live black bear (dependent upon bear availability!), as well as programs on other Pennsylvania wildlife ranging from the eastern coyote to a presentation on butterflies by Penn State University professor, Robert Snetsinger.

Opening remarks and a later seminar will be conducted by Michael Ondik, one of Pennsylvania's foremost authorities on the white-tailed deer.

Kermit Henning, noted speaker, and author of *A Forager's Field Guide*, will host a special keynote presentation on plant foraging.

Shaver's Creek Environmental Center is located in the mountains of Huntingdon Co., 10 miles south of State College along Charter Oak Rd., half way between Routes 26 and 305.

CONSERVATION

O
R **League of Conservation Voters:**
N **1996 Presidential Profiles**
E

R In September and October, I shall devote my column to providing information about candidates for the November presidential election. Although Audubon can't endorse candidates because of its tax-exempt status, we *can* provide information about candidates. Please use this information to help you decide how to cast your vote. Then vote as if the future of the planet depended on your vote, because it does!

This month, I provide information from the League of Conservation Voters on the candidates for president. If you have access to the World Wide Web and would like to read the complete profile, the League of Conservation Voters web page is at:

<http://www.lcv.org/conventions96/presprof.html>

I will also bring this information to the September meeting.

LCV: 1996 Presidential Profiles

Incumbent President and former Governor Bill Clinton and 35-year Congressional leader Bob Dole both have had tangible opportunities to demonstrate leadership and results on environmental issues. While they have served in different offices, it is possible to evaluate and compare their performance and intentions by examining their records and their promises. That evaluation offers a striking contrast.

Having never served in Congress, Bill Clinton does not have LCV scores to report. Clinton, however, has defended the environment against many assaults by the 104th Congress. He vetoed budget and appropriations bills to prevail against congressional attacks on environmental enforcement, the Arctic wilderness, and the Endangered Species Act, although his failure to stop the logging of ancient forests has brought him vocal criticism. Allowing the "timber salvage" rider to become law was a

major Clinton mistake that has had tragic consequences. He also struck a deal to stop the New World Mine near Yellowstone Park, intervening directly to halt a project that likely would have polluted one of the park's rivers with mine waste.

Al Gore received a lifetime LCV score of 73 percent in the Senate from 1985-1992 and 60 percent in the House of Representatives from 1977-1984, well above national and regional averages.

Bob Dole's lifetime average voting record on LCV's National Environmental Scorecard is 19 percent, and it was zero percent in 1994 and 1995. In no instance has Sen. Dole taken a stronger pro-environmental position than President Clinton, even on those issues where Clinton's performance has been most disappointing.

Dole has helped broker protection for park land in Alaska in 1980 and in Kansas in 1996, and his legislative maneuvering aided Everglades restoration efforts in early 1996. But on nearly every other environmental issue, Dole's lifetime record is poor. Most recently, he has sponsored and energetically pursued regulatory reform and so-called "private property" rights bills that would cripple environmental enforcement of clean water, clean air, pesticides, wetlands, and endangered species laws. Dole continues to champion these as central goals of his campaign.

LCV profiled former Rep. Jack Kemp's environmental record during his run for the presidency in 1988. Based on his record at that time, Kemp was rated "F," a grade worse than that of senator and fellow presidential candidate Bob Dole ("D-").

Kemp's lifetime LCV score is 27 percent. His highest LCV score, 85 percent, came in 1972, at the end of his first term. His worst scores, zero percent, occurred during 1987 and 1988, his last term in Congress.

— PF

Vote!

Report: Your Editor's Participation in an Audubon Field Ornithology Workshop on the Maine Coast

As you may know, my son Gary won first prize in a fund-raising raffle by the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania (ACP) — that being an \$800-value, week-long session in field ornithology at the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine. However, a conflict with his forthcoming May marriage to Sarah Chamberlain preempted use of the raffle prize and he bestowed it upon Dad. Lucky me!

First, let me tell you that the accommodations on *telephoneless* Hog Island (in the headwaters of Muscongus Bay on the midcoast of Maine) along with the three hearty meals a day were almost worth the 800 bucks alone. But the inclusions of lecture and field sessions in bird identification and biology, all-day boat excursions to offshore islands on the bay, and visits to spruce-fir forests, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and coastal beaches made my respite a truly super "birding week."

The basic elements of the ornithology program included:

- Proper use of binoculars and spotting scopes
- Bird identification techniques
- Birding ethics
- Early-morning bird walks
- Science of watching and art of seeing
- Bird banding and mist-netting (with demos)
- Migration and movements of populations
- Songs and territoriality
- Bird adaptations
- Breeding biology of birds with emphasis on warblers and colonial seabirds
- Wood warbler natural history
- Puffin reintroduction project
- Neotropical migrants
- Conservation

The ornithology instructors were extremely knowledgeable and very congenial. They were a dedicated group that really took an interest in every camper.

During casual walks on Hog Island we heard many times the lispy, "*trees, trees, mur-muring trees*," the song of the black-throated green warbler. Other common warbler species we heard — but seldom sighted — included the northern parula and the Blackburnian, magnolia, yellow-rumped, and yellow warblers, along with the common yellow-throat. We also heard the breezy, flutelike, upward

phrases of the Swainson's thrush — quite like, to me, a veery in reverse. A highlight was a pair of nesting northern flickers very near the camp, whose chicks fledged during our stay.

The 50 some campers were split into two groups and embarked on board the *Osprey III* and *Puffin III* — two Coast Guard-approved launches. We were treated to a boat cruise on the inshore waters of Muscongus Bay where we observed birds that frequent the mouth of the Medomak river such as common loons, double-crested cormorants, herring gulls, great black-backed gulls, laughing gulls, great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons, and ospreys. The trip also reviewed the ecology and some history of the Maine coast along with the importance of this ecosystem to marine birds.

Another boat excursion took us to an island where we traipsed over the rocky shores and observed nesting common eiders, black guillemots, and various gulls. The guides picked up eggs and chicks to give us close-up looks and the opportunity to take photographs.

A third excursion — this time on a beautiful, brisk, and blustery day — took us 8 miles south of the bay to Eastern Egg Rock, island site of the Audubon Puffin Project, where we got great looks at Atlantic puffins. We also got good views of a bald eagle, white-winged scoters, and common, Arctic, least, and roseate terns. Around noon we landed on a delightful island where we had a picnic lunch on the beach and hiked through a variety of habitats.

On another day, we took a field trip to a mainland beach and saw hundreds of terns and other seabirds along with a few surf scoters. The high point of the day was seeing spotted sandpipers and piping plovers with their chicks running on the sand.

I gained a wealth of knowledge and experience at the Audubon Field Ornithology Workshop in Maine and added the Atlantic puffin, piping plover, and some others to my "life list." I highly recommend the workshop to everyone!

I must mention the Maine lobster feast we had outdoors on our final night on the island. It was a memorable evening of good food and fellowship.

I'd like to bring my wife Marge to Audubon's Hog Island sometime in the near future. We hope to see you there! ❖

Your Editor Visits Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge

Where can you find greater diversity and abundance of wildlife and habitat than any where else in the world? While many Americans may not be able to answer that question (yet!), most Auduboners know that the answer is in our National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System.

Despite the enormous value of the Refuge System, it is, regrettably, the nation's best-kept secret. The NWR System faces great challenges to its very existence and integrity, as you know from the May-June issue of *Audubon* magazine (pages 34-53) and the July-August issue (pages 56-65). It's a conservation heritage far too important to let languish because of indifference or inertia. How can we bring about a change so that more Americans respond knowledgeably, positively, and proudly when asked about the Refuge System? It's a big challenge, and we're tackling it with an ambitious public outreach campaign that we call "100 on 100." The goal of "100 on 100" is as big as the challenge: that 100 percent of the American public will be aware of the Refuge System by its 100th birthday in 2003. The week of October 5-13 has been declared NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK. The focus of the week's activities will be on stewardship of the land, combined with opportunities for compatible, wildlife-dependent recreation. The theme is "sharing an appreciation for the natural world." That's where Audubon Chapters come in! Audubon has a long and rich association with national wildlife refuges, dating back to the establishment of Pelican Island Refuge in eastern Florida's Indian River in 1903. I invite all chapters to join the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as "hands-on" partners in showcasing the importance and significance of the NWR System.



The foregoing are remarks concerning National Wildlife Refuge Week by Rob Shallenberger, Chief, Division of Refuges, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. See the next page of this newsletter for more information about the Audubon NWR Campaign.

While on the subject of NWR's, I'd like to tell you about my visit to a nearby one in late July. While Marge and I were visiting our son Gary and his new wife Sarah in Wilmington, Del., we drove to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, near Smyrna on the Delaware Bay. The refuge comprises 16,000 acres, approximately three-quarters of which is tidal salt marsh and cordgrass meadows. Quite a different world from the Allegheny Mountains!

Delaware Bay plays a strategic role in the flight patterns of birds migrating along the Atlantic Flyway. In spring, the bay is the largest staging area for shorebirds in the eastern United States. In the fall it plays host to one of North America's greatest concentrations of migrating raptors. And the extensive freshwater and tidal wetlands of the Delaware River estuary serve as resting and nesting places for myriad migrating waterfowl species.

Tidal salt marsh is the most valuable wildlife habitat in Delaware. Large portions of the refuge have been maintained in a near-pristine state. The marsh, with its intersecting tidal streams and rivers, provides excellent natural habitat for the birds and mammals of the area and also serves as a nursery and breeding area for marine organisms, many of which are of sporting and commercial interest.

The period from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30 is generally the most interesting to the refuge visitor as this is the season during which waterfowl populations are at their peak. More than 100,000 ducks and geese utilize the refuge at this time.

During our visit in July we found shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds to be the most abundant. From 30-foot observation towers, we got good views of the following species: great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, little blue heron, green heron, black-crowned night-heron, glossy ibis, Canada goose, wood duck, green-winged teal, American black duck, mallard, gadwall, killdeer, black-necked stilt, willet, semipalmated sandpiper, herring gull, least tern, and osprey. ❖

Audubon National Wildlife Refuge Campaign Takes Flight

In June, preceding the Audubon National Convention in Washington, D.C., the Board of Directors announced that a National Wildlife Refuge Campaign would be one of five newly formed national campaigns resulting from the 2-year-long strategic planning process. The Board identified these priority campaigns based on results of surveys returned by Audubon chapters nationwide.

Audubon's Refuge Campaign seeks to address an overarching concern that the National Wildlife Refuge System suffers from a narrow national and local constituency, and is in dire need of a broadened base of public support. Audubon plans to kick off its National Wildlife Refuge Campaign during National Wildlife Refuge Week (Oct. 5-13). In keeping with the strategic plan, it's hoped that Audubon chapters all around the country will partake in the inauguration of this vital campaign by participating on their local refuges during this week. Additionally, this campaign is viewed as an opportunity to reach out to a broader public with the Audubon message.

The Refuge Campaign is presently developing materials that will highlight activities and opportunities during Refuge Week. It will also include sample editorials to the press and ideas on how to involve local businesses and others in the community. It's an excellent opportunity to draw attention to the Audubon mission!

To receive a National Wildlife Refuge Week packet (which will also include information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), please contact:

Lora Wondolowski
 Nation Audubon Society
 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 1100
 Washington, DC 20006

— or —

Phone: (202) 861-2242

— or —

Internet: lwondolowski@audubon.org

Endangered Species Stamps to Be Issued

In October the U.S. Postal Service will issue a set of 15 postage stamps picturing endangered species. The stamp sheet will say, "National Stamp Collecting Month 1996 highlights these 15 species to promote awareness of endangered wildlife. Each generation must work to protect the delicate balance of nature so that future generations may share a sound and healthy planet."

The species pictured in photos by James Balog include the black-footed ferret, the Schaus swallowtail, the piping plover, and the Hawaiian monk seal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !



THIRD ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS

September 28-29, 1996
 Dickinson College
 Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Keynote Speakers:

- Mark Dowie ≈ Author of *Losing Ground: American Environmentalism at the Close of the 20th Century*. Former editor of *Mother Jones Magazine*.
- Paul Connett ≈ Professor of Chemistry & Environmental Studies at St. Lawrence University. Publisher of *Waste Not*, a grassroots environmental newsletter.

Skills and Workshops:

- Toxics
- Wetlands
- Logging
- Environmental Justice
- Legal Tools
- Media Training
- Worker Health
- And More ...

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation at 717-232-3480.



CALL TODAY TO RECEIVE A BROCHURE!

Ecological Restoration Field Trip

This past summer, JVAS members attended a field trip to the Glenwhite Run and Kittanning Run Ecological Restoration Site just west of Horseshoe Curve. We saw first-hand the severe degradation caused by mining in this area. Lifeless streams lined with a crusty orange precipitate were a sad and shocking sight. There were large barren areas where tainted water emerged from hidden seeps. No aquatic life was observed.

Fortunately, the future holds hope for these waters. Through the construction of wetlands and the addition of limestone drains, it's hoped that the offending metals will be removed from these waters and alkalinity added, thereby restoring conditions in which aquatic life can thrive.

Although we were saddened by the evidence of severe abuse of this land, we ended the trip in a hopeful mood, envisioning the ecological restoration of these streams, which, by our efforts, will be reborn!

(K)

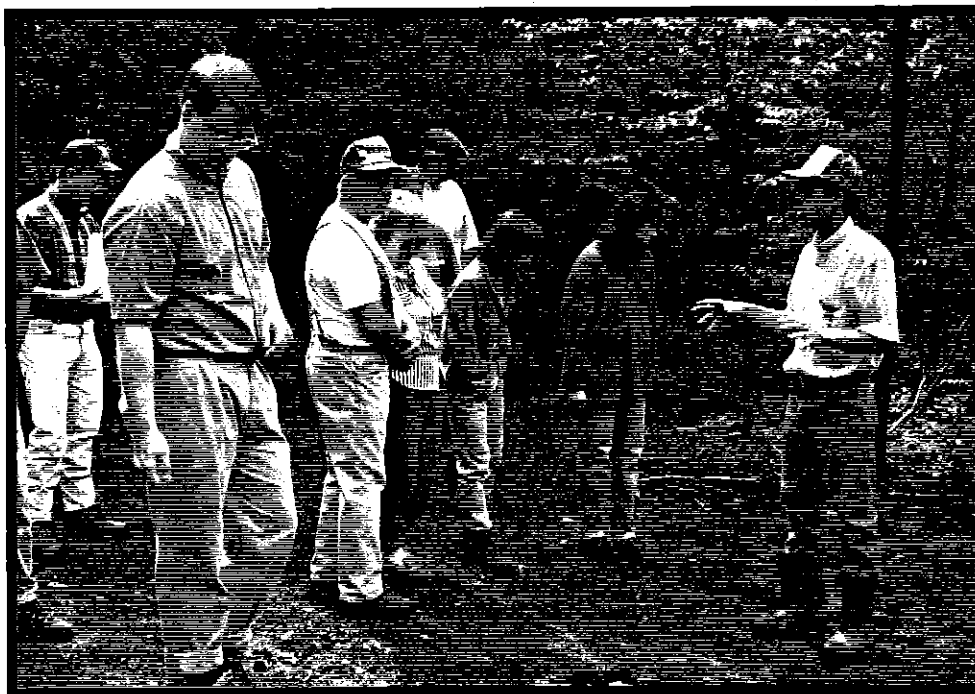


Photo by Stan Kotala

Rob Clauto, of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, elaborates on the destructive effects of acid-mine drainage as JVAS members look on.

DEP Ordered to Improve Special Protection Waters Program

Over the past decade, Pennsylvania's stream antidegradation standards have been inadequate, according to the U.S. District Court for eastern Pennsylvania. The standards have not met minimum requirements set forth by federal laws that direct states to protect existing uses of waters and protect high-quality waters and waters with outstanding natural resources.

The Court noted that the Commonwealth's inadequate standards have caused harm to Pennsylvania waters, stating that "*officials operating under the*

present standard have issued permits that have directly caused harmful environmental effects."

Because of the failure of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Court ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate proposed regulations for Pennsylvania. After the proposed regulations are published in the Federal Register, the state has 90 days to promulgate comparable state regulations. If it fails to do so, the federal regulations automatically will become law.

(K)

Watch the Disney Channel beginning Sunday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. for the family wildlife series *Audubon's Animal Adventures*. Each program will focus on a different imperiled species from wolves to puffins to bats.

Jack's "Garbage Letter"

Editor's Note: If you had read John Tierney's article "Recycling Is Garbage" in *The New York Times Magazine*, this is to let you know that it caused a record response from readers. The article attracted well over 1000 letters, more than any article ever published in the Magazine. Two-thirds of the writers disputed the point, like a Boston woman who hoped that "the article is quickly buried in the landfill of his choice." The rest welcomed the economic arguments as a "rare challenge to the environmental mainstream." The following response letter to the magazine's editor is our own Jack Cupper's 2¢ worth. Jack says that although some of our JVAS members have not read the article, all should know the facts.

As a member of the National Audubon Society and a former conservation officer of a small satellite group in northern Pennsylvania, I feel compelled to comment on John Tierney's "Recycling Is Garbage" (June 30, 1996).

Much of north-central Pennsylvania geology is made up of hundreds of high-plateau, high-volume, underground reservoirs (aquifers) holding and gradually releasing high-quality water that feeds Pennsylvania's streams. It is these billions of gallons of high-quality water that daily dilute the man-induced contaminants in these streams and rivers that feed the Delaware and Chesapeake Bays as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

Unfortunately, it is often the high-elevation recharge areas over high-quality aquifers where waste disposal companies dig holes for dumping garbage. Some are larger than the biggest football stadiums, and when filled with waste are often mounded several stories high.

It is true that the EPA requires plastic liners in these municipal landfills, but contrary to Mr. Tierney's statement, liners are not environmentally safe. In time, toxic materials that won't degrade will mix with rainwater and soon empty into mountain streams that were once pristine. Even if there are no leaks, the landfill's contaminated liquid (leachate) must be regularly removed, treated to reduce — but not eliminate — toxic pollutants. Eventually, traces of landfill leachate will find its way into someone's drinking water. New York City is not excluded.

Jack Cupper
Tyrone

Dear reader,

The following bird essay is a true story of a little cedar waxwing I raised almost 60 years ago and the joy and the companionship I had with it, though the time spent raising it was very brief.

I hope you enjoy this little trip with me down memory lane.

Rachel Chipperfield
Altoona

"Bootsie"

Bootsie was the name of a little cedar waxwing I had raised during the summer following my freshman year at college.

It's funny how one acquire things sometimes — particularly wild things. While taking a shortcut through a vacant lot near my home one summer day, I met a cousin and his friend. One of them had a baby bird in his hand, which they had found somewhere. I offered them a dime for it. Offer accepted, bird sold, Bootsie was mine.

Bootsie became a regular member of the family. He had his own cage, which was cleaned every day and covered at night the same way as that for Mother's canaries. His diet consisted of canary seed and seed treats. I also gave him the yolk of a hard-boiled egg while he was in the juvenal stage of growth. But the food he liked best was applesauce. He relished that. And when Mother made applesauce, the family shared it with Bootsie. I saw to that. He even ate it off a spoon.

Eventually Bootsie grew and became quite tame. As I talked to him, made a fuss over him, held him, and petted him, he lost some of his wildness. He would sit on my finger and on my shoulder. He even extended that friendliness to my father and an uncle when they sat on the back porch. Once Bootsie sat on top of Daddy's bald head. Most remarkable, however, was his return flight from a young maple tree 25 feet away and landing on my shoulder when I called, "Bootsie-e-e-e!" He knew his name. He recognized by voice.

Then one day Bootsie flew away, never to return. I called him once, twice, three times. No response. He was gone. I felt downcast. For myself, I had lost a feathered friend. For Bootsie, it was Graduation Day. ❖

The Great Awakening

After the comparative quiet of August, the birds are revitalized. Suddenly the woods are as busy with birds — both residents and migrants — as they were in May. This year the “great awakening” took place on Labor Day. For weeks the only singers had been red-eyed vireos and eastern wood pewees. The annual cicadas were noisier than the birds. Even seeing birds was difficult. It was as if they had deserted us for greener pastures.

Perhaps they had. But on Labor Day the mountain filled up with birds. Black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, and tufted titmice, followed by Blackburnian, black-throated green, and black-and-white warblers, foraged in our black walnut trees. Already the tree leaves were turning and falling like yellow confetti in the slightest breeze, making it easier to watch the flashes of color that signified warblers.

By 8 a.m. I was heading across the goldenrod-studded First Field, which was flapping with dozens of monarch butterflies. The sun sent beams down through the slight mist like a blessing on the field and woods and caught the dew that sparkled on every grass blade and tree leaf. Crickets and grass-

hoppers called from the depths of the field grasses. Orb webs, strung between goldenrod plants, shone in the sunlight.

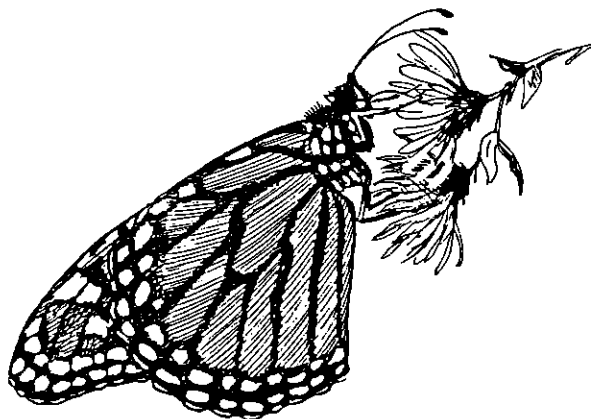
In Margaret's Woods the understory glowed with white snakeroot. A deer snorted and four deer leaped up from where they had been bedded down. A red-eyed vireo droned on and on in contrast with the brief “chewinks” of eastern towhees.

Along Greenbrier Trail the trees fluttered with calling and singing birds — both residents and migrants. There were more black-and-white and black-throated green warblers as well as magnolia and golden-winged warblers, common yellowthroats, and ovenbirds. Northern flickers, pileated woodpeckers, American robins, and eastern wood pewees called, and gray catbirds scolded while a northern cardinal, scarlet tanager, and chestnut-sided warbler sang. Once I flushed four yellow and green scarlet tanagers from the underbrush.

On such a day I walk for hours, distilling the essence of summer's end. And at night I listen as eastern screech owls and great horned owls cry counterpoint to the pulsating calls of katydids.

Ah, September!

By Marcia Bonta



Send your BiLo Foods and
Riverside Markets cash register
tapes to Anne Borland at 138A
Larch St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.
Anne redeems tapes for CA\$H
for the JVAS. Thank you!

Shad Restored to Stone Creek

An historic event occurred this past July when the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission released 40,000 juvenile shad into Stone Creek, in Huntingdon Co. More than a century has elapsed since the last shad swam in this high-quality Pennsylvania stream.

These juvenile fish, known as shad fry, will imprint on the waters of Stone Creek. Later, they will migrate down the Juniata River to the Susquehanna River and then to the Atlantic Ocean, where they will spend about 5 years before returning to Stone

Creek to spawn.

Shad had been extirpated from the middle and upper Susquehanna tributaries since the building of dams across the river in the late 1800's. Many of the dams, however, have had very sophisticated fish-passage facilities built to allow migration up and downriver.

As a result, hundreds of miles of streams will be open to migratory fish in the Susquehanna watershed by the year 2000, so long as no degradation of water quality occurs!



EDITOR'S NOTE: The deadline for October's issue of *The Gnatcatcher* is October 1. Please submit articles to editor Charlie Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686.

PRINTED BY WICK COPY CENTER, 503 E. PLANK RD., ALTOONA

Juniata Valley Audubon Society
R.R. 3, Box 866
Altoona, PA 16601

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Altoona, Pa.
 Permit No. 238

IN MEMORIAM:

Roger Jory Peterson
 1907-1996