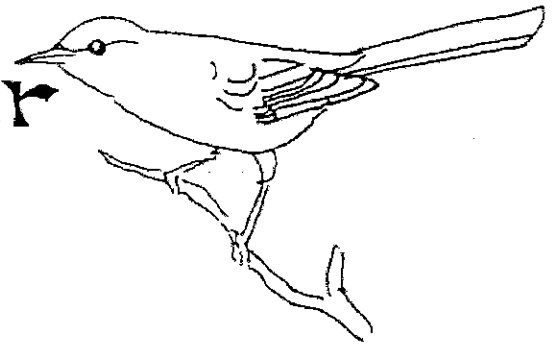


# The Gnatcatcher



## Newsletter of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686

Vol. 34, No. 3 — April 2002

## Canoe Creek State Park Celebrates Earth Day!

**O**n Saturday, April 20, the staff at Canoe Creek State Park is offering a series of walks designed to investigate the diversity of life in the park. Bring the family for a morning of fun!

Located approximately seven miles east of Hollidaysburg, just off U.S. Rt. 22, the 958-acre state park offers numerous outdoor recreational opportunities. The diversified wildlife habitat includes 155-acre Canoe Lake, Canoe Creek, Mary Ann's Creek, fields, wetlands, and wooded hillsides. The park is part of the Canoe Creek Watershed, which last year was designated as an Important Bird Area by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey.

The park also is home to the largest nursery colony of little brown bats in Pennsylvania. On warm summer evenings, thousands of these bats can be seen exiting the old church sanctuary.

"Not only can you enjoy the outdoors at Canoe Creek, but you can learn about them as well," says Heidi Boyle, Canoe Creek's environmental education specialist. Prior to her position at Canoe Creek, Heidi spent four years at the Environmental Learning Center at Sandy Lake, located near Grove City.

"My duties here at Canoe Creek include designing and implementing public information sessions as well as school programming," Heidi says. "The focus of the programs is to have something for everyone regardless of age or background. We want

[ *Cont'd on page 3* ]

### Annual JVAS Spring Banquet

Tuesday, April 16  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
533 Main St., Bellwood

\$12 per JVAS member; \$15 per nonmember  
(Mail enclosed reservation form by April 10)

6 P.M. — Social hour

6:30 P.M. — Delicious family-style roast beef and turkey dinner with all the trimmings

### Program by Charles Fergus

"Natural Pennsylvania :  
Exploring the State Forest Natural Areas"

Throughout the Pennsylvania state forest system there are sixty-one officially designated Natural Areas, each offering a bit of wildness deemed worthy of protection: Rare-bird breeding sites, stands of old-growth trees, fragile wetlands, ice-age remnants, mineral-rich mountainsides. To experience firsthand the unique features of each natural area, nature writer Charles Fergus spent a year visiting all sixty-one of them. Chuck will report on what he found, offering a guided tour of some of the state's most distinctive natural places. He also will talk on how to visit the areas, each of which is open to the public.

## The Gnatcatcher

VOL. 34, NO. 3 — APRIL 2002

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JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON

Charlie Hoyer, Editor

P.O. Box 32

Tyrone, PA 16686-0032

Juniata Valley Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving members in all of Blair and Bedford Counties, and portions of Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, Fulton, and Huntingdon Counties.

Program meetings are held temporarily in the chapel at Alto-Reste Park, Plank Road, Altoona (directly across from Wal-Mart) on the third Tuesday of the month in February, March, May, September, October, and November at 7 P.M. The public is invited to attend.

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## From the Gnatcatcher's Nest

"Focus on Biodiversity" is the theme of Earth Day 2002, according to Gov. Mark Schweiker. Earth Day '02 will be celebrated on Monday, Apr. 22. Many programs and activities are planned all over the state throughout the month.

JVAS board member Dr. Stan Kotala will give an educational program on reptiles and amphibians of the Canoe Creek Watershed as part of the Earth Day program at Canoe Creek State Park (see box on page 3).

Juniata Valley Audubon will have an information booth at the Penn State Altoona Earth Day Event to be held on Friday, Apr. 19 from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. at the Penn State Altoona Campus. The Eco-Action Club will host information booths, music, and a guest speaker.

We also shall have a booth at the Penn State University Park Earth Day Celebration that will be held at the Hub Lawn on Sunday, Apr. 21 from noon until about 8 P.M. The keynote speaker will be Julia Hill.

Come visit with us and celebrate Earth Day '02!

— Charlie

+ + +

If you're reading this newsletter but are not an Audubon member, you're invited to join by mailing the coupon to:

Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Alice Goodlin, Membership Chair  
R.R. 3, Box 127  
Altoona, PA 16601-9207

You'll receive the bimonthly *Audubon* magazine, each one filled with superb nature photography and in-depth reporting on environmental issues. You'll also receive Juniata Valley Audubon's newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*, containing articles on local conservation topics and nature themes.



### AUDUBON Membership Application

☐ YES, I want to join the Juniata Valley Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society at the special Introductory Rate of \$20.

☐ As a senior citizen or student, I'm eligible to join for only \$15.

My \$\_\_\_\_\_ check, payable to Audubon, is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ PA \_\_\_\_\_

7XCH U03

### ... CCSP & Earth Day [Cont'd from first page]

to provide people with the knowledge of their immediate environment and how to interact with it."

For Earth Day 2002, Heidi has a variety of programs planned on April 20 (see box). There will

be a canoe trip through the wetland section of the park. And from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M., PA CleanWays of Blair County will coordinate the adoption and cleanup of a several trails in the park.

For more information on Canoe Creek's environmental programs, phone Heidi at 696-6025. ☿

#### Canoe Creek State Park celebrates Earth Day on Saturday, April 20

##### **Bagels & Birds** — 7:30 A.M.

Join birder Ron Boyle on an early-morning walk as he looks for the birds of the Canoe Creek Watershed. Some binoculars and field guides will be provided. End the walk with fresh bagels!

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Marsh Trail Hike** — 9 A.M.

Explore the habitat of the beautiful Marsh Trail with intern Beth Hoffman. Learn how plants and animals are specially adapted to live here.

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Spring Birding** — 9 A.M.

Beginning birders are invited to learn how to identify common birds. Birder Roy Boyle makes birding easy! Some binoculars and field guides will be provided.

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Wondrous Wildflowers** — 9 A.M.

Join naturalist Heidi Boyle on a ramble through the park as she searches for early wildflowers. Find out what edible or medicinal uses they may have.

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Habitat Hike** — 10:30 A.M.

Find out why it's called a "wetland" as Beth Hoffman explores the edges of Canoe Lake. Learn about habitat, plants, and some wetland critters along the hike!

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Reptiles & Amphibians!** — 10:30 A.M.

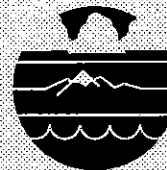
Walk Mary Ann's Creek to see and learn about the frogs and salamanders of the Canoe Creek Watershed. Join Dr. Stan Kotala as he searches for amphibians and reptiles.

*Meet at the Visitor Center*

##### **Wetlands Walk** — 10:30 A.M.

Join watershed guides Stephanie Odenwald and Jennifer Park in a one-hour tour of the Canoe Creek riparian area of the park. Learn about this remarkable habitat and why areas such as this are so critical in a healthy environment.

*Meet in the parking lot by Beaver Pond Trail*



### Reptile and Amphibian Workshop To Take Place at Canoe Creek State Park

Are you interested in learning more about the Juniata Valley's reptiles and amphibians? If you are, you should attend a workshop of the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas Project to take place in the Visitor Center at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, May 18 from 10 A.M. till noon. A slide show and lecture will be followed by fieldwork along Mary Anne's Creek near the Visitor Center, where we'll search for frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, lizards, and snakes. Please phone Park Naturalist Heidi Boyle at Canoe Creek State Park at 696-6025 to reserve a seat at the free workshop. ☿

— Dr. Stan Kotala

# CONSERVATION

## CORNER

By Mark Henry

### Protecting the 'Health of the Land'

A recent book, *For the Health of the Land*, contains some of Aldo Leopold's writings. It includes several articles never before published and a few articles written later in his life that expounds his philosophy about protecting the land and everything associated with it — including humans. Leopold was particularly concerned about treating the land gently and preserving all the fauna and flora.

Although there are people who practice Leopold's teachings regarding treating the land as part of our community, there are, unfortunately, many more who do not. Thus, the purpose of this "Corner" is to briefly review two examples of people who do not, and let JVAS members know about their activities. One example is at the state level and one is local.

The example at the state level is a bill introduced by Rep. Hanna that would require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to open a minimum of 100 miles of roads and trails for the express use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). This legislation is called the ATV Trail Expansion Act (H.B. 2161) and requires these roads/trails, regardless of the environmental impact on the "land."

Now, if we were talking about private land, that would be one thing but what's disturbing is that the roads/trails will be on public lands — lands that we're now using for non-destructive activities. With the addition of ATVs, what will we gain? Noise, pollution, destruction of the land, disturbance/harassment of wildlife. For what? And why do you suppose ATV owners are so insistent on gaining hundreds of miles of roads/trails on public land?

The other example of people who don't care for the "land" is right in the Altoona area. In addition to the proposed shopping mall on the side of Brush Mountain along I-99, there is now a separate proposed industrial site for a trucking center. The site was evaluated for the Altoona-Blair County

Development Corporation and consists of at least 260 acres of unbroken forest on the ridge along with a few small quality streams. The site is currently owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona and is located along the Pinecroft service road, east of I-99. Once again, the forested ridge will be fragmented, water quality may be sacrificed, and the "land" damaged. And I would ask, why can't land that is already disturbed be used? Why do we have to keep "damaging" land that is in the process of healing from earlier disturbances?

It appears to me that the people involved in these examples aren't concerned with the "health of the land." As for the proposed shopping mall on the ridge, I have to believe that there are alternatives for the trucking center. And there are certainly options other than allowing ATVs to run around on public lands. The "health of the land" just isn't very important to the people involved. If it were, then alternatives would be identified and pursued.

Then what's the answer? Is it jobs or human welfare? I think not. A trucking center located on already-disturbed land will create jobs the same as a center on undisturbed land. And there are currently thousands of people using public lands for recreation and enrichment that would find their "welfare" negatively impacted by more and more ATVs.

In my opinion, the answer is money. ATV dealers promote use of ATVs by showing people riding through streams and tearing up the land all for the purpose of money. Furthermore, people buy ATVs knowing full well that they don't have places to ride, and after they spend thousands of dollars, then they expect the state to provide them with a place to go. And obviously, the people involved in the trucking center expect to make money. What's the "bottom line?" A minority of people in each case will benefit, while the majority will not.

Now, it may appear that I'm against making a profit, but that's not the case. What I'm proposing is that we follow Leopold's philosophy and think about what we're doing to the land (and the rest of the environment) and choose the least damaging options. In the foregoing examples, let's locate the trucking center on already disturbed land, and let's

not force the DCNR to develop 100 miles of ATV roads/trails per year. Instead, let the DCNR research and identify an appropriate area(s) such as an abandoned strip mine and then develop such a trail.

As JVAS members, we can support making the right decision and help protect the "health of the land." How can we do this? In the example of the trucking center, we probably can't stop it but we can take the time to educate our friends and neighbors about the importance of treating the land as a part of our community, and we can express our concerns by submitting letters to the editor in local newspapers. And regarding the ATVs, we can write our state senators and representatives urging them to oppose House Bill 2161 as well as write "letters to the editor." By doing these things, we'll help keep Leopold's philosophy of the "health of the land" alive. ☿

### **Pennsylvania's State Budget Pinching Anti-sprawl Programs**

Pennsylvania is freezing \$50 million for its Growing Greener initiative this fiscal year and another \$50 million next year. The state faces an estimated shortfall of \$677 million this year, and Gov. Mark Schweiker has frozen \$310 million in state spending. Growing Greener, a sweeping environmental program that pays for open-space preservation and watershed protection, suffers a big blow.

Auditor General Bob Casey Jr. recently proposed a replacement program: A comprehensive, long-term plan to protect and restore Pennsylvania's land, forests, and water and enhance the preservation of public land for recreational use. Called the Conservation and Environmental Restoration Initiative, Casey's plan will provide approximately \$1.2 billion over ten years from dedicated funding sources to preserve farmland; protect open space; enhance state public and conservation lands; support local governmental efforts to create green areas; encourage sustainable forestry and timbering practices; and address many water contamination and watershed concerns. ☿

### **JVAS Shaver's Creek Birding Cup Team Formed**

The Shaver's Creek Birding Cup was established thirteen years ago as a fund-raiser for educational programs, research, and raptor care at the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, in northern Huntingdon County. Shaver's Creek is central Pennsylvania's premier environmental education facility, presenting 150 raptor programs each year at area schools, sponsoring the record-breaking Tussey Mountain golden eagle count, caring for twenty non-releasable birds of prey at the center, training environmental education interns, providing an ongoing series of nature programs for visitors, and conducting saw-whet owl banding.

The Shaver's Creek Birding Cup competition consists of teams birding for a 24-hour period, this year from 9 P.M. on Friday, May 3 until 9 P.M. on Saturday, May 4, with the cup being awarded to the team that sees the most species. Each team solicits pledges — either a flat amount or on a per species basis — that go to the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center.

This will be the first year that Juniata Valley Audubon fields a Birding Cup team. Called the JVAS Gnatcatchers, the team consists of Heidi Boyle; Alice, Helena, and Stan Kotala; and Luis Moore. The team will confine its birding to the Canoe Creek Watershed, in Blair County, where they hope to see at least a hundred species during the assigned 24-hour period.

The Canoe Creek Watershed has recently been declared an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, certifying its importance to the Commonwealth's birdlife.

If you'd like to make a contribution to help the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, please fill out the form enclosed with this newsletter.

Send your completed form to Dr. Stan Kotala, JVAS Gnatcatchers Team Captain, R.R. 3, Box 866, Altoona, PA 16601-9206.

If you have any questions, call him at 946-8840. Thanks for your help! ☿

— Dr. Stan Kotala

# JVAS Field Trip To Middle Creek

MARCH 9, 2002

Photos by Dr. Stan Kotala

Captions by Helena Kotala



*From left, Alice Kotala, Luis Moore, Dave Kyler, Shirley Wagoner, and Charlie Hoyer observe bald eagles over the lake.*



*Snow geese by the thousands blanketed the lake and surrounding fields.*





**Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area consists of more than 5,000 acres of forest, fields, and wetlands.**



**The JVAS gang at Middle Creek.**

## If Mute Swan Eggs Are Accessible, Why Not Oil or Addle Them?

I'm sure some folks would wonder why anyone would suggest destroying swan eggs, but mute swans are a growing concern among conservationists and wildlife managers. Native to Europe, they have escaped or been released into the wild for generations, and their numbers are growing rapidly, especially in the Northeast, the Chesapeake Bay region, and the Great Lakes. Because they defend large territories and are extremely aggressive toward other waterfowl, especially during the breeding season, they can effectively eliminate other ducks, geese, grebes, and waterbirds from otherwise good habitat. One of the most gripping, difficult sights I've witnessed was seeing a mute swan maul and eventually drown a Canada goose years ago at Brigantine.

Many state and federal wildlife agencies have tried to control or eradicate mute swans, at least on a local level, and oiling or addling their eggs is one technique that's often used, especially in places like suburban parks where killing the adults might provoke an outcry. That's never been a legal problem, because as an exotic species, mute swans were not protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the nation's main bird law.

However, the whole mute swan issue took a bizarre twist in December when a bird lover from Maryland and an animal rights group called Save Our Swans won a federal lawsuit claiming that mutes are entitled to MBTA protection. The court of appeals noted that the MBTA language from 1917 doesn't list the applicable species, but simply says that the act applies to all members of the family *Anatidae*, which includes swans. However, the court overlooked language in the treaties that form the basis of the MBTA that clearly indicates the species in question are those that migrate across national boundaries between the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union — not all waterfowl species everywhere. The SOS folks also argued — against all available evidence — that mute swans are a native American species, a notion that strikes most

ornithologists as laughable, but convinced the court.

So, the upshot is that for the moment, at least — barring a change in the law or a reversal by a higher court — mute swans are (and I hate to say it) legally protected by federal statute. The reasoning is ludicrous, and I suppose one could make much the same argument for house sparrows, starlings, and rock doves, too.

Sheesh! ☿

— Scott Weidensaul  
Schuylkill Haven, Pa.  
Via e-mail

## Purple Finch vs. House Finch

*Carpodacus* finches serve as an identification challenge for many birders, even those with some experience. The house finch is sleeker and looks smaller headed than the somewhat larger purple finch. In profile, the purple finch looks huskier with a bigger, more rounded head and shorter tail than the house finch. House finches have distinct narrow streaks along the flanks while female purple finches have a blurry, broad streaks and male purple finches are a deep red color on their flanks. The purple finch has a distinct, broad supercilium (the area above and slightly behind the eye) compared with the house finch's fairly plain, unpatterned head. The purple finch's bill is straighter than the short, curved bill of the house finch. The color of the two species has long been described, but is hard to articulate without color swatches to make comparisons between the two red colors.

The purple finch is a deep, fuller red (the "purple of ancient days") than the house finch, which is almost orangish red. House finch colors are quite variable, including many yellowish individuals, but none would be the deep red of a purple finch. More important, red is more extensive on the male purple finch, reaching down the back and the flanks while the male house finch's reddish color does not extend past the neck on its back or down to its flanks and belly. Some older female purple finches get some brownish red around their head.

Vocally, the purple finch has a rather distinct,



husky call note, easily identified when calling overhead. The house finch's call note is softer and higher pitched. I usually identify the two species just by their profiles. The purple finch's song is one of the most beautiful and complex warbles of any American songbird. The house finch also has a warbling song but seem scratchier, burrier, and less "musical" to my ears.

Although purple finches are larger, house finches are more aggressive and often push purples off of feeders. Purple finches nest in a variety of forests including conifer groves and swamps at higher elevations. They can be found nesting at lower elevations, especially where there are conifers, but are generally a higher elevation, northern forest species. House finches basically are town birds that are the result of releasing caged birds in New York City several years ago. Purple finches are our "native" *Carpodacus* finches. ☞

— Doug Gross  
Orangeville, Pa.  
Via e-mail

### Want to Help With Bird Point-count Monitoring?

Populations of many Neotropical migratory landbird species recently have been shown to be declining. Long-term population trends and status, however, haven't been investigated by habitat for most species.

Every weekend in May, JVAS Important Bird Area Coordinator Dr. Stan Kotala will conduct "point counts" at Canoe Creek State Park.

If you'd like to assist Stan with the monitoring of Canoe Creek birds, phone him at 946-8840. ☞

### Conservation News Items Via E-mail?

If you'd like to receive, via e-mail, occasional timely news items on conservation issues mainly relating to birds, send an e-mail message to me at:  
charma@nb.net

Simply enter YES JVAS in the subject line. ☞

— The Editor

### Win a Birdwatcher's Adventure!

Spend a week viewing migrating birds on Maryland's Eastern Shore during a stay in an Ocean City townhouse. Visit birding hot spots including Assateague Island National Seashore, Blackwater and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuges, Kiptopeake State Park, Va., and Cape May, N.J. (via the Lewes Ferry).

For a \$5 "donation" (three tickets for \$12), you'll receive a chance for a seven-day, rent-free stay at the Gullway Townhouses, in Ocean City, Md. This generous **First Prize** is donated by Mrs. Lucille Donelan. The townhouse features three bedrooms, two baths, kitchen, living room, dining room, carport, and boat dock. It's fully furnished and usually rents for \$500 to \$800 per week. The unit will be available before May 10 or after Labor Day (Sept. 2).

**Second Prize:** A beautiful, 12×14 framed photograph of a wet screech-owl by Ken Steele, of Ken's Art in Nature, Martinsburg, donated by Ken. The photo won first prize in a *Pennsylvania Magazine* contest in 1998.

**Third Prize:** Book, *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, list \$45, donated by Charlie Hoyer.

**Fourth Prize:** Book, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, list \$35, donated by Audubon Pennsylvania.

**Fifth Prize:** Book, *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, list \$35, donated by Audubon Pennsylvania.

The drawing will be held at the JVAS Spring Banquet, April 16 (*see box on page 1*).

To enter, send your tickets (enclosed with this newsletter) along with a check, payable to JVAS, to Juniata Valley Audubon, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 18886-0032. Feel free to photocopy the tickets and sell as many as you like. "Speculators" need not be present to win. Of course, all entries must be received by April 16. Tickets also will be on sale at the banquet.

All monies received will go to Juniata Valley Audubon's treasury to be used for its programs.

For more information, contact Education Chair Jody Wallace at 684-2425. ☞

— Jody Wallace

## Den Visit — The Bear Facts

By Helena Kotala

On March 23, I went to see a black bear den with my dad, Charlie and Marge Hoyer, and officers from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. It was sunny and about forty degrees.

When we arrived at the site, on Canoe Mountain, the mother bear had been tranquilized. The crowd of about fifty people lined up to take a closer look at the mother black bear. Everyone also had a chance to hold one of the two 18-inch tall cubs.

The black bear is an omnivore. Its diet includes fruits, nuts, acorns, berries, seeds, roots, small mammals, birds' eggs, frogs, and larval insects. The

bear cubs are born in January in the winter den. The female usually gives birth to two or three cubs, every other year. At birth, the cubs weigh from seven to twelve ounces. As adults, they weigh up to 600 pounds!

The black bear can travel at thirty miles per hour for short distances. It also is a very adept climber and swimmer.

I have seen many adult bears in the wild, but this was the first time I have seen cubs. I would like to thank the Pennsylvania Game Commission for giving me that opportunity. ☿



Helena Kotala holds a black bear cub on Canoe Mountain.

### JVAS Prez and Secy Re-elected for 2002–2004 Term

At the March general meeting of JVAS members, Charlie Hoyer was elected to his second term as president, and, according to the JVAS Bylaws, his last term.

Gene Zielinski was elected to his seventh consecutive term as JVAS secretary, which means that he has ably served in this capacity for twelve years.

Thank you, Gene! ☿

## Headwater Streams

I have been a student of headwater streams for over thirty years. I just didn't know the terminology. But lately, headwater streams have been a hot topic. That's because these first-order streams, such as our own Plummer's Hollow Run, make up almost fifty percent of the total river miles in Pennsylvania. They originate from seeps or springs, and what happens to them seriously affects what happens downstream.

Pennsylvania's streams have evolved with trees and their litter. If the system is working right, in autumn deciduous trees drop their leaves into headwater streams where they stay, trapped by fallen logs, limbs, and roots. These leaf packs provide food and shelter for animals without backbones that are larger than a pinhead — so-called "benthic macroinvertebrates" or "benthos" for short — including crayfish, clams, snails, aquatic worms, and aquatic insects such as mayflies, stoneflies, caddisflies, and dragonfly larvae.

Late in the fall, the leaf pack is colonized by microbes and aquatic fungi. Then the benthos move in and eat them. In fact, the life of headwater streams is most active in late winter, which is why I was down at ours not long ago pulling leaf packs from the stream and peeling them apart to look at the benthos living there. I also turned over two rocks and immediately found several caddisfly cases. By then, my hands were freezing and I abandoned my research, impressed by the short look I had had at the incredible numbers and diversity of benthos living in two handfuls of leaf pack and under a couple rocks.

"By taking away the forest, you take away the food resource," Jim McGonigle of the Stroud Water Research Center says.

Removing the forest also causes siltation or "muddy waters," as fisheries biologist John Arway calls it. The longer the water stays muddy, the more

it destroys habitat in the stream, coating rocks so benthos can't live on them. Farther downstream in larger streams and rivers, muddy waters can clog the gills of fish and suffocate them, make fish more susceptible to parasites and disease, destroy fish eggs by clogging the water flow they need, and reduce pools and hiding cover.

By Marcia Bonta

Even the condition of non-perennial streams — those that don't run all the time — is important to life downstream. One study shows that in sandstone-dominated watersheds, such as ours, all such streams should be protected by deciduous forests. Like vernal ponds that dry up in the summer, just because they aren't evident except during peak flows of rain, doesn't mean they aren't vital to downstream life.

During the fierce rains of late March, our field and forest oozed water, all of which eventually flowed into Plummer's Hollow Run. The sound of running water signifies the beginning of spring to me, and I rushed outside to enjoy the sound and sight of flowing water.

After tracing a dozen or more non-perennial streams to their source, I

walked up our road, accompanied by the roar of our usually docile stream, and admired leaf pack and log-jam miniature waterfalls. Every time I passed a side hollow gushing water into the stream, the stream diminished in sound and fury. By the time I reached our guest house, I could hear birdsong above the two non-perennial streams that join and flow under our road to form the beginning of our mile-and-a-half headwater stream destined for the Little Juniata River. And like my father, who always recites Alfred Lord Tennyson's "The Brook" when he drives up our road, I found myself saying:

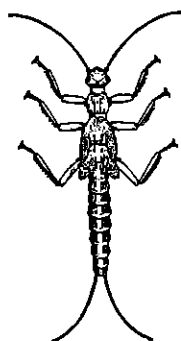
"I chatter, chatter, as I flow

To join the brimming river,

For men may come and men may go

But I go on for ever [sic]."

✂



NYMPH OF AN EARLY  
SPRING STONEFLY

### Lessons From Geese

"Lessons From Geese" was transcribed from a speech given by Angeles Arrien at the 1991 Organizational Development Network and was based on the work of Milton Olson.

**FACT 1:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a V-formation, the whole flock adds seventy-two percent greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

**Lesson:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

**FACT 2:** When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

**Lesson:** If we have as much sense as a goose, we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

**FACT 3:** When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the for-

mation and another goose flies to the point position.

**Lesson:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on one other's skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents, and resources.

**FACT 4:** The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**Lesson:** We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement (to stand by one's heart of core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

**FACT 5:** When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then, they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

**Lesson:** If we had as much sense as geese, we would stand by one another in difficult times as well as when we are strong. ❖

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Junia Valley Audubon Society  
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To benefit Juniata Valley Audubon  
1st prize: One week at a Gullway Town-  
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2nd prize: Framed screech-owl photo  
3rd prize: "Sibley Guide to Bird Life"  
4th prize: "The Sibley Guide to Birds"  
5th prize: "The Sibley Guide to Birds"  
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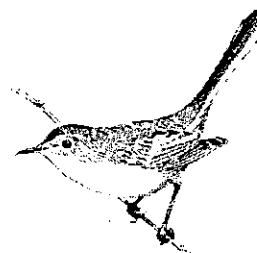
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Feel free to photocopy the tickets and sell as many as you like.

## Juniata Valley Audubon

### ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET — 2002



Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for me at the Annual JVAS Banquet to be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 533 Main St., Bellwood, on Tuesday, April 16 at 6:30 P.M. (social at 6 o'clock).

At \$12 per JVAS member (\$15 per nonmember), I'm enclosing a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check, payable to JVAS.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check by April 10 to  
Marge Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686-0032  
Phone: 684-7376

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## Juniata Valley Audubon



- ☐ Yes! I'd like to support the education and research done by the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center by pledging \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (flat amount).

[ Make your check payable to PSU Shaver's Creek. ]

- ☐ I'd like to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species seen by the JVAS Gnatcatchers team during the Shaver's Creek Birding Cup competition, in which the team traverses the Canoe Creek Watershed on May 3rd and 4th, 2002.

Mail your completed form to:

Dr. Stan Kotala  
JVAS Gnatcatchers Team Captain  
R.R. 3, Box 866  
Altoona, PA 16601-9206.

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