

The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of the
Juniata Valley Audubon Society

P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, Pennsylvania 16686

www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org

Vol. 35, No. 6 — November/December 2003

Three Reasons to Oppose a Resort Development At Prince Gallitzin State Park

Why have Juniata Valley Audubon, the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Todd Bird Club, and the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs all voted to oppose a commercial resort at Prince Gallitzin State Park? There are three basic reasons:

❶ Resorts are inappropriate for Pennsylvania state parks, and the majority of Pennsylvanians are on record as opposing them. The focus on natural values, free admission and accessibility, family-friendly environmental education, and low-impact, outdoor recreation make our state park system the envy of the nation.

❷ Large-scale, commercial developments are incompatible with our state park system and are a violation of official policies adopted just ten years ago after extensive public input.

❸ Public funds intended to enhance the tourist value of public lands must make the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitat a top priority. Habitat fragmentation on state parklands must be minimized — ideally through the purchase and restoration of additional land — not exacerbated by destruction of existing habitat within state parks. If wildlife isn't safe from development in a state park, then it isn't safe from development anywhere in the Commonwealth.

Please check out JVAS Conservation Chair Mark Henry's "Conservation Corner" column on page 3 to see what you can do to help. ☺

— November Program —

"HUNTINGDON AND BLAIR COUNTIES NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORIES" — Ecologists from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will present an overview of the Natural Heritage Inventories for Huntingdon and Blair Counties. The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) consists of inventorying and monitoring the status of rare plants, animals, and natural communities in the state. Records are maintained by the DGNR for every county in a computer database called the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI). An overview of the recently completed Huntingdon County inventory will be presented, and first-year results of the Blair County inventory, now underway, will be given.

7 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18 in the chapel at Alto-Reste Park, on Plank Rd., Altoona — directly across from Wal-Mart.

— November & December Field Trips —

BIRD WALK IN BALD EAGLE STATE PARK — Meet trip leaders Gene Zielinski and Dave Kyler at the park's main entrance for a leisurely walk through Bald Eagle State Park in search of overwintering waterfowl and perhaps one of the park's namesake birds — the bald eagle.

Saturday, Nov. 22. Meet at the main office (Rt. 150 north of Howard) at 9 a.m. Bring a box lunch and binoculars.

JVAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2003 will be held Saturday, December 20 by groups of volunteer birders — experts, novices, and beginners alike — who spend the day counting all the birds they can find in a 15-mile diameter circle centered on the village of Culp, in Sinking Valley (Tyrone Township, Blair County). For more information, see CBC Compiler Debbie Wentz's article on page 5.

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Juniata Valley Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, serving members in all of Blair and Bedford Counties along with portions of Cambria, Centre, Clearfield, and Huntingdon Counties. The membership comprises National Members and Chapter-only Members.

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

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From the Gnatcatcher's Nest

The proposed golf resort at Prince Gallitzin State Park is being promoted as a way to bolster the local economy, but it's just as likely that the opposite could occur. Other states have developed resort lodges on public lands and have lost money on them. Private developers should not be allowed to ruin natural recreation sites that belong to all of us. JVAS members — for that matter, all Pennsylvanians — must speak up and tell Governor Rendell that private country club developments belong on private land and not in our state parks.

For answers to questions about the proposed resort, go to the Web page, <<http://www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org/news.html#pg>>.

And before it gets lost on your desk, please fill out and mail the postcard addressed to Gov. Rendell contained in this newsletter.

Thank you.

Join National/Juniata Valley Audubon

Option 1 — National Membership provides you with the following benefits:

- Subscription to the quarterly *Audubon* magazine, each one filled with superb nature photography and in-depth reporting on environmental issues.
- Notification of Juniata Valley Audubon's exciting activities including monthly nature programs, field trips, and other events.
- Subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*.
- Opportunity to participate in local advocacy efforts to help make a real difference.
- Opportunity to aid in the preservation of the natural world.
- Opportunity to have FUN! in joining with fellow nature enthusiasts.

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CONSERVATION

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By Mark Henry

Two Environmental Matters . . .

that may be of interest to JVAS members: First, I hope all members of the JVAS are aware of the proposed commercial development for Prince Gallitzin State Park. This ill-conceived idea is to build a resort, a private golf course, and a private marina using seventy acres of our state parkland! The proponents of this boondoggle claim that it will "help" the economy of the area by drawing in tourists from neighboring states — a statement that's certainly embellished in order to justify the project.

In contrast, the speculative enterprise would destroy wildlife habitat and degrade adjacent streams and Glendale Lake. It will sacrifice the enjoyment of the many for the few.

Conservationist Dave Bonta (a member of the JVAS Conservation Committee and also a member of the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club) has been working diligently with a steering committee trying to stop this foolishness. I urge all JVASers to support his efforts. Keep in mind, if we should fail to stop this project, there are thoughts of doing more commercial development in other state parks. Moraine State Park already has been mentioned as another park for commercial development.

What can JVAS members do immediately to help? For one thing, all members can contact Governor Rendell and tell him to stop this project. You can do so via e-mail by going to the Web page <<http://www.governor.state.pa.us>>, click on "Contact the Governor," and then click on "E-mail the Governor." A letter opposing this project to DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis, with copies to your state elected officials, also would be helpful.

Please contact Dave at

PH: 684-3113

EM: bontasaurus@yahoo.com

for additional information and/or assistance.

Make your voice heard to prevent the construction of a hotel resort complex at Prince Gallitzin State Park. **If you don't have the time to write a**

personal letter, please be sure to mail the enclosed postcard to Gov. Rendell.

+ + +

On another subject, it appears that conservation-minded hunters and anglers are getting tired of President Bush's constant attacks on the environment. An article in the Nov. 4 edition of the *Washington Post*, titled "Talk of Gas Drilling Splits Pro-Bush Factions in West," notes that Bush's talk about more and more oil and gas drilling on Western lands is starting to worry hunters and anglers in the West.

Many of these people are Republicans who voted for Bush, but now are objecting to the idea of opening public lands to all this oil and gas drilling. Groups such as the Izaak Walton League, Trout Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Boone and Crockett Club are hearing from members who are upset over this drilling.

And this is in addition to the Bush Administration's proposal to remove protections for isolated wetlands and headwaters that has upset Ducks Unlimited members as well as many others.

Is it possible that even though Bush and his cronies like Interior Secretary Norton talk a good line about conservation, that people around the country are starting to recognize that their actions are anti-conservation? I certainly hope so. Conservation has been "losing ground" the past couple of years, and the Bush Administration's assault on the environment is clearly to blame. It's time for the Bush Administration to stop the false rhetoric and sound bites and to start doing what's right for conservation and the environment.

What can JVAS members do to help? Make sure all your hunting and fishing friends and relatives know about Bush's many attacks on conservation and the environment. Write letters-to-the-editor as a way to let other hunters and anglers know what's happening. Then, maybe, just maybe, the Administration will get the picture. If not, then we can register our displeasure next year at election time. ☉

Wildlife Report Deems Pennsylvania's Outdoor Heritage in 'Peril'

Powerful landscape changes over the last two decades are threatening both wildlife and their habitats in a way that could forever alter Pennsylvania's outdoor heritage, according to a recent report commissioned by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

"Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places: Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril" describes development impacts on wildlife habitat and discusses habitat threats and trends. The 32-page report culminates a three-year collaborative effort by the three conservation organizations, the then-Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Council, and the DCNR's Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council to examine the condition of Pennsylvania's wildlife habitat.

"This report confirms that land development changes over the last few decades are resulting in a different and more permanent impact that is changing the face of our landscapes and habitats at a rate that is both destructive and unsustainable," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "This data is definitely a wake-up call. We need to do something fast to stop the loss, or the wildlife we enjoy today will be seen only in photographs by our grandchildren."

The report suggests that lands lost to development are three times greater than lands being conserved. Pennsylvania is estimated to lose around 120,000 acres each year, even though population growth is relatively flat. Because of declining acreage of core forest areas, farmlands and grasslands, as well as pollution of Pennsylvania's waterways, species that depend on these habitats are being adversely affected.

The report tells how Pennsylvania's landscape and species have changed over the 300 years since William Penn arrived. It credits a conservation movement led by sportsmen who took hold in the late 1880s for turning around the decimation of forests, streams, and wildlife by early settlers.

The report suggests that while the state recovered from the early exploitation of resources, powerful new threats in the last two decades — sprawl, acid rain, exotic forest pests, invasive species, deer overpopulation, acid mine drainage — are permanently changing the face of landscapes and wildlife habitat across Pennsylvania.

"This report will help promote public understanding of this issue and hopefully make a strong case for a larger investment in conservation funding in the future," Secretary DiBerardinis said.

The report suggests five recommendations to preserve Pennsylvania outdoor heritage, maintain the economic value of wildlife-linked recreation, and sustain rural economies that depend on forests, farms, and outdoor tourism:

- Protect the best of what remains of Pennsylvania's major habitat types. Clear conservation priorities must be set to determine what species need greatest protection.
- Restore and improve degraded or impaired habitats. Efforts should concentrate on restoring wetlands and streams, reclaiming surface mine lands with grassland habitat, controlling invasive species, and keeping deer populations in check.
- Work cooperatively to conserve privately owned, working resource lands. Provide assistance to private landowners to encourage better land stewardship on working lands.
- Strengthen species inventory, monitoring and research programs. Gain a deeper scientific understanding of Pennsylvania's 25,000-plus species in order to identify declining species, critical habitats and conservation priorities.
- Promote environmentally responsible land use. Incorporate open space and habitat needs into planning codes, concentrate development away from sensitive areas, and foster productive use of cities and towns.

"This report points out the crisis we have in wildlife management today: the significant loss of habitat that impacts Pennsylvania's native wildlife," said Vern Ross, Game Commission executive

director. "As all Pennsylvanians benefit from the diversity of wildlife, the Commonwealth needs to face this challenge and make a commitment of additional resources in order to stem the tide of development and encroachment."

This effort to study Pennsylvania's wildlife habitat began in February 2001 in a joint meeting with the commissioners and staff of both commissions, both advisory councils, and the DCNR staff after a brief presentation by researchers summarizing the changes in wildlife habitat across the state over the last 300 years. This meeting resulted in a more detailed analysis of habitat trends and conditions being initiated by the three state agencies through a contract with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and funded with monies from the Growing Greener and Wild Resources Conservation funds.

"This report was generated as a joint effort, and addressing the challenges it outlines will likewise require a cooperative approach," said Dennis Guise, deputy executive director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. "State agencies, environmental organizations and conservation-minded individuals — really all Pennsylvanians — have a role to play in conserving habitat for all wildlife, including fish, reptiles, and amphibians."

A project advisory team representing members of the DCNR, the councils, commissioners, and a representative from the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance was involved throughout the project, which concluded in September 2002 with a 200-plus-page report.

Due to the technical and voluminous nature of the report, the agencies decided to develop this more public-oriented summary of the report that could be more easily read and understood by sportsmen, outdoor interests, and the general public.

"Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places: Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril" is available in .pdf file format on the DCNR's Web site at

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/pawildlifebook/index.htm

A copy of the report can be obtained by calling (717) 772-9087. ☼

JVAS Christmas Bird Count 2003

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count has become the world's largest all-volunteer bird survey. More than 45,000 people participate each year in this all-day census of early winter bird populations. Results of their efforts are compiled into the longest-running database in ornithology, representing over 100 years of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC," is citizen-science in action.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC. From feeder watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for the love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition — and the knowledge that their efforts make a difference for science and bird conservation.

As long as there are birds to be counted, the CBC will go on being the most popular, fun, and rewarding bird census the world over!

This year, JVAS members and friends will be doing our "Culp" bird count on Saturday, December 20. The Hoyers will open their home for our end-of-day, covered-dish supper starting at 5 P.M. This is a fun day open to anyone who likes spending time looking for birds.

Debbie Wentz again will be compiling the results. Those who helped in the past, I hope to see you again this year. Anyone interested can call me at 692-4224 or send an e-mail message to me at <dtw1999@adelphia.net>. ☼

— Debbie Wentz, JVAS CBC Coordinator

Amphibian and Reptile Stamps Issued

Two amphibians and three reptiles are featured on panes of twenty self-adhesive 37-cent stamps that were recently issued by the United States Postal Service. The new stamps feature Steve Buchanan's digital images of the blue-spotted salamander, the ornate chorus frog, the reticulate collared lizard, the ornate box turtle, and the scarlet king snake. ☼

— Dr. Stan Kotala, JVAS IBA Coordinator

JVAS Sponsors Mini Water Festival

In September, Juniata Valley Audubon sponsored the first-ever Mini Water Festival at the Sinking Valley Farm Show, at Skelp.

Lured by giveaway pencils, posters, and squirt guns, about 150 fair-goers visited the event, averaging a twenty-minute stay. The stations included "Stream Macroinvertebrates," manned by Cheryl Nolan, program coordinator for the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI), Blair Senior Services; "Litter IQ," presented by Dana Shoemaker, executive director for PA CleanWays of Blair County; "Fun with pH" and "What's Your Watershed Address?" both staffed by Jim Eckenrode, watershed specialist for the Blair County Conservation District; and "Mysterious Groundwater," taught by JVAS Ed Chair Jody Wallace.

There also was a hilarious water-balloon-tossing contest (fun, foremost!). ☼

— Jody Wallace, JVAS Education Chair

Fort Roberdeau Closes Deal On Sunnymeade Farm

The Fort Roberdeau Association, which is the advisory council for the Blair County Fort Roberdeau Historic Site, recently has closed the real-estate transaction for the purchase of Sunnymeade Farm, located adjacent to the site. Previously owned by Tony and Phyllis Good, of Sinking Valley, the farm comprises 150 acres of field now in crop production as well as four residential houses with one to twelve acres in each plot.

According to Fort Roberdeau Executive Director Peggy Goodman (this year's JVAS Conservation Award recipient), the purchase is important because it will retain the view from the Fort as well as its approach road. Visitors will continue to see and experience the land as Colonial settlers and Native Americans did during Revolutionary War times.

The land also contains important archeological sites; some of the Fort's lead mines were located on the farm property. Eventually, the Fort hopes to develop more trails, undertake demonstration

farming (including crops and animals), and possibly create an environmental center. PA Trout's Deb Nardone is working on a grant proposal to develop plans. In the meantime, the 150 acres will remain as field crops. The farm houses will go up for sale.

The purchase price for the entire property was \$826,000. Peggy Goodman's five-year effort in securing grants and loans from the DCNR, Preservation PA, Blair County, and Citizens Bank resulted in obtaining nearly half of this price. The sale of the farm houses will cover another fourth. The rest of the money will come from fund-raising efforts on the part of the Fort and the Fort Roberdeau Association. They need help. If you're interested in taking part in this monumental effort, please phone Peggy Goodman at 946-0048. ☼

— Jody Wallace, JVAS Education Chair

Tyrone Eagle Scout Wins Presidential Environmental Award

Padraig Sean Flynn was one of ten recipients to win the President's Environmental Youth Award at a recent ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Padraig's Eagle Scout project at the Bellwood-Antis Wetlands Education Center was chosen for its positive contribution to environmental education in his community, which is located in the Environmental Protection Agency's Mid-Atlantic Region.

Padraig built the center, which features a 20×25-foot observation pavilion in a wetlands area just off Interstate 99 at the Bellwood exit. The project included the construction of a path to the pavilion and the installation of duck boxes. He also placed plaques identifying about thirty plant species in the wetlands area.

A member of Bellwood Boy Scout Troop 92, Padraig is the son of Patrick and Joan (Clancy) Flynn, of R.R. 5, Tyrone.

Presidential Environmental Youth Awards have been presented by the White House and the EPA since 1971. Up to ten winning projects are selected each year from the EPA's ten regions. ☼

— From the Oct. 27 edition of *The Daily Herald*

John Salvetti Honored for Helping Bluebird Population

On the day he was honored as Pennsylvania's Bluebird Volunteer of the Year, JVAS member John Salvetti recalled the very moment he became a dyed-in-the-wool bird-watcher.

To be exact, the Ebensburg resident said, it was May 20, 1984.

"I was just out for a walk and heard a bird singing beautifully," John said. He searched until he found the source of the lovely song, he said. It was a rose-breasted grosbeak, clad in the contrasting colors of red, white, and black.

Since then, John has visited all fifty states and boasts a life-list of spotting 711 of the nation's 900-plus species of birds.

In October, top state officials gathered at John's favorite bluebird-watching spot, Prince Gallitzin State Park, to recognize the work he has done to help the bluebird population grow.

Terri Kromel, who coordinates numerous wildlife programs for the state, including the bluebird program, said, "The work he has done has been very exemplary of what we want to encourage in all state parks."

Not only has John done research on how surrounding states nurture their bluebirds, but he has engaged others — including shop and biology classes at Hollidaysburg Area High School — to get involved. He's one of a handful of volunteers who regularly tend the boxes at Prince Gallitzin State Park.

"The park has one of the largest bluebird trails in the state with ninety boxes," Terry said. "We're always watching what's happening here."

Rory Bower, assistant park manager, credited John with going the extra mile over nearly two decades. "Without his dedication, the bluebird program here at the park may not be in existence today," Rory said. ☼

— From the Oct. 25 edition of the *Altoona Mirror*



Photo for Mirror by Robert Paul

JVAS Member John Salvetti was named Pennsylvania's Bluebird Volunteer of the Year.

"The origin of every excuse is the failure to do something."

— Andy Anderson

A Long Winter's Nap

"Philosophers have defined *instinct* to be that secret influence by which every species is impelled naturally to pursue, at all times, the same way or track, without any teaching or example..."

— Gilbert White, *The Natural History of Selborne*

Instinct appears to be such a simple concept, and yet is so astounding in the resulting evolution-driven adaptations for dealing with nature in all its extremes.

During the winter season, the realities of extreme cold or a lack of food and water present animals with critical obstacles to survival. As a result, animals instinctively gather and store food, and even increase feeding to build body fat to survive the winter. For most Pennsylvania mammals, instinctual behaviors are only part of the survival formula which also relies on deep sleep as an answer to nature's extremes.

"Such a winter as was that of 1880-81 — deep snows and zero-degree temperatures for nearly three months — proves especially trying to the wild creatures that attempt to face it. The supply of fat (or fuel) with which their bodies become stored in the fall is rapidly exhausted by the severe and uninterrupted cold, and the sources from which fresh supplies are usually obtained are all but wiped out."

— John Burroughs, *Signs and Seasons*

The long winter's nap so crucial to winter survival seems to be a mysterious condition with so many variations that biologists often argue on a definition.

Imagine a scale where one end is sleep, which is usually short-term and produces little change in bodily processes. Toward the middle of the scale is the condition of torpor. This deeper state of sleep may last longer and usually involves slightly lower temperature, heart rate, and respiration. At the other end of the scale is hibernation. This is an advanced state of sleep in which temperature, heart rate, and respiration decrease drastically, and the animal's processes of digestion and elimination come to a stop. As a result, the need for oxygen,

water, and energy is much lower — critical when food and water availability is reduced or eliminated in the winter season.

In Pennsylvania, animals utilize strategies from different parts of the "sleep scale."

Raccoons address extremes in temperature by denning up in a large group, sleeping for long periods of time. This instinctual behavior is a great way of conserving energy, although their bodily functions are only slightly depressed. Raccoons still are active for much of the winter.

Skunks might not take part in the slumber party approach, but den in a torpid state in an underground chamber lined with leaves and grass. During dormancy, their body temperature lowers by ten degrees or so. They will stay in this deep sleep for several months, only emerging during mild spells.

Bears are similar in that they will spend periods denning in a deep sleep with only slightly lowered body temperature. They will not urinate or defecate for long periods, and will even give birth in this state — lucky devils! Most biologists consider bears to be sleepers, as opposed to true hibernators. True hibernation takes survival to an extreme state. Bats, woodchucks, and some small mammals are the few true hibernators in Pennsylvania.

Consider the extremes that are the driving factors behind hibernation. True hibernators must feed heavily and consistently in order to build up a layer of body fat that will sustain them through a period when food isn't available.

During hibernation, a little brown bat's body temperature lowers to that of the surrounding air, and its pulse and respiration are extremely low. Bats normally build up enough body fat to live in a state of hibernation for several years. However, because they normally wake six to eight times each winter to replenish liquids lost during respiration, bats rapidly use up much of this body fat and in reality, only have enough fat to live through one winter.

By Heidi Boyle

Curled in a ball, the woodchuck hibernates in its burrow below the frost line. Because a woodchuck cannot rely on a cache of stored food, its body fat and greatly reduced bodily processes are what get it through the winter. Its temperature drops from ninety-seven degrees to forty-seven degrees, and its heart rate slows from almost a hundred beats per minute to less than twenty. Like bats, woodchucks will awaken periodically during the winter.

So what puts an animal into such a deep state of profound sleep? Instinctual behavior may lead them to prepare for hibernation, but new studies have shed some light on the physical changes that occur.

Recently, scientists have discovered that hibernating animals have a unique substance in their blood, HIT, which stands for "hibernation inducement trigger." The amount of HIT increases as a result of reduced sunlight during shorter days. Temperatures also may play a factor. As a result, the animal is able to go through such profound changes when entering into hibernation as in the case of a bat; it can survive almost five months without food.

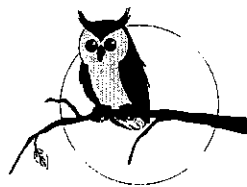
The implications of such behavioral and physical adaptations, driven by instinct and genetic programming, are stunning. With the discovery of

HIT and its components, medical journals are reporting new studies in several areas:

- Human hibernation could make long-haul space travel feasible, with crews effectively put to sleep for months, or even years.
- The U.S. Army is looking into using induced hibernation in battle situations to keep casualties alive when medical help is not immediately possible.
- Hibernation in humans may be investigated for use in weight loss.
- Use of HIT possibly could help preserve donor organs for long-term use.

Because this amazing adaptation exists on a scale of such varying degrees, there seems to be a consensus that there needs to be a great deal of study regarding future uses of hibernation as a tool for humans.

Meanwhile, nature in all its mystery, seems to quietly make use of something we humans cannot completely grasp. Hibernation has been millions of years in the making — the unseen genetic technology being polished and refined through millions of winters. But, back in the cave, burrow, or tree, the many animals that face the long winter ahead continue to instinctually feed up, store food, or settle in for that long winter's nap — peacefully unaware of the amazing process that drives their survival. ☉



*A wise old owl lived in an oak,
The more he saw the less he spoke,
The less he spoke the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that bird?*

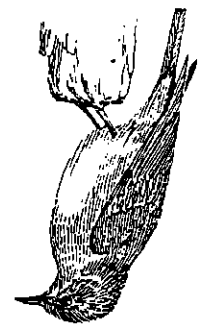
— Anonymous, but with an interesting history. It's believed to be an old rhyme, though not found before World War I. It was quoted by John D. Rockefeller, in September 1915, when questioned about a war loan from America to the Allies. President Calvin Coolidge had the words inscribed over the fireplace in his home.

THE INDIANA BAT is a federally endangered species that has declined more than sixty percent in the past thirty years due to habitat loss. The Canoe Creek State Park area is home to the largest Indiana bat colony in Pennsylvania because of the outstanding habitat in and adjacent to the park: Suitable maternity sites in large trees and bat houses, a hibernation site in an abandoned mine, and excellent foraging areas in the low hills between the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River and U.S. Route 22. As a matter of fact, the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, an independent scientific review group, has designated the Canoe Creek region as an Important Mammal Area because of its significance to several endangered and threatened mammal species.

Designing the new Route 22 bridge over Canoe Creek will be a challenge because traffic over the bridge could result in collisions with Indiana bats using the Canoe Creek corridor to reach their foraging areas. In addition, widening of the highway will physically impact the foraging and maternity sites of the Indiana bats. PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should ensure that the foraging and maternity areas of the Indiana bats at Canoe Creek are protected permanently. By guaranteeing that the habitat for the Indiana bat remains suitable and intact, these agencies can preserve this endangered species. ☉

— Dr. Stan Kotala

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