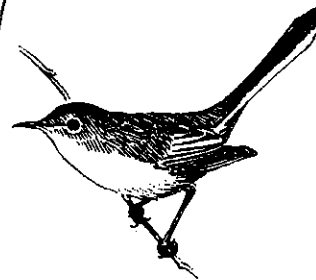


THE GNATCATCHER

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

Vol. 36 No. 3—May/June 2004

www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org



JVAS TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AT CANOE CREEK STATE PARK

For decades, birders had sensed trouble. Neotropical migratory birds, which breed in the United States and Canada and winters in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and South America, were becoming scarce. In 1989, the concern that had been simmering for decades became real. Analyzed results from several years of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's breeding bird surveys indicated that Neotropical migratory birds were declining. Neotropical migratory birds are among our favorites – swifts, swallows, sparrows, flycatchers, orioles, tanagers, vireos, and of course, the wood warblers. As a group, more than 50 percent of the species breeding in the United States are classified as Neotropical migrants. Their alarming decline meant that it was time to take action.

In 1990, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation created Partners in Flight, a coalition of federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industries, universities, and other concerned groups, to take up the difficult task of conserving these migratory species before they became threatened or endangered. The Partners in Flight coalition faced a huge challenge – migratory birds know no political boundaries and they must be protected on both their breeding and wintering grounds. Thus there would need to be unprecedented cooperation and coordination from all groups involved to create momentum and secure funding over such a large expanse of habitats and countries. Almost a decade later, Partners in Flight remains the most powerful partnership for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds. By working together now and conserving these birds and their habitats before they become endangered, Partners in Flight is actually creating a bird-filled future for our generation and those to come. On Saturday, May 8, and throughout the spring, hundreds of thousands of birders across the continent will flock to wildlife refuges, sanctuaries, national forests, and local parks to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). As the focal event for Partners in Flight, IMBD creates an awareness for migratory birds through national activities and events that celebrate the return of migrants to their nesting grounds after wintering in the tropics. Organized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of Partners in Flight, IMBD is now in its twelfth year, and has become an "Earth Day" for birders. Birding is the fastest growing outdoor recreation in the U.S., with a 155 percent increase in participation over the past decade: over 57 million Americans participate in birding activities!

If you haven't yet jumped on the bandwagon of bird enthusiasts, now is your chance. Even people who are not "birders" come out to celebrate IMBD because they have realized that the habitats that are most needed by birds are often those that are most critical for many other species. So thank a bird and join in the celebration!

Juniata Valley Audubon will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, May 8th. This celebration will consist of two field trips:

1. **Mary Anne's Creek/Marsh bird walk:** this two mile (two hours) walk guided by Canoe Creek Watershed Important Bird Area Coordinator Dr. Stan Kotala will feature birding by sight and by sound. Participants will see approximately fifty species of birds. **Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park Education/Visitor Center at 8:30am.**
2. **Moore's Hill Trail nature walk:** this three mile (two and a half hours) walk guided by Stan Kotala will feature birding by sight and sound as well as a spectacle of spring wildflowers, including the yellow ladies slipper, trilliums, and bloodroot. Participants will see about fifty species of birds. **Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park Education/Visitor Center at 10:30am. This walk will be followed by a picnic at pavilion 2 at approximately 1:00pm. Bring drinks and a bag lunch. Call trip leader Stan Kotala (814)946-8840 or ccwiba@keyconn.net with any questions.**

We hope to see you all at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, May 8th!

NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY UNCOVERS NEW SPECIES IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY

The recently completed Huntingdon County Natural Heritage Inventory (CNHI) revealed a freshwater mussel species and three plant species previously undocumented in the county. The report represents the culmination of nearly three years effort. The goal of a CNHI is to present a picture of the unique and important living resources in the county, what they are, where they are, and what they require to survive.

The Huntingdon CNHI recommends 88 areas be managed for conservation within the county. These conservation areas are designated around rare species of plants or animals, or exemplary natural communities. Such elements of special concern found in Huntingdon County include:

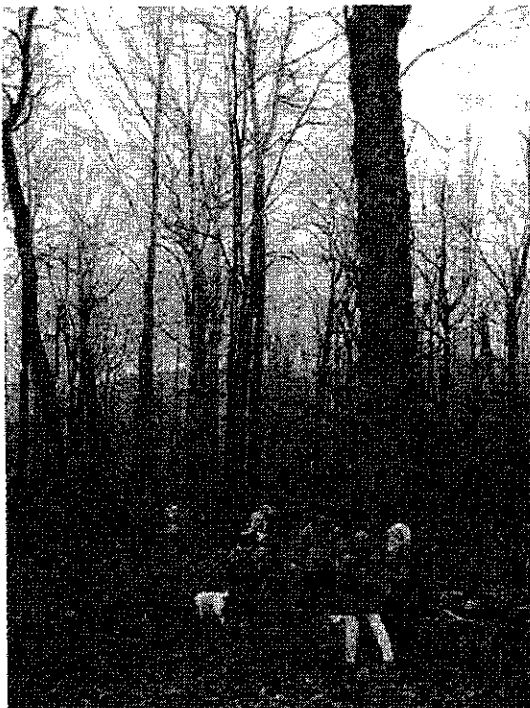
1. 3 mammal species
2. 3 freshwater mussel species (including new county record)
3. 10 insect species
4. 34 plant species (including three new county records). It is worth noting that two of the plant species occurring in Huntingdon County are known nowhere else in the state.
5. 12 natural communities

The report is intended for use by a broad array of county residents:

1. County agencies, municipalities, and environmental consultants and developers use the report to help guide plans for development. Because the inventory is not part of any legal or regulatory mandate, it holds no power to regulate land use. However, use of the report can streamline development by providing sensitive environmental information early in the planning process when adjustments can be made at little cost or delay.
2. Residents can use the report to better understand the unique natural resources of the places where they live. Schools can use the inventory as a teaching aid and arrange to have presentations and outings as part of their curricula. Groups and organizations with an interest in natural history, conservation, or tourism can take advantage of the inventory to further their educational goals and to inform their work and decision-making. And residents involved with open space, greenway, rails-to-trails or park projects can use the inventory to help plan and prioritize their efforts.

Copies of the report will be distributed to municipalities in the county, as well as public libraries. Interested persons or organizations wishing to obtain a CD version of the inventory report can do so by contacting the Huntingdon County Planning Commission office at (814) 643-5091 or planning@huntindoncounty.net.

— Beth Brokaw



The Seven Stars Biological Diversity Area in Rothrock State Forest was identified by ecologists of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as containing a notable example of mature ridgeside forest with old-growth characteristics. JVAS vice-president Dave Bonta led a field trip to this area last November.

Photo by Nancy McCaughey

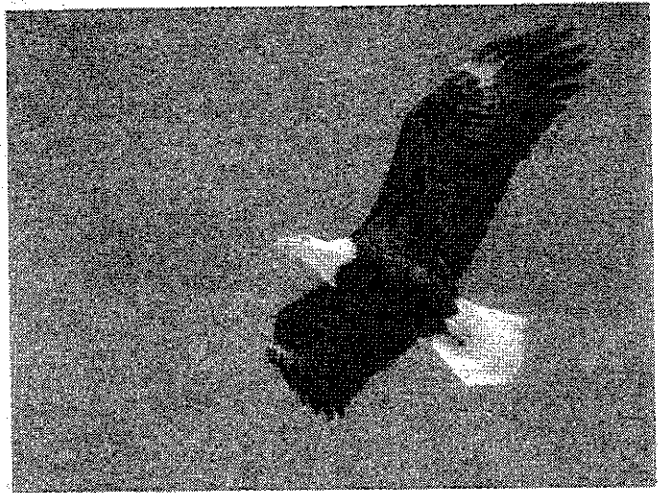
MIDDLE CREEK 2004



BALD EAGLES AT LAKE RAYSTOWN

By Dave Kyler

The Bald Eagle, our national symbol, is alive and well at Lake Raystown in Huntington County! Almost extirpated in the lower 48 contiguous states in the 1960's and 1970's due to DDT pesticide pollution, the Bald Eagle has made a remarkable return. This species can be found in the Juniata River watershed in nearly every month of the year. Migrants pass through our region from August through December with a few remaining at the lake during the winter months. The Bald Eagle's head is not bald, but rather is covered in fine, white feathers when it attains sexual maturity at the age of five years. Birds lacking the white head and tail are referred to as either sub-adult or juvenile. Bald Eagles are from 30-40 inches long, weigh 8-14 pounds, and have a 6-8 foot wingspan.



Photos by JVAS member Chris "Dusty" Rhodes

At least two adult pairs of Bald Eagles have made Lake Raystown their home over the last six breeding seasons according to Rob Criswell, PA Game Commission South Central Region Land Management Supervisor (and JVAS member). Bald Eagles have used nesting sites at the North location (near the Raystown Dam spillway) and the South location (near Nancy's Camp) since 1999. Over five breeding seasons the North site had 9 hatchlings with 4 successfully leaving the nest. The best chance to view Bald Eagles is to look for them as they perch on the sycamore trees near the diversion tunnel at the breast of the dam as they search for fish to feed their young.

JUST JOKING.....

**TWO VULTURES WERE IN THE DESERT, EATING A DEAD CLOWN.
ONE VULTURE SAID TO THE OTHER,
"DOES THIS TASTE FUNNY TO YOU?"**

POWDERMILL BIRD BANDING

By Helena Kotala with photos by Roy Boyle

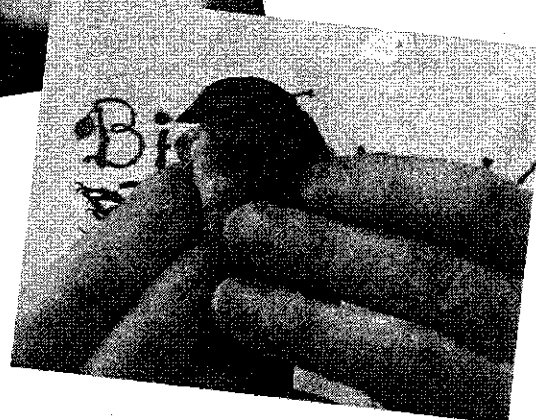
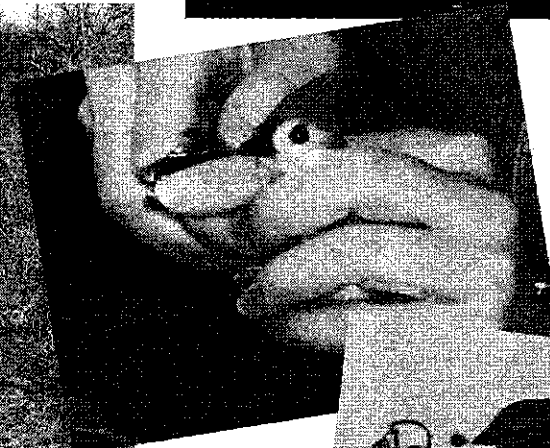
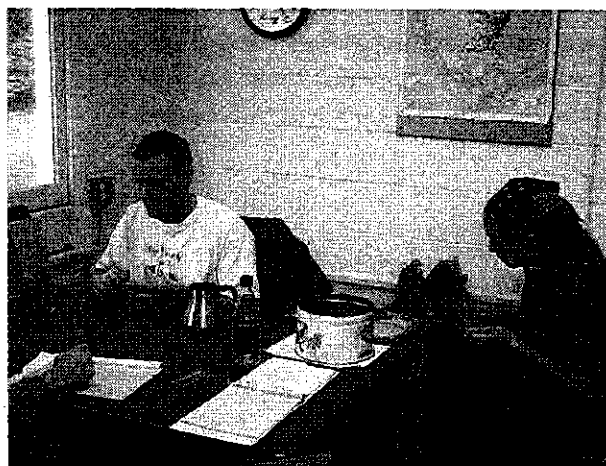
On April 17, a glorious, warm, spring day, I, along with Stan Kotala and Heidi and Roy Boyle, headed out to the Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier. We were going to Powdermill to learn about the bird banding program they have there and to watch them band birds.

The Powdermill Banding Program was begun in 1961 by Robert Leberman. Together with Bob Mulvihill and volunteers, Powdermill bands an average of 10,000 birds annually. Several thousand recaptures of previously banded birds are also recorded each year.

Shortly after we arrived, a team of banders returned from the mist nets with several birds to band. We were all amazed at the many different sizes of bands, ranging from 1 millimeter in diameter for hummingbirds to 1 inch in diameter for eagles. After banding the bird, volunteers determine its sex, wing length, age, and weight. Then they release it. All the information helps to tell ornithologists about longevity, bird life cycles, weight and plumage changes, and differences between sexes and age groups in migration behavior.

We were lucky enough to be able to go on a "net run" (as they call going and checking the nets for birds) with the banders. Powdermill has a few dozen nets set up along forest, field, and pond habitats. The banders catch a wide range of species, and while we were there, they banded ruby-crowned kinglets, blue-gray gnatcatchers, field sparrows, swamp sparrows, a robin, a chipping sparrow, a song sparrow and a tufted titmouse.

Around noon, the activity began to slow down, so we left because we had a long drive home. Thanks to Powdermill Nature Reserve and all the banders for a great morning!



A FIELD GUIDE TO THE

PRESIDENT

Cindy Moore

My husband, Luis, and I have lived in the area for 14 years. We love the area and feel that there are many beautiful places to visit for birding and just being outdoors. I enjoy gardening and have been working for the last 2 years on a butterfly garden. I think it will always be a work in progress as I find new plants to add. I participate in the Cornell FeederWatch Program, this being our 5th year, and my husband Luis and I monitor bluebird boxes at Canoe Creek State Park.



VICE PRESIDENT



Dave Bonta

Dave Bonta grew up on Brush Mountain near Tyrone, where he still resides in the old tenant house in Plummer's Hollow. He is a published freelance writer and personal chef. Bonta serves as secretary of the Pennsylvania Wildlands Recovery Project and Public Lands Co-Chair for the Conservation Committee of the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club. He has also played a leading role in the alliance of sportsmen and conservationists opposed to leasing portions of Prince Gallitzin State Park for a private resort. Bonta is a frequent contributor to the brand-new PA Wildlands news blog at

<http://www.wildpennsylvania.org/news>.

NEW JVAS OFFICERS

SECRETARY

Shirley Wagoner



I believe I have been interested in birds my whole life— at least as long as I can remember! Both parents— my father, a scientist, and my mother, a teacher— encouraged my interest from the beginning —not for becoming an ornithologist, but a teacher! By the time I got to college and beyond, I was not thinking of becoming any kind of scientist. I did become a teacher and taught grades one through six at different times and places, and later, reading. To become a reading teacher I went to the University of Maryland for a Ph. D. in reading education. Afterwards I taught reading and worked for a publishing company, developing reading materials. Eventually, I returned to teaching as a reading teacher in a large county outside of Washington D.C.. When I retired, I decided the time had come to return to my first love, birds, and traveled to see them in many places, as well as volunteering at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. Most of my travel has been to bird places where I have either lived, such as Puerto Rico and California, or visited, such as Costa Rica and Florida. Now I mainly focus on North America.

TREASURER

Warren Baker

I grew up near Duncansville and since 1965 have lived on a farm 2 miles from Tyrone. I graduated from Hollidaysburg Area High School and Lock Haven State College. I was a teacher at Bellwood-Antis High School for 20 years. On my farm, I made hay and raised beef for 20 years and also boarded horses. The first horse that came to stay on my farm in 1972 died this winter. After teaching, I did payroll and benefits for Martin Oil Company for 5 years. My last job was book-keeping for my sister and brother-in-law, owners of Campbell's Sporting Goods Store in Hollidaysburg. I attended some JVAS programs in the early '70s but never joined. I renewed my acquaintances with the group around 2000 and joined shortly after that. I won't be able to produce the kind of treasurer reports that outgoing treasurer Marge Hoyer did, but I hope to keep the books balanced and not make Marge sorry for giving up the purse strings.



BIRDS



Flying, flying in the sky
Flying, flying oh so high
They migrate south every year
Then in the spring they come back here



Sparrows, cardinals, goldfinches too
At my feeders I will view
With feathers of scarlet, black, and gold
Through binoculars I will behold



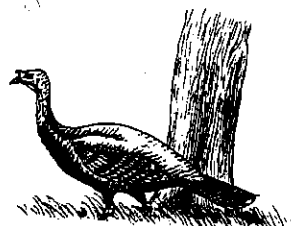
Walking in the woods by night
A tiny saw-whet owl takes flight
The great-horned owl gives a hoot
Nearby, screech owls warily fall mute



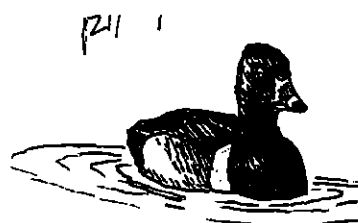
On the shores of the great clear lake I stand
Listening for the sound of the Canada goose band
Then they appear, all in a V
And fly directly over me



As the air begins to chill
The birds find it hard to be still
They fly south to warmer lands
But some don't mind the cold at hand

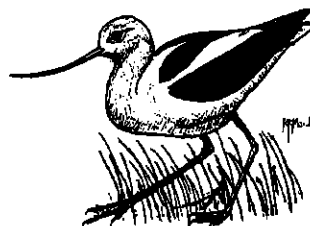


Chickadees, nuthatches, juncos as well
Stick around when snowdrifts swell
They eat the seed that I provide
And overhead a hawk will glide

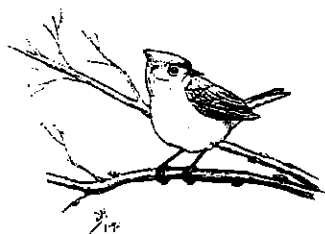


Flying, flying in the sky
Flying, flying by and by
They migrate south every year
And I am glad they come back here!

--Helena Kotala



Illustrations by IVAS member
Richard Mack



JVAS CONSERVATION AWARD GOES TO HEIDI BOYLE

By Jody Wallace

Heidi, in just 3 years, has brought state and national recognition to the environmental education program at Canoe Creek State Park. Her enthusiasm, energy, and outgoing personality have greatly increased attendance in public programs and school field trips to the park. Heidi's knowledge of state environmental and ecology standards has made her a reference person for local teachers as well as other park environmental educators. With her reference material and encouragement, local teachers have become comfortable teaching outdoors. A connection with Penn State has afforded her the opportunity to influence future teachers by co-teaching a session at the Main Campus.

Canoe Creek is recognized for its bat management and research. Heidi has taken advantage of this by organizing a Bat Festival each August. Research techniques are demonstrated, habitat discussed, and bat-related items sold including clothing, bat houses, and guano. Two local school districts have gotten involved by cutting lumber for bat box kits and building some boxes that were installed in the park. Heidi is one of the instructors for the Bat Conservation International Workshop held annually in and around the park area.



JVAS Education Chair Jody Wallace (L) presents the Conservation Award to Heidi Boyle (smiling).

Heidi serves as mentor for new environmental education employees of the Bureau of State Parks. She helps nearby parks with teacher workshops in addition to conducting her own. Heidi was part of a community that planned, organized, and conducted the 2003 PA. Alliance for Environmental Education Conference held in Altoona. She helped plan for speakers and field trips, acquired the site for the conference, prepared and received registration forms for participants, and settled the financial transactions with the conference facility.

Also, Heidi writes a nature education column for the bimonthly Juniata Valley Audubon newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*. She participates in regular meetings and leads field trips for the JVAS.

Membership Matters

JVAS OFFERS LIFE MEMBERSHIP

At the April 6 meeting of the JVAS Board of Directors, it was voted to establish the JVAS Life Membership category for Chapter-only Members, with a one-time dues payment of five hundred dollars (\$500). As with the other Chapter-only membership categories (Individual, Family, Supporting, and Friend), Life-membership contributions will be used for local conservation education and conservation advocacy.

And as with the other Chapter-only membership categories, Life Members will receive the JVAS's bimonthly newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*, containing articles on local conservation topics and nature themes, along with announcements of upcoming Chapter programs, field trips, and other events.

Juniata Valley Audubon is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, educational organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes (Entity ID #: 25-1533496).

Moreover, Chapter-only Life Members won't be receiving an annual dues notice — for life!

An Audubon membership application form appears on page 13 of this issue. Please be generous in your helping to support Juniata Valley Audubon's programs, field trips, and advocacy.

— Charlie Hoyer

Rip Van Winkle Returns

By Heidi Boyle

This year the normally serene spring forest will roar into life with the emergence of the seventeen-year cicada. This noisy, cigar-shaped insect is one of the longest-lived and most unusual insects in Pennsylvania, as it spends most of its life underground, emerging from its seventeen year dormancy for a brief, noisy fling at adult life before dying.

When this year's brood of periodical cicadas hatched seventeen years ago and crawled underground, it was 1987 and Reagan was President. The cicadas were young and wingless and headed immediately for cover. This May, these Rip Van Winkles will emerge, having missed, for better or worse, Tiananmen Square, the Exxon Valdez, the Berlin Wall, Dolly the Sheep, the Mars Pathfinder, and September 11.

It is the long incubation which makes the periodical cicada a natural curiosity. Charles Darwin was fascinated by the prime-numbered life cycles of periodical cicadas (there are 13 and 17 year cicadas) and their amazing, synchronized appearance in large numbers. Although other species of cicadas appear annually and don't arouse much attention, the emergence of the periodical cicadas is noteworthy because of the sheer number and sound when compared to their smaller annual cousins. Truly, it is an insect that demands attention.

Each year I look forward to the startlingly loud buzzing call of the male cicadas as they noisily compete to attract a mate. Both annual and periodic cicadas call using a pair of ridged membranes called tymbals, located on the abdomen. Because the abdomen is hollow, it is believed to act as a resonating chamber. One cicada is loud... very loud. Imagine the resulting cacophony of millions of cicadas emerging at the same time. Yet this impressive symphony only occurs every few years, as broods are "scheduled" to emerge.

Cicadas are flying insects of the Order Hemiptera; their closest relatives are leafhoppers, treehoppers, aphids and scale insects. Naturalists and scientists first identified the unusual lives of periodical cicadas over 300 years ago. One reference near Plymouth, Massachusetts, was recorded in 1633: *"There was a numerous company of flies, which were like for bigness unto wasps or bumblebees, they came out of little holes in the ground, and did eat up the green things, and made such a constant yelling noise as made all the woods ring of them, and ready to deaf the hearers."*

As you walk through the woods in early-mid May, keep an eye out for the telltale "chimneys" on the forest floor which signal the emergence of the periodic cicada. After 16 years of feeding on the sap of underground tree roots, the nymphs construct exit tunnels to the surface, which look like small mud turrets with ½" holes. Newly emerged nymphs crawl to nearby vegetation or tree trunks for their final molt into adulthood. When their new exoskeletons harden, they abandon the hollow shells of their former selves and find their way into the trees.

If you look carefully, you may be fortunate enough to encounter some cicada exoskeletons on the tree trunks, or better yet, some adults that have died. Take a close look; adult cicadas are large, chunky insects with squared heads and big, "buggy" compound eyes. They have large, clear wings and definite "heft" to their body. While annual cicadas are dark green, periodic cicadas are black with bright orange-red wing veins and red eyes.

Periodical cicadas occur in broods (identified by Roman numerals). In Pennsylvania there are four broods of seventeen-year cicadas that occur in portions of the state. One brood emerges this spring; a different brood will emerge in 2008. There are also 13-year cicada broods. Entomologists theorize that the prime-numbered life cycle and the fact that different broods emerge in different years helps to prevent interbreeding. As a result, each brood is genetically distinct.

Although the long dormancy and sudden emergence in such huge numbers may seem to invite mass extermination of a brood (putting all your eggs in one basket, so to speak), it is the staggered emergence of various broods which have determined their success for two reasons. First, due to the long dormancy period, they have no specialized predators. Second, the large numbers in any emergence allow for sufficient reproduction in spite of the sudden buffet an emergence may present to insect-eating species. As a result, cicadas are highly successful.

Generally, periodical cicadas are found in eastern North America, with a total of seven species. Four have a 13-year life cycle, and three have a 17 year life cycle. Because there can be long gaps before any emergence in a given area, the event was historically regarded with a somewhat biblical fear as settlers or native cultures thought the great numbers were something akin to a biblical plague of locusts, though they are certainly not locusts. Cicadas may do damage to shrubs and trees, if enough use a single plant for egg-laying and feeding, but

their impact, overall, is minimal, despite the fears generated by their noise, numbers and appearance.

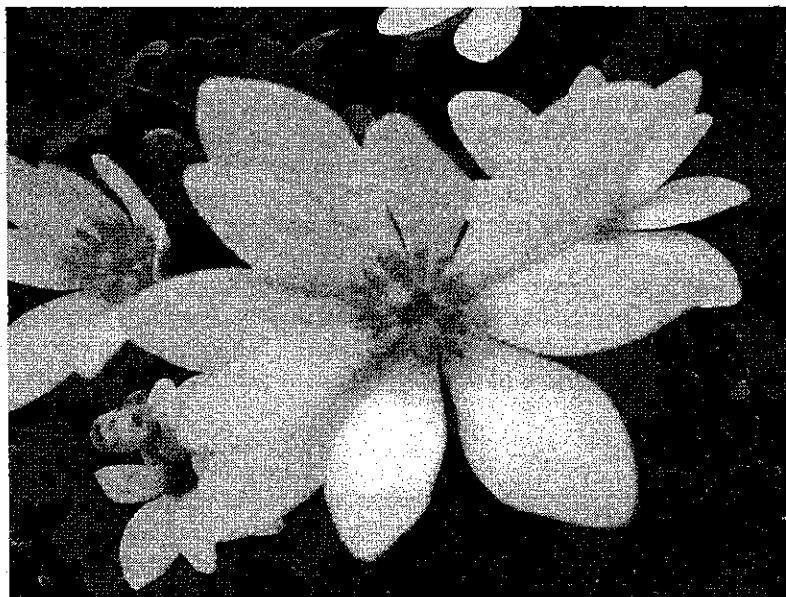
Imagine the fear of a sudden emergence of these large, frightening and tough-looking insects accompanied by a noise like the roar of an angry deity. Despite their horror-movie style appearance, cicadas are harmless. They do not bite or sting defensively, and do not attack people (they do, however, have a rather common defense mechanism of releasing excrement as they seek to fly from your grasp).

Fortunately, curiosity about the cicada has lead to knowledge and illumination, and indeed, anticipation of this strange insect. This spring welcomes the emergence of Brood X (brood ten) in our area. It is the largest of the 17-year broods, covering areas of fifteen states in the eastern US. And, although you may soon buy earplugs, consider yourself fortunate to be witness to a brood of cicadas, the offspring of which will not appear to us again until 2021. For now, enjoy the all-too-brief roar of the periodic cicada.

President's Message

Spring has arrived and, as with the changing of the seasons, so goes the changing of the JVAS Board of Directors. As the new president of the chapter, I would like to say "thanks" to Charlie Hoyer, our outgoing president. Charlie has devoted many hours to publishing a great newsletter and maintaining our membership records, not to mention the web site, and keeping us all apprised of environmental issues. **Thank you, Charlie!**

The birds are singing and the earth is turning back to green and, as the keepers of the earth, we must all do our share to keep it a place for all...people and animals of all species! Every time I step out the door I discover something new, whether it is plant or animal. With that in mind and with the help of the new Board of Directors, I know we will continue to offer a wide variety of program speakers and field trips that appeal to all members and hopefully educate about the wonders around us and maybe a few of the dangers.



BLOODROOT (SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS)

Photo by Helena Kotala

SANDY RUN WETLANDS THREATENED

The Sandy Run Wetlands are a large wetlands complex associated with Sandy Run, a tributary to the Little Juniata River, in Antis Township, Blair County. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) classifies the Sandy Run Wetlands as an exceptional value (EV) wetland because trout use the wetland's streams as a spawning ground.

Located between the Pinecroft interchange of I-99 and the Little Juniata River, and crossed by Route 764, this wetland is a target for developers. A half-century of abuse resulted in filling some parts of the wetland for residential and business construction, but recent wetland protection laws should make such activities difficult. Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania DEP often allows mitigation by developers in exchange for permitting destruction of wetlands. In the case of the Sandy Run Wetlands at Pinecroft, the JVAS believes such a course of action to be inappropriate because this wetland complex is one of the largest intact wetland areas in Logan Valley and is in close proximity to the Little Juniata River, a nationally-renowned trout stream.

The JVAS has notified the DEP and the United States Army Corps of Engineers of its concerns regarding this wetland and recently made the following statement to the Antis Township Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting:

"Juniata Valley Audubon is strongly opposed to any further encroachment on the wetlands along Sandy Run in Pinecroft.

These wetlands are of particular importance in purifying runoff into Sandy Run from developed areas along Old Route 220. Developed areas release particulate and chemical contaminants into stormwater. Wetlands act as filters, removing chemical and particulate contamination from runoff and providing high quality water to associated streams, in this case, to Sandy Run and then downstream to the Little Juniata River. By preserving the Sandy Run Wetlands, the Antis Township Board of Supervisors can ensure a high quality source of water to the Little Juniata River.

These wetlands aid in flood control by storing a large amount of water and releasing it gradually over long periods of time. Wetlands act as sponges, absorbing water and storing it for slow release. This is in sharp contrast to asphalt and concrete, which do not absorb water, but shed water rapidly into overtaxed streams and into streets, homes, and businesses. By preserving the Sandy Run Wetlands, the Antis Township Board of Supervisors can decrease the seriousness of future flood events.

These wetlands are habitat for characteristic species of wildlife that cannot survive at other sites. Pennsylvania's state fish, the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), breeds in Sandy Run. The Little Juniata River is a world-renowned trout fishery. This stream is home to large numbers of pollution-sensitive macroinvertebrates, such as stoneflies, mayflies, and caddis flies. The Sandy Run Wetlands are home to many species of amphibians that need this wetland to complete their life cycles, such as the spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculata*), the red-spotted newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*), and the spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*). Birds such as the swamp sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*), the red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and the tree swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) nest in the Sandy Run Wetlands.

Every day, more and more demands and stressors resulting from development are being placed on the Little Juniata River. Juniata Valley Audubon asks that the Antis Township Board of Supervisors deny any permit for development that would result in encroachment on the Sandy Run Wetlands so that we may preserve the qualities that draw tourists to the Little Juniata River, maintain water quality in Sandy Run, prevent unnecessary flooding, and provide habitat for characteristic wildlife species."

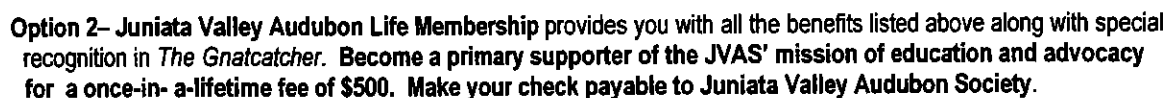
The JVAS hopes that the Antis Township Board of Supervisors, the DEP, and the Corps of Engineers will heed our concerns and not permit the destruction or degradation of the exceptional value wetlands at Pinecroft. If you would like to help by attending meetings or writing letters to save the Sandy Run wetlands, please contact JVAS interim conservation chair Dr. Stan Kotala at ccwiba@keyconn.net or (814)946-8840 h, (814)239-2211 w. Thanks for your help!

Editor's note: Mark Henry has stepped down from his position as JVAS conservation chair to fulfill other responsibilities. Dr. Stan Kotala will be the interim conservation chair until September, when Sarah Miller will become our new conservation chair. You will recall that Sarah served the chapter in this capacity as well as being the wetlands chair a few years ago. We welcome Sarah back to the board!

JOIN JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON!



- 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.
- **Become a chapter-only member at a annual membership rate of \$15. Make your check payable to Juniata Valley Audubon Society.**



- ☐ **Option 3—** National Audubon membership provides you with all the benefits of Option 1 with the addition of a subscription to the quarterly *Audubon* magazine.
- Become a National Audubon member for an annual rate of \$35. Make your check payable to National Audubon Society.**

Name _____

Address _____

7XCH U03

Mail the completed form to JVAS, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686

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NAMC Coordinator... Dr. Stan Kotala (see above)

MAY PROGRAM

May 18, 2004

Recovering Pennsylvania's Natural Heritage

It is not enough to halt a runaway building, clearcutting, acid deposition, and suburban sprawl. We must find a way to reverse the ecological destruction these have wrought. Dave Bonta, a JVAS Conservation Committee Board Member and a board member of PA Wildlands Recovery Project, will present a slide show that will focus on the need to reconnect, restore, and "rewild" natural habitats and landscapes in Pennsylvania.

ABOUT JVAS PROGRAMS: Programs are presented on the third Tuesday of each month. They begin at 7 PM in the chapel at Alto-Reste Park on Plank Road, Altoona. Our programs are designed for a general audience, and are free and open to the public.

MAY AND JUNE FIELD TRIPS

May 8, 2004

International Migratory Bird Day at Canoe Creek State Park

See page 1 for details.

May 22, 2004

Black Moshannon State Park

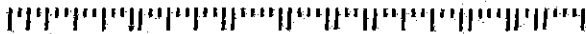
We will explore another of Pennsylvania's scenic state parks. The high-elevation park is noted for its extensive bog and related plants, animals, and birds. Plan for a leisurely hike. Bring a box lunch and waterproof boots. Meet at Burger King in Tyrone at 8 AM.

June 29, 2004

JVAS Picnic at Canoe Creek State Park

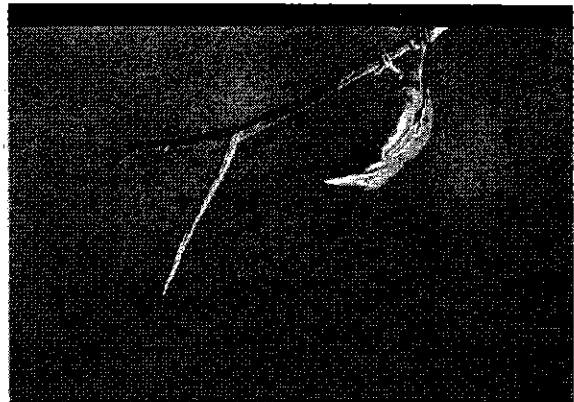
Our annual picnic will be held at CCSP on this Tuesday evening followed by a nature walk to observe birds, flowers, and aquatic stream life. Potluck supper to begin at 6 PM. Contact Cindy Moore at 946-9441 for details.

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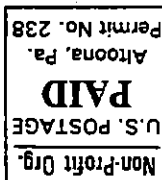
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Photo by JVAS member Frank Kovaloski



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