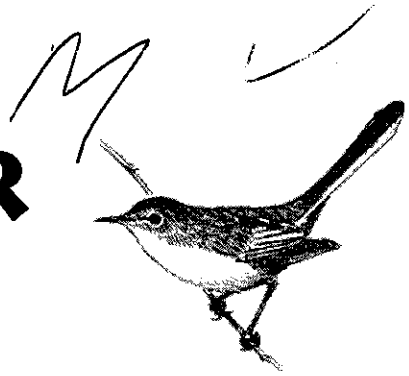


THE GNATCATCHER

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

Vol. 37 No. 3—May/June 2005

www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org



Growing Greener II bond proposal to be on May 17 ballot

Juniata Valley Audubon strongly supports the Growing Greener II bond proposal which seeks to preserve farmland and open space, improve water quality in streams and rivers, clean up abandoned mines and contaminated industrial sites, support key programs that are dangerously short of funds, and set the state on a clear path to revitalize communities and strengthen the Commonwealth. **Voters will decide whether or not to accept this proposal by answering the following question on the May 17 Municipal Election ballot:**

"Do you favor authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625,000,000 for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?"

Juniata Valley Audubon urges you to vote "YES!"

In a recent letter to the editor of the Altoona Mirror, JVAS president Cindy Moore wrote: "Growing Greener II funding will provide much-needed support for Pennsylvania's two largest industries, agriculture and tourism. There is a backlog of more than 2,000 farmers seeking to enroll acreage in our state's farm-preservation program. When surveyed, 88% of Pennsylvanians favor the preservation of farmland. Agriculture generates \$45 billion yearly in our state. Tourism also is big business in Pennsylvania, and eco-tourism, or wildlife watching, annually brings billions of dollars into the Commonwealth's economy. As a matter of fact, eco-tourism is the fastest-growing portion of the tourist industry across the United States! Hunting and fishing generate almost \$10 billion annually in Pennsylvania. Hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, and canoeing are big business, too. These non-consumptive outdoor activities are profit-makers for thousands of small businesses across the Keystone State. All these would benefit from Growing Greener II."

"From open space issues in the southeast to acid mine cleanup in the northeast and the west, Growing Greener II will benefit all Pennsylvanians. We have been confident all along that given the opportunity to vote on the bond issue, residents will overwhelmingly support the idea," Democratic Whip Mike Veon said. In recent statewide polls, more than 80 percent of respondents said that they would support issuing a bond to pay for programs critical to the preservation of the commonwealth's environment. The \$625 million bond issue for Growing Greener II will fund programs including, but not limited to, parks, open space and farmland, environmental cleanup and the revitalization of older communities. **JVAS members should go to the polls on May 17 and vote "YES" for Growing Greener II!**

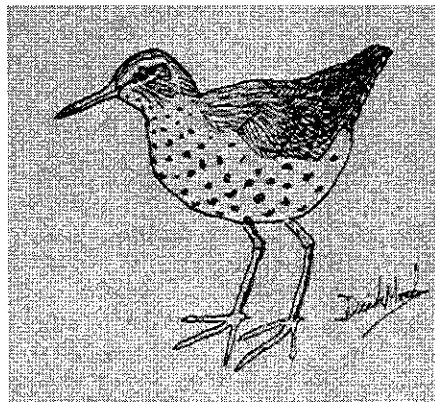
JVAS to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, May 14

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds and their winter haunts. Its goal is to energize birders to share their passion for birds and to encourage public participation in bird conservation. Juniata Valley Audubon once again will be leading this celebration at Canoe Creek State Park on Saturday, May 14, from 8:30am till noon.

Canoe Creek State Park is the ideal location for this celebration because of its designation as an Important Bird Area and because it is a focal site for Juniata Valley Audubon's bird conservation efforts. During the International Migratory Bird Day celebration, participants will learn about our efforts to restore habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler on Moore's Hill, alien invasive plant removal, and the recent installation of Osprey nesting platforms.

We will meet at Pavilion #2 at Canoe Creek State Park at 8:30am on Saturday, May 14 to begin a bird walk guided by Canoe Creek Watershed Important Bird Area Coordinator Dr. Stan Kotala. Our hike will take us along the Limestone Trail paralleling Mary Ann's Creek and crossing the new bridges over the stream to the newly-constructed Smith Hillside Trail. Target species here will be the Acadian Flycatcher, the Louisiana Waterthrush, the Wood Thrush, the Cerulean Warbler, the Tennessee Warbler, and the Yellow-throated Vireo. Thereafter we'll visit the nearby early successional and old field habitats near the lake to see Golden-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Prairie Warblers, Meadowlarks, and Field Sparrows. In the shrub swamp and marsh at the mouth of Mary Ann's Creek we can expect American Woodcocks, Willow Flycatchers, and Swamp Sparrows and on the lake we'll see Common Loons, Pied-billed Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Bank Swallows, and Ospreys. **Participants should expect to see about 100 species of birds!** Our bird walk will be done at a leisurely pace with tips given on identifying our feathered friends by sight and sound. We'll confine our 2 to 3 mile walk to groomed trails, so just basic outdoor footwear will be required. ***Bring a bag lunch to join us for a post-walk picnic!***

Juniata Valley Audubon hopes to see a strong turnout for this celebration of birds! If you'd like more information, call Dr. Stan Kotala at (814) 946-8840 (h), (814) 239-2211 (w), ccwiba@keyconn.net or Canoe Creek State Park Environmental Education Specialist Heidi Boyle at (814) 696-6025, hboyle@state.pa.us.



*Spotted Sandpiper by JVAS
member Dick Mock*

Lend a helping hand to hummingbirds

Soon northward-migrating hummingbirds will be traveling through our region and will need food to power them along on their monumental journeys. You can help by planting flowers that provide nectar to these little winged jewels. **"The average person can't really do anything to help peregrine falcons or mountain plovers, but they can do something for hummingbirds"** says Sherri Williamson, author of *A Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America*.

By planting native red or orange flowers such as wild columbine, trumpet creeper, trumpet vine, bee balm, jewelweed, and cardinal flower, homeowners can attract hummingbirds to their yards. **"We underestimate the role yards and gardens have played in migration corridors"** says Williamson. Hummingbirds rapidly can build up energy for raising young and for migration by hanging around gardens rich in native nectar-producing plants. Jesse Grantham of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service states that "we look at them as entertainment, but to hummingbirds, it may be a life-and-death struggle."

The table below lists some of the plants most attractive to hummingbirds:

	<u>Height</u>	<u>Blooms</u>	<u>Preferred soil</u>
Wild Columbine (<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>)	1-3'	May	dry
Trumpet Creeper (<i>Campsis radicans</i>)	climbing vine	July-Sept	rich
Trumpet Vine (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	climbing vine	June-Sept	moist
Bee Balm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>)	1-4'	July-Aug	rich
Jewelweed (<i>Impatiens capensis</i>)	1-3'	June-Sept	moist
Cardinal Flower (<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>)	1-4'	July-Oct	moist

Both bee balm and cardinal flower can be found readily in local nurseries such as Martin's Garden Center on Rt 453 near Water Street and Adler's Landscape Nursery on 6th Avenue in Altoona. Trumpet creeper and trumpet vine will grow from cuttings taken in spring from growing shoots. Both wild columbine and jewelweed are easy to propagate from seed collected from wild plants. ***So let's all help our friends the hummingbirds and replace some of our lawns with native plants that attract these feathered jewels!***

President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jody Wallace for organizing our Annual Banquet. She did an outstanding job and everyone that I have spoken with enjoyed the bird walk, the speaker, Jerry Hassinger, and of course the food. The Conservation Award recipient, Mike Joseph, was unable to attend. He is being invited to attend our program meeting in May to receive his award.

When you have some time and are surfing the net, check out the "bat cam" for Canoe Creek at www.pennfuture.org/bats/. Remember, bats are nocturnal, so most of the activity on the "bat cam" will occur at night, particularly at dusk!

Spring has arrived at the Moore house: we have a pair of Downy Woodpeckers and a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, so we're hoping to see some young woodpeckers soon.

I'm trying to find out who left a photograph of two baby owls taken at Sumter Oaks in Bushnell, FL at my office. It is a wonderful picture, but I would like to know who to thank for it.

- Cindy Moore

OSPREY NESTING PLATFORMS PLACED AT CANOE CREEK STATE PARK

Three decades ago water pollution and the pesticide DDT had decimated Pennsylvania's osprey population. Due to the enactment and enforcement of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the banning of this dangerous pesticide, ospreys began to make a comeback around 1980.

Hoping to help ospreys reclaim their historic range in the Commonwealth, Dr. Larry Rymon of East Stroudsburg University began a restoration program in the Poconos in the early '80's. Between 1980 and 1986, more than 100 osprey nestlings were brought from the Chesapeake Bay to hacking sites along the upper Delaware River, where the young birds were hand-raised and released. Because young ospreys display a high degree of nest-site fidelity and are slow to colonize new areas, it was hoped that they would return to these areas to nest in 4 to 6 years, when they had become mature birds.

Fulfilling Dr. Rymon's hopes, more than 30 of the hacked ospreys had returned to their release sites by 1990 and had produced almost 40 young by that date. Since then, populations have spread westward from the Delaware River and northward from the Chesapeake Bay. Hoping to emulate Dr. Rymon's success on the Delaware, Dr. Chuck Yohn of Juniata College in Huntingdon began an osprey hacking program at the Raystown Field Station just after the turn of the millennium. The first of Juniata College's hacked birds will be returning to their natal sites next year, and, in preparation for that event, platforms to accommodate their nests were placed at Raystown Lake several years ago.

The anticipated expansion of the Raystown osprey population inspired Canoe Creek State Park manager Terry Wentz, JVAS president Cindy Moore, and JVAS past president Charlie Hoyer to arrange for the construction and placement of osprey nesting structures at Canoe Creek State Park. Their diligent work and meticulous research involving consultation with numerous conservation professionals and coordination with local schools and businesses came to fruition on April 9th, when two osprey platforms were placed adjacent to Canoe Lake.

Constructed by students at Hollidaysburg Area Senior High, the large platforms were mounted 50 feet high on dead oak snags. The first platform, named "Cindy," was placed in a dead red oak on the Sugarloaf near Brumbaugh Dam, and the second, named "Charlie," was put in a dead bur oak in the shrub swamp where Canoe Creek enters the lake.

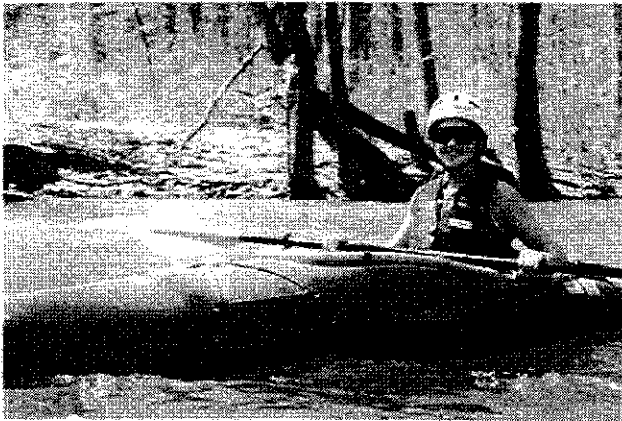
It's hoped that, within a few years, Canoe Creek State Park will be home to an osprey family!

Many thanks to JVAS president Cindy Moore, past president Charlie Hoyer, and Canoe Creek State Park manager Terry Wentz for their hard work and perseverance in this restoration project!

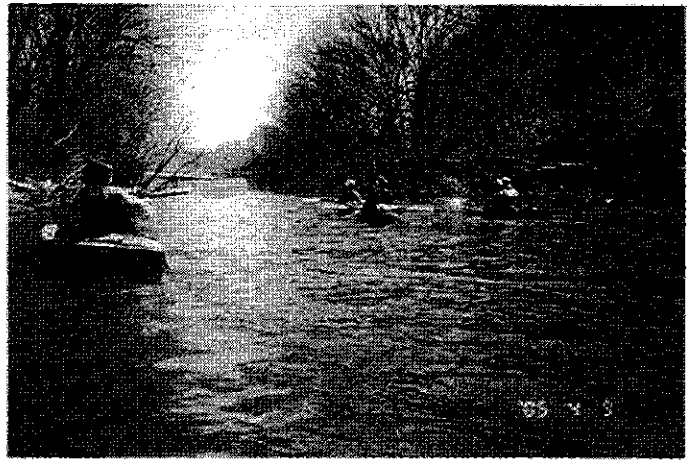


Osprey by John James Audubon

Juniata Club



Helena Kotala is happy to be out on the river with friends on such a great day. Anyone who wants to join the JVAS Juniata Club for future trips on the river should contact Helena at ccwiba@keyconn.net.



April 9: JVAS Juniata Club members enjoy a glorious 65-degree day on a gentle stretch of the Little Juniata River upstream of Ironville.



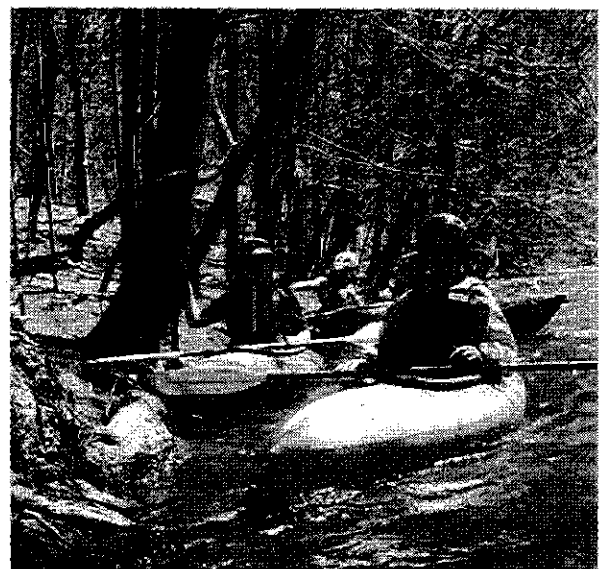
Jody Wallace navigates the rapids with ease while basking in the sun.



John Betting was thrilled to see Common Mergansers, Wood Ducks, Kingfishers, Mallards, and Canada Geese on the river.



Helena Kotala, Alice Kotala, Jody Wallace, and John Betting take a lunch break on a small, sunny island in the middle of the Little Juniata. John brought his famous peanut-butter crackers, which were enjoyed by everyone.



Jody Wallace and Alice Kotala anticipate the trip ahead before starting out upstream of the Plummer's Hollow bridge near Tyrone.

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy launches Vernal Pool Registry

Shippensburg University's Dr. Tim Maret, our JVAS March 2005 program speaker, characterized vernal or seasonal pools as ephemeral wetlands that have fluctuating water levels or that dry out entirely on a regular basis. Appearing as puddles in shallow depressions in both woodlands and open areas, these pools are rich ecosystems that provide critical habitats for species adapted to seasonal wet and dry periods. These pools may hold water some years and be completely dry in others.

Seasonal pools are protected in Pennsylvania under 25 Pa.Code Chapter 105, the Dam Safety and Waterways Management Act, which prohibits any structures or activities that would change the course, current, or cross-section of a body of water. Permits are required to fill in or excavate seasonal pools. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection does not keep a comprehensive database of vernal pools.

This year, the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will begin identifying and mapping vernal pools in the Juniata Valley, including the watersheds of the Raystown Branch, the Frankstown Branch and the Little Juniata River, as part of a State Wildlife Grant Project (see the March/April 2005 *Gnatcatcher* for more information on State Wildlife Grants). This will be an important step toward understanding more about the ecology, condition, and conservation of seasonal pools. With a well-developed registry and information gathered by citizens involved in the project, scientists can study the flora and fauna of the Commonwealth's seasonal pools, investigate regional differences in pool types, and look into other aspects of their complex ecology. Agencies and conservation groups may use the information to protect against the loss of these overlooked wetlands.

Juniata Valley Audubon strongly encourages all members to get involved with the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pool Project, which is scheduled to begin this summer. A web site will be established so that people can download registry forms and contribute information. The web site will have detailed information on how to determine what is and isn't a vernal pool, what species to look for, and how to study them. Education programs about seasonal pools will be developed and made available for public presentations.

Anyone interested in participating in the Pennsylvania Seasonal Pool Project should contact Ephraim Zimmerman of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy at ezimmerman@paconserve.org, (412) 586-2334 or (412) 288-2777.



Seasonal pools such as this one on State Game Lands 166 in Sinking Valley provide critical habitat for amphibians such as the wood frog and the spotted salamander, as well as reptiles such as the spotted turtle.

GOING NATIVE

by JVAS Conservation Chair Sarah Miller

If you're like me, then last month's bit of spring weather got you thinking about working in your yard. Are you looking for new ideas on how to spruce it up? If so, why not go wild this year and plant a native garden?

Since my husband and I purchased our home four years ago, we have been slowly doing away with our lawn in favor of native plants. The first year, we planted a butterfly garden. That was followed by native shrubs and a shade garden. This year we'll be putting in more sun and shade loving native plants for wildlife.

Planting native makes good sense environmentally and economically. Not only will you save on gas for your lawnmower, you'll be providing habitat for birds and other wildlife that make our suburban yards their homes. As more and more of our area becomes developed, backyard habitats like these will become increasingly important.

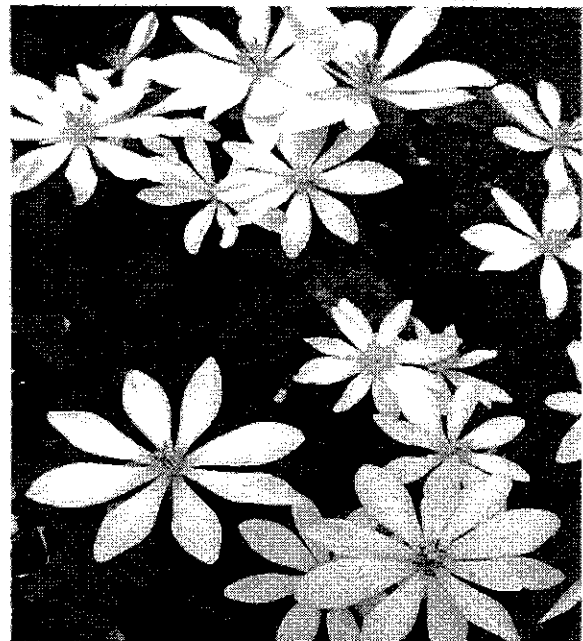
Native plants are also adapted to their environment, so they require less care than their non-native counterparts. They need less frequent watering, no fertilization, and because they are used to local pests, no chemicals to protect them. All of the native wildflowers we have planted are perennial and have required nothing more than a little weeding now and then. These plants provide food and shelter for birds and other animals and are just as pleasing to the eye as non-natives.

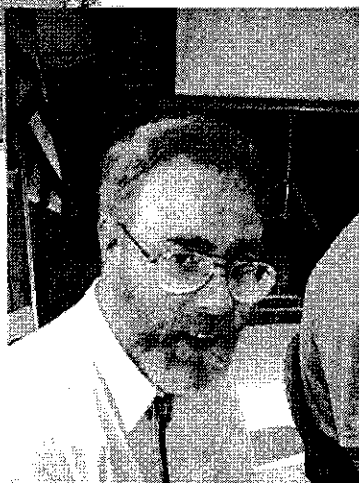
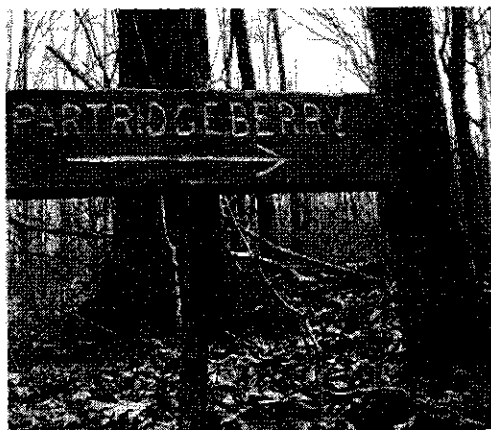
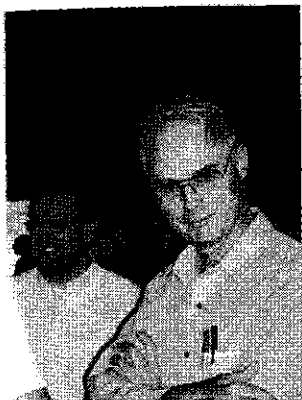
If you're not sure how to get started with native plants, there is lots of help out there. This spring and summer, several native plant growers are holding plant sales. Here's a list of upcoming sales and where to get more information.

May 7-8 & 14-15	Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, New Hope, PA (www.bhwp.org)
May 14	Manada Conservancy Plant Sale, Hummelstown, PA (www.manada.org)
May 20-21; July 8-9; September 9&10	Doyle Farm Nursery Open House, Delta, PA (www.doylefarm.com)
May 20-21	Hawk Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (www.hawkmountain.org)
June 2-4	Millersville Native Plant Conference and Sale, Millersville, PA (www.millersvillenativeplants.org)

Also, check out *The New England Wild Flower Society Guide to Growing and Propagating Wildflowers of the United States and Canada* by William Cullina (2000, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company). Happy planting!

JV AS SPRING BANQUET





JVAS MIDDLE CREEK TRIP

by Helena Kotala

It was a bright, sunny day, not so warm but not too cold either. JVAS members gathered at McDonald's in Huntingdon, excited for the annual trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster counties. JVAS goes to Middle Creek every year to witness the spectacle of more than 100,000 snow geese at one of the major stopovers on their migration path, as well as other species of waterfowl.

After grabbing coffee and breakfast, our group of 15 went outside and piled into the vehicles so that we could start on our way. Driving past the Juniata River, we observed **buffleheads** and **common mergansers** swimming in the river. We also saw plenty of **red-tailed hawks** perched in trees by the road and soaring overhead.

Arriving at Middle Creek, we stopped at the visitor center first to eat lunch and look at the displays. One of the nice things about the Middle Creek visitor center is that while you eat lunch, you can look out the large window onto the lake and feeders next to the center.

With full stomachs, we headed out to drive the auto loop around the lake. Every place we could, our caravan would stop and we got out of the vehicles, looked at birds, and got back in the vehicles to head to the next stop.

At the Willow Point Trail, we all walked out to the lake to get better views of **snow geese** and **tundra swans**. But we ended up seeing more than just waterfowl. Dave Kyler's eagle eyes spotted an **eastern screech owl** napping in a wood duck box, and during the walk back to the vehicles, we noticed an opossum in the field near the trail. That was an interesting and unexpected sighting, since opossums usually are only active at night.

Moving along the auto loop, we stopped to look at the bald eagle nest near the lake. We didn't actually see the eagles, although one vehicle did stay back to get a look at them, and got separated from the main group in the process. We were driving along, and someone noticed that the "tan van" wasn't behind us anymore. We eventually got a hold of them, and they told us that they were watching the **bald eagles**. Everyone in our group was jealous, until we watched a red-tailed hawk swoop down and eat some prey.

We met up with the other half of our group back at the visitor center, and decided to go around the auto loop again. As we passed some snow goose decoys used for hunting, we saw a flock of geese flying away from the decoys and snow goose kites that were suspended about 20 feet above the ground. Those geese weren't going to fall for any decoys!

We completed the auto loop, took one last pit stop at the visitor center, and left Middle Creek. On the way home, we stopped at Ponderosa in Harrisburg for a bite to eat. After that, we headed to some fields near a little town called Van Wert in Juniata County to see if we could catch a glimpse of the short-eared owls that were supposed to be around there.

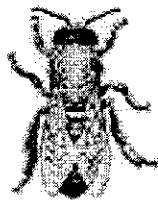


Driving slowly along the road, we scanned the fields for owl-like shapes. At times, someone would think they saw one, but it was too far away or too dark to tell. We were about ready to give up and head home, when Dave Kyler spotted an owl on the horizon. It was dark, and the owl was far away, but some of us felt sure it was a **short-eared owl**. Since it was getting too dark to see anything, we climbed into the vehicles and headed home, reflecting on another great Middle Creek trip.

Trip participants L-R: Front row: Dave Kyler, Helena Kotala, Dave Ramsey, Darlene Ramsey, Warren Baker Back row: Trudy Kyler, Mike Jackson, Laura Jackson, Dick Mock, Alice Fleischer, Georgia Bottenfield, Alice Kotala, Stan Kotala, Luis Moore, Cindy Moore

Warm Weather Partners

By Heidi Boyle



How doth the little busy bee,
Improve each shining hour,
By carrying pollen day by day,
To fertilize each flower"

-Author unknown



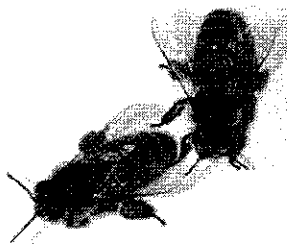
Squinting against the bright sunshine of a warm spring day, I spread a poncho to sit on, lay out my bottle of water and my journal, and settle in to watch a large patch of newly opened clover and dandelion. The warm breeze is punctuated by the calls of birds as they race to gain advantage over neighbor and competitor. But nowhere is the surge and swell of spring so fascinating when seen among ordinary field flowers.

Spring, with scents of warm soil and growing plants is the season of the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*). As leaves stretch and flowers unfold, this miracle worker of pollination and architecture is seen buzzing from flower to flower in search of food. This annual phenomenon reveals a glimpse of a curious and fascinating symbiosis between pollinator and plant.

A. mellifera certainly is the picture of industry, taking its food gathering as a serious business. It has been noted in numerous studies that bees conserve energy by returning to the same large patch of flowers time and time again. However, little does the honeybee suspect that its business of gathering nectar and pollen is directed by the flowers themselves.

I pluck a clover head and use a magnifier to peer closely at its colorful structures. The flower's shape and color, scent, and position of pistil and stamen, are all precise and wonderful mechanisms to attract pollinators and fulfill the plant's singular goal of reproduction.

When the honeybee lands, it follows the contours and ultraviolet markings of the petals which direct it to the nectar and pollen on which it depends. In turn, evolution has provided sucking mouthparts and neatly covered the bee with a thick coat of hairs to which pollen easily clings.



Leaning closer, I can see the baskets of pollen on the bee's hind legs; each basket is a concave area edged with spiky hairs, allowing the honeybee a place in which to store its precious burden.

While obtaining food, bees are willing couriers in the transfer of pollen from one flower to another. The glory of cross pollination is in the timing, as reported by W. J. Beal in 1868: "There are...peculiarities among certain plants...In some of these the stigmas come out and are fertilized before the anthers of the flower burst open; while in others the anthers are in advance, and discharge their pollen before the stigmas appear." (*Agency of Insects in Fertilizing Plants*, 1868 *The American Naturalist*)

Sitting in the mellow sun of a spring day, watching the honeybees lightly dance from flower to flower, I wonder at the trial and error that is evolution. The parallel paths that plants and their pollinators must follow in order to sustain each other's progress is a part of every season. Here in a patch of clover, I watch in awe as the nodding flowers trade pollen with the bees, ensuring the age-old process of survival, reproduction and inevitable change.

Species of Concern: more than just threatened and endangered

by Dan Mummert

My favorite time of day is the hour before sunrise. I often spend this time with a pot of coffee in quiet meditation on the back porch overlooking the awakening Juniata River Valley. This morning, the focus of my predawn thoughts was on the term "species of concern." Many of the people I've talked to since I started working for the PGC use species of concern as a synonym for "threatened and endangered". Species of concern however, is much more inclusive than this. This term includes not only Pennsylvania's threatened and endangered species, but also--for varying reasons--many other species found throughout Pennsylvania that require special conservation attention.

The history of Pennsylvania's species of concern started with the creation of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PBS) in 1979. This organization, then composed of biologists from the Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, and Department of Environmental Resources, had the task of determining which plant and animal species were in serious conservation trouble throughout the state. By 1981, the PBS listed 29 birds and 29 mammals as species of concern under the categories Endangered (5), Threatened (8), Vulnerable (18), or Status Undetermined (27). To a significant degree, the endangered, threatened and vulnerable species had the potential of becoming extirpated from Pennsylvania (as had already happened to the bison, mountain lion, moose, gray wolf, and wolverine). The species listed as Status Undetermined needed additional research to determine just how vulnerable to extirpation they were in Pennsylvania.

Over the last couple of decades as more research has been conducted, the PBS now considers 77 birds and 18 mammals species of concern. The number of mammals listed have decreased mostly because we now have much more information about mammals, and therefore fewer "Status Undetermined" species. The birds of concern have increased greatly and now include almost 40% of the state's breeding bird species. This is due to a mixed strategy for bird conservation. As a reactive approach; threatened and endangered, locally distributed, and declining species are listed. Proactively, the PBS lists species such as scarlet tanager and wood thrush, which are still relatively common, but have a high percentage of their population breeding in Pennsylvania. Also listed as species of concern are Partners In Flight priority species such as chimney swift and Acadian flycatcher, which are thought to need special conservation attention. Still other avian species of concern are thought to act as "canaries in the coal mine" for some of Pennsylvania's declining habitats. For example, the Louisiana waterthrush is a species of concern that is a good indicator of riparian corridors and stream quality. The northern goshawk, red-shouldered hawk and broad-winged hawk are species of concern that indicate high quality forests. If we carefully watch these indicator species we can have a pretty good idea how many of the other species that require these same rare habitat types are faring. Furthermore, conserving habitat for more common species like the scarlet tanager and wood thrush will help ensure habitats are similarly conserved for other, potentially imperiled species, that might use the same habitats.

In summary, species of concern are much more than just Pennsylvania's rarest species. By preserving and managing habitat for our state's nearly 100 species of concern, we each can play an important role as responsible land stewards to help secure the future for Pennsylvania's incredible diversity of wildlife.

For a complete list and more information on Pennsylvania species of concern, visit <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/>, click "Wildlife", click "State Wildlife Grants", click "Priority Species".

Help barn owls make a comeback!

by Dan Mummert

As the Southcentral Wildlife Diversity Biologist for the PGC, I'm working to help in the conservation of Pennsylvania's approximately 100 mammal and bird species of greatest conservation concern. Barn owls, which have been in decline for several decades, are one such species of concern that have great management and recovery potential in the Southcentral and Southeastern portions of our state. My southeastern counterpart, Jamie Zambo, and I are developing a barn owl conservation initiative to help in the conservation and potential recovery of this species. We are looking for cooperation and participation in this important effort.

If you are aware of barn owl nest sites, please contact me so that I can send you a nest data sheet to record information. Your assistance in the identification of nest sites and potential habitat, outreach, and monitoring will be key to the success of this project!

You can contact Dan Mummert at (814) 542-8759 or dmummert@state.pa.us.

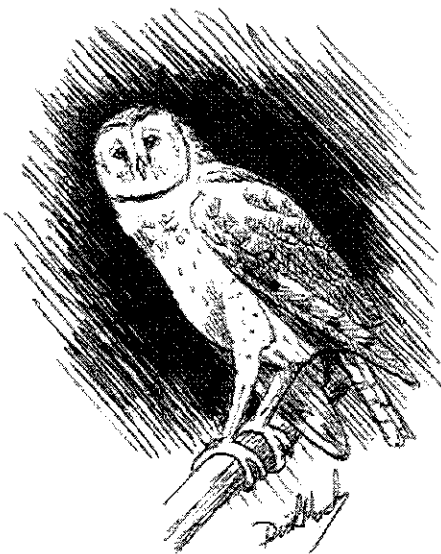
Retirement Party for Canoe Creek State Park Manager

Terry Wentz

10-12 a.m. Pavilion 1

Terry Wentz has announced his retirement as manager of Canoe Creek State Park. The park will host an open house with finger foods and refreshments on Tuesday, June 14. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the park office for more details at 814 695 6807.

Lisa Wachter - Check into
Canoe Creek St. Park here
RR2 Box 560



Barn Owl by JVAS member
Dick Mock

"To the dull mind all nature is leaden.
To the illuminated mind the whole world
burns and sparkles with light."

Holidays 16648
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Journal, 1831

If you have any articles or artwork for the *Gnatcatcher*, please send them to Helena Kotala at ccwiba@keyconn.net. We welcome any kind of nature-related articles, poetry, photos, and drawings. The deadline for the next *Gnatcatcher* is June 20, 2005.

Create non-game wildlife diversity on your property!

Dan Mummert, Wildlife Diversity Biologist with the PGC and the Woodland Owners of the Southern Alleghenies (WOSA) invite the public to a day-long program focused on creating non-game wildlife diversity on private woodlots. Woodlands for Wildlife will be held on Saturday, June 4 on Black Valley Road in Everett. The outdoor event will feature hands-on demonstrations and presentations by several wildlife specialists.

Mummert will describe how PGC's new Private Landowners Assistance Program helps wildlife diversity and how he can assist landowners in encouraging wildlife to their woodlots. Kendall Sommers, DNREC Invasive Species Biologist, will discuss the proper methods of ridding invasive, exotic plant species and why it's important. Greg Turner, PGC Mammalogist, will talk about creating an environment for mammal diversity, especially bats, flying squirrels and other non-game wildlife. After lunch, hear Melinda Farr, PGC Habitat Biologist, speak of managing woodlands for reptiles and amphibians with a focus on vernal pools and riparian corridors. From Consulting Forester Juls Wood learn about the importance of coarse woody debris and how to create snags and brush piles for wildlife. Wood will also discuss how different species of trees and shrubs provide different types of habitat for wildlife. Tim Flanigan, PGC Wildlife Conservation Officer, will discuss how to create habitat for woodcock and other early successional species. Hosts (and members of JVAS) Mike and Laura Jackson will describe how they've created various habitats on their property and their plans to increase their property's diversity of non-game wildlife.

Woodlands for Wildlife will take place on Black Valley Road 2.5 miles south of Everett. Follow signs from the 5th Street bridge in Everett. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m., and the event will get underway at 9 a.m. It will end around 4 p.m. Coffee, donuts and lunch will be served. Pre-registration is requested by May 27. The workshop will be available to the first 30 registrants. Registration is \$10. Make checks payable to WOSA and mail to 311 Oakview Road, Bedford, PA 15522. For more information call (814) 652-9268.

JVAS picnic scheduled for June 21

Spring has sprung and summer is on its way! Shake off those cobwebs and come enjoy a warm-weather picnic at Canoe Creek State Park. The annual picnic of the Juniata Valley Audubon Society will take place on **Tuesday, June 21, at 6:00pm at Pavilion #2.** Come rub elbows with your fellow nature-lovers and sit down to an assortment of delicious foods, nibbles, grilled goodies and desserts offered by the membership. You'll need to bring your own picnicware. After dinner you'll have the chance to take a leisurely nature stroll to find frogs, birds, flowers and more! **Please call Heidi Boyle (home 949-9302 or work 696-6025) to let her know what you'll be bringing to the picnic.** Hope to see you there!



*American Wildlife by JVAS member
Dick Mock.*

JOIN JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON!

Juniata Valley Audubon membership provides you with the following benefits:

- Notification of Juniata Valley Audubon's exciting activities including monthly nature programs, field trips, and other events
- Subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter *The Gracatcher*.
- 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. **Make your check payable to JVAS.**

- Become a chapter-only member: Individual—\$15
 Family—\$20
 Supporting—\$35
 Friend of JVAS—\$50
 Corporate—\$100



Juniata Valley Audubon Life Membership provides you with all the benefits listed above along with special recognition in *The Gnatcatcher*. **Become a primary supporter of the JVAS' mission of education and advocacy for a once-in- a-lifetime fee of \$500. Make your check payable to Juniata Valley Audubon.**

Name _____

Address _____

Mail the completed form to JVAS Membership Chair Charlie Hoyer, P.O. Box 32, Tyrone, PA 16686

JVAS BOARD MEMBERS

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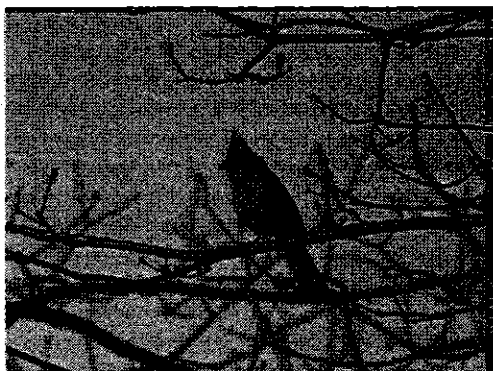
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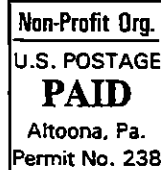


Northern Cardinal female
By JVAS member Helena Kotala.

**On May 17, vote YES
to keep Pennsylvania
Growing Greener!**

Marcia Bonta
P.O. Box 68
Tyrone, PA 16686-0068

Exp: 8/1/05



16686+0068 01



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JVAS Juniata Club River Trips take place according to weather and water levels. If you would like your name added to the Juniata Club roster, contact Helena Kotala at ccwiba@keyconn.net or 946-8840. She will notify you of upcoming trips by email or phone.

Picnic—Join us for our annual picnic at Canoe Creek State Park. It will be a potluck supper, beginning at 6 PM, followed by a nature walk.

June 21, 2005

PA Breeding Bird Atlas—Bring your binoculars and field guides and help find birds for the new PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Atlas coverage area to be announced. Meet in front of Unkel Joe's Woodshed in Altoona at 6 AM (yes, 6 AM!). Bring boots and a bag lunch.

May 28, 2005

International Migratory Bird Day—see page 2.

May 14, 2005

MAY & JUNE FIELD TRIPS

"Birding Projects at Powdermill Nature Reserve, With an Update on the 2nd Breeding Bird Atlas"—Join Bob Mulvihill as he talks about all the bird-related studies underway at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Biological Research Station at Powdermill. Bob is the project coordinator for the PA Breeding Bird Atlas and a field ornithologist at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County.

May 17, 2005

MAY PROGRAM