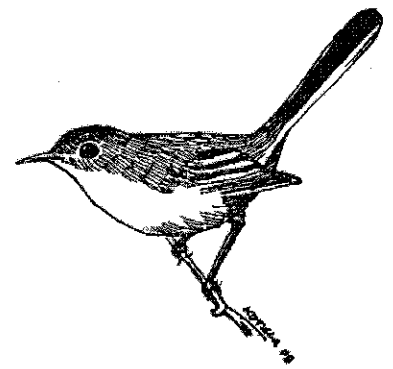


The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

Volume 41 No. 4 September/October 2009 www.jvas.org



Subscribe to the JVAS eNews listserv

JVAS members who would like to keep abreast of upcoming JVAS and other conservation-related news and events should subscribe to the JVAS eNews listserv. Field trips, programs, and schedule changes will be posted. In addition, impromptu field trips will take place based on weather and noteworthy bird sightings or concentrations. If you are not participating in the listserv, then you will miss out on these events.

Also, note that any JVAS member may use the listserv to send an email to all the subscribers (fellow JVAS members). Use it to inform other JVAS members of conservation issues, wildlife sightings, or to discuss nature-related topics, or just to ask questions.

To subscribe, send an email to this address:

JVAS-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu

To use the list to send an email to all subscribers, use this email address:

JVAS-L@lists.psu.edu

JVAS FINGER LAKES, NY WINE TOUR

October 9 – 11, 2009

This year we are going to try something a little different for a field trip, a New York Wine Country tour. Some of you may be aware that the Finger Lakes Region of New York State is the home to many vineyards and wineries in addition to beautiful scenery, birding spots, and recreation. October is the peak of fall foliage so the scenery should be spectacular.

We will leave 5 PM, Friday evening, from Unkel Joe's Woodshed parking lot just off Frankstown Road, Altoona. Friday night will be overnight near Corning, N.Y. Saturday will be devoted to 7 winery visits along the western shore of Seneca Lake and the eastern shore of Keuka Lake. Overnight, Saturday, in Bath, N.Y, then slowly make our way home Sunday with a stop at the Corning Glass Museum and arriving back in Altoona by 5 PM. I'm sure we will see some birds along the way, although birding will not be the emphasis.

Advanced pre-paid reservations are required by October 2, payable to WAXWING ASSOCIATES for \$200 per person double occupancy per room or \$265 per person single occupancy. The cost includes 2 overnights, van transportation, and wine tasting fees. All personal expenses and food not included. **Please call Terry Wentz 693-6563 to reserve your place. Space limited to 12 people.**

Tour of new TNC Brush Mountain Preserve scheduled

The Appalachians are the oldest mountains in North America. They extend more than 1,000 miles from cold, rocky summits amid the northern spruce and fir forests of Maine and Quebec to the Southern Cumberlands in Tennessee and Alabama.

The Appalachians are habitat to an immense diversity of plants and animals. ***Precious Heritage*, the inventory of U.S. biological diversity completed by The Nature Conservancy in 2000 identified the Central Appalachians as one of six "biodiversity hotspots" in the country.**

The forests of the Appalachians also serve as a critical migratory corridor and breeding ground for a host of songbirds which overwinter in South and Central America. The Appalachians are thus a critical component of the larger global forests which ultimately sustain these beautiful migrants.

The barred owl, bobcat, black bear and fisher thrive here, along with rare and unusual plants. Many species are endemic—they occur nowhere else on Earth. Mountain ponds, bogs, barrens and caves host globally rare natural communities. The forests also shelter cool headwater streams that deliver clean water to larger rivers.

The Central Appalachians not only bridge the southern and northern mountain ranges, but also serve as an ecological crossroads. Hospitable for many southern and northern species alike—and having escaped the scouring of glaciers during the most recent ice age—the Central Appalachians have produced one of the world's richest temperate deciduous broadleaf forests.

This biological richness is evident in Blair County, where The Nature Conservancy has purchased close to 700 acres on Brush Mountain overlooking Altoona and Hollidaysburg. To showcase the new Brush Mountain Preserve, representatives from The Nature Conservancy will host a tour on Saturday, September 19th.

Brush Mountain Preserve Tour

Date: Saturday September 19th

Time: 9:00am – 12:30pm

Meeting Location: Meet at Panera Bread in the Logan Town Centre located off of Interstate 99, Exit 33 at 8:45 am

Leave Panera Bread for Brush Mountain Preserve at 9am

Arrive at introduction area at 9:10am

Introductory Discussion Topics:

TNC's Purchase of the Property: Why the property is important enough to TNC to purchase & own in fee.

History: Previous ownerships, land uses, forest management activities

Property Baseline Assessment

Management Planning Approach:

Overview of inventory

Management planning process – include Key Ecological Attribute Report Card

Transition to Woods Walk that evaluates recent timber harvesting and 20 year old sapling/pole timber stand

Discussion Items for Woods Walk:

Gypsy Moth impacts

Restoration treatment options

Deer browse impacts

Fencing

Prescribed fire opportunities

Audubon Habitat Assessment

More information about TNC's new Brush Mountain Preserve

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/pennsylvania/preserves/art26881>

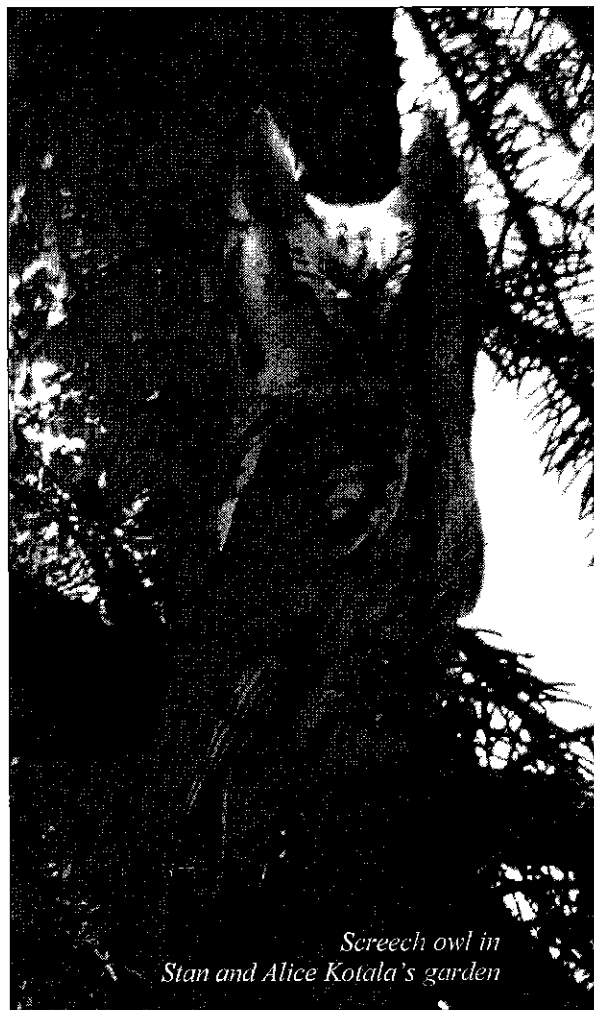
JVAS Leaders host Gardening for Wildlife Tour

Fall is a great time for backyard and gardening opportunities. As most bird enthusiasts know, backyard stewardship means creating places for birds and other wildlife to feed, hide, nest, and find water. Removing invasive plants and planting native vegetation in the yard is especially vital. And so is removing the lawn. Cookie-cutter-styled yards with manicured lawns of bluegrass and fescue don't provide much in the way of useful bird habitat.

Now is a great time to reduce your lawn to a minimum size, eliminate the use of chemicals, and even save some money! Use that extra lawn space for planting a variety of species and types of plants, flowers, vines, shrubs, and bushes that are attractive to birds. Swap a monoculture of grass with a diversity of bird-attracting plant species. Pennsylvania has more than 2 million acres of mowed lawn. That's more lawn than the entire State Game Lands system and almost as much as the total State Forest acreage! Mowing the 2 million acres of lawn in Pennsylvania consumes more than 10 million gallons of gasoline annually, at a cost of almost 30 million dollars per year!! Minimize lawn size; maximize plant diversity; reduce gasoline consumption; save money.

To highlight Gardening for Wildlife, JVAS hosted a Gardening for Wildlife Tour on Saturday, June 20. More than a dozen JVAS members toured the gardens of Debbie and Terry Wentz in Scotch Valley and the Kotala family in Sinking Valley. JVAS leaders highlighted the essential components of a wildlife garden: food, water and shelter. More tours featuring the gardens of other JVAS members will be featured next year.

If you'd like to showcase your Garden for Wildlife, then please contact JVAS Conservation Chair Dr. Stan Kotala at 946-8840.



*Screech owl in
Stan and Alice Kotala's garden*



JVAS Conservation Chair Dr. Stan Kotala discusses the importance of native shrubs and trees as providers of food and shelter for wildlife.

L to R: Dr. Stan Kotala, Cheryl Washburn, Barb Baird, Linda Busko, JVAS Director Laura Jackson, JVAS Hospitality Chair Georgia Bottenfield, Bob Washburn, Mary Paoli, Dr. Alice Kotala, Debbie Wentz, and JVAS President Terry Wentz.

The following comments were made by the JVAS in response to DCNR's revised Right-of-Way policy on State Forest and State Park lands:

Dear Sir,

The following comments regarding DCNR's right-of-way policy are submitted by Juniata Valley Audubon, a regional conservation organization with 450 members in south-central Pennsylvania.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' decision to open 75,000 acres of Pennsylvania's State Forests to gas drilling combined with that agency's proposal to open 45,000 acres of State Forest land to industrial windplant development will bring a whirlwind of forest fragmentation upon DCNR's holdings unless steps are taken to safeguard Pennsylvania's natural heritage. It is impossible to construct miles of roadway associated with gas wells or miles of roads and transmission lines associated with industrial windplants and not cause severe forest fragmentation.

It therefore is essential that the DCNR prohibit future right-of-way construction unless within already-existing right-of-way corridors.

The adverse effects of forest fragmentation include reduced habitat area, habitat isolation and loss of species from an area, disruption of dispersal, increased edge effects and loss of core habitat, and the facilitation of alien invasive species. Due to their linearity, roads and transmission lines have particularly pronounced fragmentation effects.

Noted conservation biologist Dr. Reed Noss writes: *"Edge effects, once considered favorable for wildlife because many game species (e.g., white-tailed deer, eastern cottontail) are edge-adapted, are now seen as one of the most harmful consequences of habitat fragmentation. Especially when it cuts through an intact forest, a road introduces a long swath of edge habitat. Forest edge is not a line, but rather a zone of influence that varies in width depending on what is measured. Changes in microclimate, increased blowdowns, and other impacts on vegetation may extend two-to-three tree-heights into a closed-canopy forest. Shade-intolerant plants, many of them exotic weeds, colonize the edge and gradually invade openings in the forest interior. Dan Janzen found weedy plant species invading treefall gaps in a Costa Rican forest up to 5 kilometers from the forest edge. Changes in vegetation structure and composition from edge effects can be more persistent than effects of clear-cutting, from which at least some forest types will eventually recover, if left alone."*

Dr. Noss goes on to say: *"The net, cumulative effect of roads is to diminish the native diversity of ecosystems everywhere. Habitats in many different places around the world are invaded by virtually the same set of cosmopolitan weeds. Regions gradually are homogenized — they lose their 'character.' Every place of similar climate begins to look the same and most ecosystems are incomplete and missing the apex of the food chain. The end result is an impoverishment of global biodiversity."* See <http://www.eco-action.org/dt/roads.html>.

Even narrow open corridors through forests, such as roads and rights-of-way, degrade the forest by creating unfavorable habitat for many species of migratory birds because of high rates of nest predation by ecotonal meso-predators such as foxes, skunks, and raccoons and nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds. Furthermore, the effects of such openings extend 300 feet into the forest from the edge. Interior forest, therefore, is defined as forest occurring more than 300 feet from an edge. Interior forest is required for successful breeding by species such

as the black-throated blue warbler, the black-throated green warbler, the wood thrush, the ovenbird, and the scarlet tanager.

Because these turbines will require maintenance, roads will need to be constructed to the ridgetops of mountains that now are largely roadless, resulting in fragmentation of their forests, which provides a pathway to exotic invasive species, such as *Ailanthus*. In addition to the fragmentation caused by the construction of new, permanent roads, the three- to five-acre pads around each tower quickly add up. Juniata Valley Audubon views this loss of intact ridgetop forest as the most devastating effect of locating windfarms on our mountains. One of our members recently visited a major ridgetop wind installation in West Virginia and was shocked to discover that the entire ridgetop had been cleared of vegetation for several miles — the length of the installation. Thus, even if the problems with bird and bat deaths by direct collision can be solved, we would see a permanent loss of forest cover in the very places where wildlife most needs it. In addition, in the central and southwestern portions of Pennsylvania, ridge systems serve as habitat islands for forest-dependent species, such as the scarlet tanager, the wood thrush, the cerulean warbler, the bobcat, and the fisher.

In addition to decimating interior forest habitat, roads produce edge effects conducive to the spread of alien invasive plants such as multi-flora rose, Japanese stiltgrass, Russian olive, Japanese barberry, tree-of-heaven, and Japanese knotweed. Once established on roadsides, these alien invaders infiltrate adjacent habitats, further degrading our forests.

The construction of forest roads associated with gas wells and industrial windplants constitutes a relatively permanent change in habitat structure. Because the construction of forest roads involves a major investment, the incentive for long-term maintenance to provide future access is high. The longer such roads are in place, the greater the chance that forest degradation will occur.

There are already 2,600 miles of roads on our state forests, as well as 600 miles of natural gas line rights-of-way, and 600 miles of electric utility rights-of-way. As a matter of fact, Pennsylvania's state forests now have an average of 3.13 miles of roads and rights-of-way for every square mile. Instead of promoting energy extraction and the roads associated with such development, the DCNR should be designing a series of large roadless areas to safeguard our natural heritage.

Because natural resource agency lands are among the last remaining large blocks of unfragmented land in Pennsylvania, these lands are particularly in need of protection. Ironically, a publication produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (*Pennsylvania's Wildlife and Wild Places: Our Outdoor Heritage in Peril*, Moyer 2003) emphasizes the importance of preserving these last remaining large blocks of unfragmented habitat in the state.

Forest conservation — not energy extraction — should be the overarching purpose of our state forests.

It therefore is essential that the DCNR prohibit future right-of-way construction unless within already-existing right-of-way corridors.

Sincerely,

Terry Wentz, President, JVAS

Hiking Through Bear Meadows

by Dave Coleman

During each of the weekends of October and November, I hiked a short loop in some of my favorite state forest areas. I describe one of them below that should be within quick reach of anyone in Centre County — especially the Centre Region. In southern Centre County, in the Rothrock State Forest is the Bear Meadows Natural Area. This is just one of six natural areas in the forest district and the most easily accessed. Just five miles off of Route 322, this is the first distinct destination you will reach driving on Bear Meadows Road.

With the shorter days of autumn and winter, we casual hikers don't have a whole lot of daylight to explore the woodlands especially if one doesn't set out until later in the day. This loop can be undertaken in an afternoon even if casually strolled. If there is time left after this loop, you can proceed further into the Rothrock State Forest and visit the Alan Seeger Natural Area which can be hiked in even less time.

The Bear Meadows Natural Area contains a 520-acre boreal sphagnum bog (as described by Marcia Bonta in her book *Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania*). The DCNR booklet "State Forest Natural Areas & Wild Areas" describes it as a fen wetland. Most of us would just call it a swamp, but it is a National Natural Landmark and has a curious and somewhat mysterious origin. Some speculate that the bog's original formation was from glaciation — even though the known extent of the ice-age glaciers was at least 60 miles to the north.

This is a popular area for passive recreation as is most of Rothrock State Forest. On almost any day, you will encounter other hikers, birdwatchers, bicyclists, and even skateboarders on the paved road leading into the state forest. Biking or camping is not permitted in the natural area.

The short loop around the bog is three and a half miles long and usually conducted clockwise. Starting at the small parking area at the monument, go just left of the water and follow the well-worn trail

along the edge of the bog. An observation platform is off on the right a few hundred yards from the road. This is a good way to observe the bog itself and some of the abundant plant and animal life — especially the dozens of species of birds that use the bog and surrounding forest as habitat. Back on the trail, you will be walking past hemlock, spruce and fir trees as well as some large rhododendron.

The pathway is pocketed with wet areas, puddles and mud, almost year-round so proper footwear is necessary to keep your feet dry during all but the driest summer periods. These wet areas would be the limiting factor for skiing this loop; plenty of snow (a base of 1 to 2 foot minimum) is necessary to navigate this trail on skis.

Eventually (after a little over a mile) the trail climbs slightly to higher, dryer terrain, but a few wet pockets will still be encountered. Here the trail passes through more hardwoods, with white oak predominating. After a couple of trail connectors on the left (stay right, if you start ascending any significant grade, you are on the wrong trail), the trail also begins to turn north, then northeast and finally to North Bear Meadows Road. Follow this closed state forest road almost to its intersection with Bear Meadows Road but then take the Jean Aron path to the right which parallels the road the last half mile back to the parking area. Named after a local hiking advocate, the Jean Aron path leads through bigger and denser patches of pine than the preceding portions of the loop. It is a nice short finish to a nice short loop.

If You Go: To reach the Bear Meadows Natural Area, take Bear Meadows Road 5 miles from Route 322 (just a few miles east of Boalsburg) past Tussey Mountain Ski Area. The state forest roads and natural area are shown on the Public Use Map of Rothrock State Forest, but you will need the Purple Lizard Map to see the trail loop described above. If you don't have waterproof boots and want to keep your feet dry, avoid this loop during wet periods. Allow two hours for a fast-paced hike and several hours for a casual stroll.

See <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/FORESTRY/oldgrowth/bearmeadows.aspx> for more information on the Bear Meadows Natural Area

JVAS FIELD TRIP TO BEAR MEADOWS: See birds of marsh, swamp, and forest

SEPTEMBER 27 Sunday — BEAR MEADOWS LOOP: hike the three-mile trail around this National Natural Landmark in Rothrock State Forest. Meet at the Bear Meadows Natural Area parking lot at noon. Leader: Helena Kotala 502-7967 h_kotala@yahoo.com

Enjoy the Spectacle of Autumn Hawk Migration at the Stone Mountain Hawk Watch

by Dr. Stan Kotala

Summer's waning days yield to the coolness of autumn, and overhead a great migration is occurring, one that can be observed easily over the next three months. The exodus of birds of prey from their northern breeding grounds is just now beginning, and throughout the Keystone State tens-of-thousands of people are flocking to ridgetop observation areas to watch the spectacle.

The long linear ridges of central Pennsylvania serve as important flyways for hawks, falcons, and eagles, collectively known as raptors. These ridges, oriented from northeast to southwest, enable birds of prey to take advantage of air currents known as thermals as well as of winds deflected off the ridges to cover long distances by gliding, thus expending a minimal amount of energy. Our linear ridges make Pennsylvania an internationally acclaimed hotspot for raptor watching. Depending on volunteer hawk watch hours, several thousand to 20,000+ raptors may be observed along a single ridge during a single migration season.

Raptors soar and glide more often earlier in the season when thermal production is high. Thermals are pockets of warm air that form when the sun strikes the earth, causing a warmed bubble of air to rise. Migrating raptors find these thermals and soar upward on the rising air. After reaching the top, the birds glide south until they catch another thermal. By late October through December thermal production sharply decreases, and migrating raptors employ a combination of gliding and flapping, taking advantage of wind deflected off the ridges. Raptors will often fly directly above the ridge, coming closer to the ridge as the wind speed increases. In addition, they are often observed nearer to the ridge in the morning and late afternoon.

A number of Pennsylvania's ridges have been designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey due to the role they play in raptor migrations: Tussey Mountain (on the powercut west of Route 26 on the Huntingdon/Centre County line), Bald Eagle Ridge (Centre, Huntingdon, and Blair Counties), and Audubon Pennsylvania's newest IBA, The Allegheny Front (Allegheny Front hawk watch, Bedford County). One site with very easy access that isn't an IBA but still bears mention is the Jack's Mountain Hawk Watch on Jack's Mountain (Mifflin County) where state route 4007 (Wills Road) crosses the ridge.

We'll focus on our most productive local hawk watch, the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch in Rothrock State Forest, also an IBA. Stone Mountain Hawkwatch (elevation 2,100) was established in 1991 and is on the Huntingdon/Mifflin County border, 20 miles south of State College. From September 1 through mid-November, the site is manned on weekends and sporadically during the week by hawk counters from the State College Bird Club. The highest numbers of hawks are observed on days with westerly or northwesterly winds. The hawkwatch platform is located on a trail 1/3 mile north of the crossing of Stone Mountain ridge by the Allensville Road (gravel) — a very rocky 10-minute walk for the nimble, but difficult for some folks.

The ridgetop of Stone Mountain consists of large expanses of forest interspersed with clearings formed by talus slopes and rocky outcroppings. The dominant trees are chestnut oaks, most of which

are relatively small, but also old because the harsh conditions on the ridgetop aren't conducive to rapid growth. The trail is marked clearly by orange blazes. In any case, the ridgetop is extremely narrow, so, if you follow the spine of the ridge northward from the parking area, then you're bound to find the hawkwatch platform.

The platform was constructed by volunteers from the State College Bird Club and Juniata Valley Audubon more than a decade ago. Built of wood and painted gray, it blends in well with its surroundings. From the hawkwatch platform you enjoy a commanding view of Stone Valley's largely forested landscape to the west and Big Valley's (Kishacoquillas Valley's) farmland to the east. Beyond the valleys Tussey Mountain to the west and Jack's Mountain to the east. Happily, the hawkwatch on Jack's Mountain is no longer threatened by a 50-turbine industrial windfarm that was proposed for the top of that ridge, since that proposal was withdrawn due to ecological concerns.

Once you arrive at the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch site make yourself comfortable and keep your binoculars handy. There's usually an experienced hawkwatcher or two or three or ten present to help you with identification. Speaking of binoculars, most hawkwatchers prefer 10x models, but any binocular will do. Some of the raptors will fly low to investigate, and sometimes attack, a plastic owl that's mounted to the viewing platform. Others will be so high up that they'll look like specks in the sky. Keep in mind that a visit to the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch is not for those with short attention spans and a restless nature. Although there may be days when the hawks come soaring by like leaves blowing downwind in a storm, such days are the exception. Patience is necessary, and it will be rewarded. Just bring enough food and drink to last a few hours and you'll see your share of migrating raptors.

Early in the season, in September, is when the thermals are formed and it's then that you'll see the greatest numbers of broad-winged hawks, which often soar in large groups called kettles. Broad-winged hawks fly under almost all non-rain conditions when they are ready to go. For other raptors, conditions are far superior on days following cold front passages with northwesterly or westerly winds. Through October, you'll also have a good chance of seeing bald eagles, ospreys, Cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, and American kestrels. November brings golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks, red-tailed hawks, and northern harriers. Falcons aren't too common at the Stone Mountain hawkwatch, but you may get lucky in October and see a peregrine or a merlin.

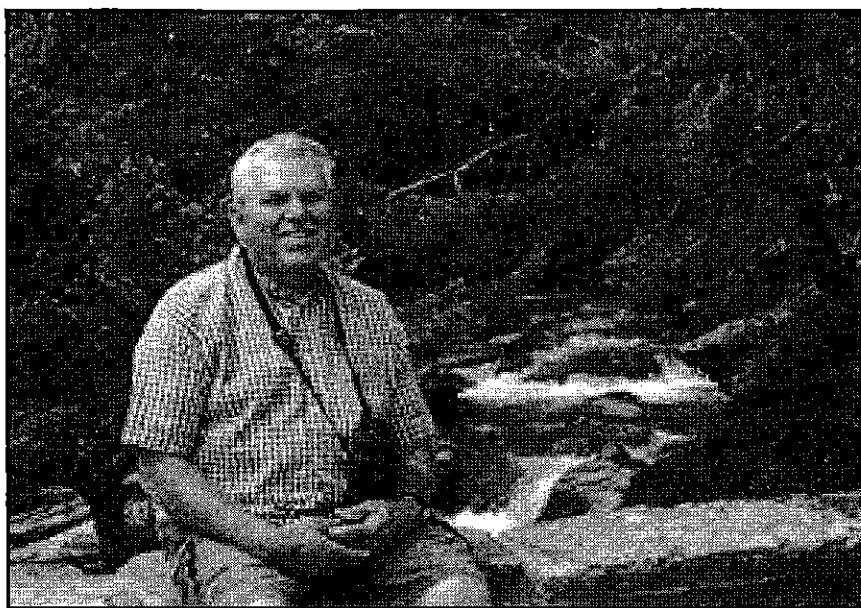
Although the trip to the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch is not a long hike, it offers many hours of pleasurable viewing of the spectacle of raptor migration, camaraderie with other hawk watchers, and fantastic views of a glorious autumn landscape.

JVAS FIELD TRIP

SEPTEMBER 20 Sunday—STONE MOUNTAIN HAWK-WATCH: Visit central PA's premier hawkwatch at the peak of the broadwing migration. Meet at McDonald's on Rt 22 in Huntingdon at 9am. Stan Kotala 946-8840 ccwiba@keyconn.net

FROM THE GNATCATCHER'S NEST

This year, 2009, Juniata Valley Audubon turns 40 years old! I hate to think about it, but it is also the year I graduated from Penn State and I have been retired for 4 years already. Wasn't it wonderful that 40 years ago citizens of the Juniata Valley organized our local National Audubon Chapter and we have managed to continue with officers, board members, and volunteers to keep it going. In April 2010 we will be electing new officers, please think about volunteering to hold one of these positions.



As President, I frequently review the JVAS by-laws to be sure the Board is abiding by the guidelines adopted for our chapter. Occasionally by-laws need to be revised to reflect current thinking and methods of conducting the chapter's business. Revisions and amendments have been made to our by-laws in 1979, 1986, and 2002 for various reasons.

This year the JVAS Board has been discussing some revisions which will make the by-laws more comfortable for the officers. We would like to present the revisions in this written format for a vote at our October program meeting. I will list the proposed revisions in the following paragraphs with references to the section of the current by-laws:

Article V Meetings, Section 2 – Annual Meeting in April now requires... a banquet dinner and program speaker. Banquet dinner requirement will be removed. This allows the option of not having a banquet dinner in April at the Annual Meeting.

Article VII Officers, Section 3 – The President shall serve as the principal spokesman of the Board, with his or her signature required on all correspondence stating the Board's position on issues authorized by the Board. Revise:signature or designee of the President required... Reason: Committee chairs write letters on behalf of the Board which now requires the President's signature. Prior to publication all Board members are consulted for their input. The revision would allow the writer to send the letter out under his or her signature, eliminating the requirement for the President to sign official JVAS correspondence.

Article X Other Committees, Section 3 D. – Wetlands Committee - Entire paragraph will be removed, eliminating the requirement for a wetlands committee. Wetlands duties are closely aligned with the Conservation Committee and will be included in its duties.

The by-laws may be amended or appealed by **two thirds vote of members present** at any regular meeting which will be the **October meeting on October 20, 2009.** Please relate any concerns to these proposed revisions to JVAS or twentz2@verizon.net prior to the October meeting.

Terry

JVAS Members are invited to the Sierra Club's Moshannon Group Fall Picnic at Whipple Dam State Park

All JVAS members are invited to the Sierra Club-Moshannon Group picnic which will take place on **Saturday, October 10 at Whipple Dam State Park** on Route 26 in northern Huntingdon County.

Our festivities will start with a **guided nature hike on the 3-mile long Lake Trail** led by Moshannon Group Endangered Species and Wildlife Chair Dr. Stan Kotala. **The hike will start at 10am at Pavilion 3** near the beach at Whipple Dam State Park. Various habitats will be traversed, including marsh, forested wetlands, riparian forests, and upland forests, both coniferous and deciduous.

The picnic will begin at noon at Pavilion 3 in Whipple Dam State Park. The Moshannon Group will provide beverages. Please bring a covered dish to share. Pavilion 3 does have electrical outlets for crock pots, etc. Please call picnic coordinator

Alice Kotala at 946-8840 ccwiba@keyconn.net to let her know what you will be bringing so that we can avoid duplication and serve a variety of foods. Please bring your own utensils, cups, and plates.

At 1:30pm there will be a guided trip to the Stone Mountain Hawkwatch, requiring a drive of a few miles south of the park. Anyone who wants to see migrating hawks and eagles should join us. There is ample parking on the Allensville Road ¼ mile south of the hawkwatch. The hike to the hawkwatch is ¼ mile long over rocky terrain.

If these activities at the height of fall foliage season appeal to you, then please join us for our planned festivities on Saturday, October 10.

For more information, please call Stan Kotala at 946-8840 ccwiba@keyconn.net



JVAS THANKS ITS CORPORATE SPONSORS



WAXWING ASSOCIATES, LLC

Motor Coach Step On Guides
Motor Coach Tour Planner
Eco Tour Guides
Birding Guides
Recreation Grant Writer
Landscape Designs for Wildlife

Terry Wentz 814-693-6563
twentz@waxwingassociates.com
www.waxwingassociates.com

Senior Assurance Services

\$\$ Compare and Save \$\$

JIM DILLING, MSAA

Pennsylvania Resident Agent
406 Melvins Lane
Alexandria, PA 16611

Call 24 hours: (814) 669-4795
Cell: (814) 386-3799
jimdilling@hotmail.com
MedSupps; Rx; LTC; and Life

Nature's Images

~Wildlife Photography by Helena Kotala~
~Custom Framing~



Altoona, PA

814-946-8840

ccwiba@keyconn.net



The Creature Teacher



Jody Wallace

Certified Environmental Teacher
RD 1 Box 341
Tyrone, PA 16686

Phone (814) 684-2425
creatureteach@aol.com

join JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON!

Juniata Valley Audubon membership provides you with the following benefits:

- Notification of Juniata Valley Audubon's exciting activities including nature programs, field trips and other events
- Subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*
- Opportunities to participate in conservation projects and environmental advocacy, and *have fun!*

Become a chapter-only member: _____ Individual: \$15 _____ Family: \$20 _____ Supporting: \$35

_____ Friend of JVAS: \$50 _____ Corporate: \$100

_____ Life Membership: \$500— JVAS Life Membership provides you with all the benefits listed above for a once-in-a-lifetime fee of \$500.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail this form to

Juniata Valley Audubon

P.O. Box 148

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-0148

JVAS BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President.....Terry Wentz 693-6563

twentz2@verizon.net

Vice-President.....Dave Bonta 684-3113

bontasaurus@yahoo.com

Secretary.....Charlie Hoyer 684-7376

charma77@verizon.net

Treasurer.....Warren Baker 684-4549

Education..... Jody Wallace 684-2425

creatureteach@aol.com

Field Trips.....Terry Wentz 693-6563

twentz2@verizon.net

Publications.....Dr. Stan Kotala (see above)

Hospitality.....Georgia Bottenfield 832-2273

Historian.....Charlie Hoyer 684-7376

charma77@verizon.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership..... Dr. Alice Kotala 946-8840

ccwiba@keyconn.net

Programs.....Dave Bonta (see above)

Conservation Dr. Stan Kotala (see above)

DIRECTORS

CBC Coordinator.....Steve Bonta 684-1175

stevebonta@yahoo.com

SOAR Representative....Laura Jackson 652-9268

mijackson2@embarqmail.com

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PROGRAMS

September 15 – **Monitoring of Bog Turtle Colonies Encroached by Development in Southeast Pennsylvania.** Gian Rocco of the Penn State Cooperative Wetlands Center will discuss some of the findings from an ongoing, U.S. Fish & Wildlife-sponsored study of this state-endangered species.

October 20—**To Be Announced.** JVAS VP Dave Bonta is still working this one out. Subscribe to the JVAS listserv if you want to find out the topic prior to our October meeting, or just show up for the surprise! To subscribe to our listserv, send an email to JVAS-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu

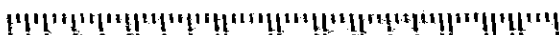
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

SEPTEMBER 12 Saturday **BOTTENFIELD CAMP, MT. ETNA, PA:** Bottenfields will host an all day social at their hunting camp near Mt. Etna. RAILS TO TRAILS head. The camp acreage has trails with a bountiful supply of birds and other wildlife. You can take a 30 minute hike from the parking lot, take your 4 wheel drive vehicle, or transportation will be provided beginning at 9 AM to the camp. Lunch will be provided. Please call Georgia Bottenfield to reserve your place 832-2273.

SEPTEMBER 20 Sunday—**STONE MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH:** Visit central PA's premier hawkwatch at the peak of the broadwing migration. Meet at McDonald's on Rt 22 in Huntingdon at 9am. (THIS FIELD TRIP REQUIRES A 1/4 MILE HIKE ACROSS RIDGETOP ROCKS) Stan Kotala 946-8840 ccwiba@keyconn.net

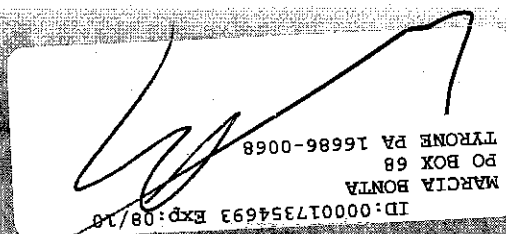
OCTOBER 11 Sunday — **JACKSON TRAIL HIKE:** Seven-mile loop trail in Rothrock State Forest. Meet at Jo Hays Vista on Rt. 26 on Tussey Ridge at 10 a.m. DIFFICULT HIKE. Helena Kotala 502-7967 h_kotala@yahoo.com

ABOUT JVAS PROGRAMS: Programs are presented on the *third Tuesday of each month, September through May (except December).* They begin at 7 PM in the **BELLWOOD-ANTIS PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Take the Bellwood Exit off I-99, go straight thru the traffic light at the Sheetz intersection, proceed about 4 blocks and turn right just before crossing the railroad overpass. Turn left at the next intersection, another 2 blocks and the library is on the right.



1668630068 8001

Black bear and cub
by Denise Plummer



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

Juniata Valley Audubon
P.O. Box 188
Hollidaysburg, PA 17033