

The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

Vol. XLVIII, No. 2 — March/April 2016

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as a benefit for members of the...

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



President's Message

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-Laura Jackson

Are You Ready for Spring?

Punxsutawney Phil predicts an early spring, but did we even have much of a winter? The tufted titmice seem to agree with the groundhog; the males are already singing their “Peter, Peter” calls. We still have some snow on the ground - it’s early February as I write this - remnants of the 23 inches that fell in our part of Bedford County, but most of it is gone. Our wetlands are over-flowing, the intermittent stream is rushing down the ravine near our house, and salamanders are quivering under the rocks. It already feels like spring!

We hope you will help us celebrate spring by attending our banquet on **Tuesday, April 19th** (see more details later in the newsletter). Doug Gross, supervisor of the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Endangered and Nongame Birds Section, will give us an inside look at how our state biologists help birds. After all, we have a big responsibility. A total of 285 species of wild birds are regulars in Pennsylvania, while another 129 species are less frequent. It’s that diversity of birds that makes Pennsylvania so special to birders - and so very special to birds.

Even if you aren’t a birder, we know you’ll enjoy learning about the various Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) projects that have successfully helped many species of birds. Of course, the biologists also depend on us citizen scientists to help with bird conservation.

I hope you participated in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC), held from Friday, Feb. 12 through Monday, Feb. 15, 2016. It is a great example of a citizen science project. Next year, 2017, will be the 20th annual GBBC, so mark your 2017 calendar for mid-February and check out bggc.birdcount.org for more information.

Data collected helps the PGC and other wildlife researchers understand the importance of particular locations to birds and bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. These efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years.

Another citizen science project is the **Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count**, always held on the second Saturday in May. This year it is **May 14, 2016** and marks the 25th year for this project! We’ll have more information on that project in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, contact the compilers if you’d like to participate:

In Blair County: **Michael David:** michaeltedavid@gmail.com

In Bedford County: **Mike and Laura Jackson:** mljackson2@embarqmail.com

In Huntingdon County: **Doug Wentzel:** djw105@outreach.psu.edu

In Mifflin County: None is listed. Please contact Chuck Berthoud if you are willing to be the compiler.

Chuck’s email is cberthoud@gmail.com. Or, you can email your report directly to fchaas@pabirds.org

Now get outside and enjoy the birds!

The Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity. Juniata Valley Audubon accomplishes its mission through advocacy, science, land stewardship, and education - working directly with Audubon Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania state office of the National Audubon Society.

The JVAS 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 (Tax ID # 25-1533496).

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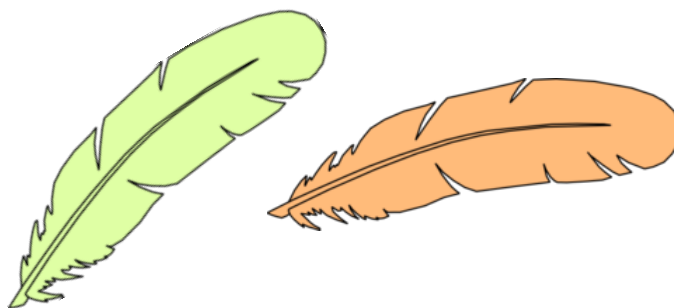
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DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

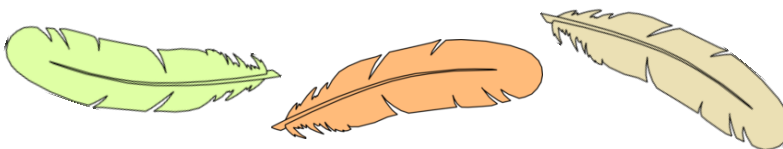
Warren Baker

- ♦ 814-695-0780



Call for Feather Donations for the May 7 Native Plant Activity:

We need wing and tail feathers from turkeys and chickens, or any other domestic or game bird (Ring-necked Pheasant, Chukar, Ruffed Grouse, etc.). Please DO NOT collect any songbird, hawk, or eagle feathers - they are protected by federal law. Feathers can be brought to the evening meetings or call Laura Jackson to make delivery arrangements: 814-652-9268.



Presque Isle Audubon

Registration is open for Presque Isle Audubon's Festival of the Birds on May 6, 7, 8, 2016. David Sibley is the Keynote Speaker. Register at www.presqueisleaudubon.org

It is time to get busy, busy, busy!



JVAS Winter/Spring Programs (Free)

Bellwood-Antis Public Library

526 Main Street, Bellwood, PA 16617

Phone: 742-8234

JVAS programs are presented on the third Tuesday of the month, except in June, July, August, and December. Programs begin at 7:00 PM in the meeting room of the Bellwood-Antis Library.

Our programs, including the Spring Banquet, are designed for a general audience, and are free and open to the public.

Directions: Take Interstate Rt. 99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin intersection. Proceed about 4 blocks and turn right at the BUSINESS DISTRICT sign. Turn left at the dead end and travel to the stop sign. Continue a short distance; the library will be on your right.

March 15: "Allegheny Front Bird Research" presented by Kim Van Fleet

Kim Van Fleet is an adjunct professor at Dickinson College in Carlisle. She and her students documented nesting warblers like the Cerulean Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrush. This data will be used to nominate the Allegheny Front for re-designation as a global IBA. Kim will explain how her students located nests in steep terrain and how this work is important to understand the key role played by the Allegheny Front in bird conservation.



April 19, 2016: JVAS Spring Banquet

"The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) Bird Research Projects"

Presented by Doug Gross, PGC Bird Biologist

Silent Auction 5:30 PM Dinner 6 PM at Hoss's Steak & Sea House

110 Patch Way Rd. Duncansville, PA 16635

The PGC has done some remarkable work to help birds like the Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Sandhill Crane, Golden-winged Warbler, and many others increase their populations in Pennsylvania. Join us as we celebrate another year of commitment to bird conservation by both the PGC and Juniata Valley Audubon Society.

A "silent auction" also will be held to raise funds for conservation efforts supported by the JVAS. Members are asked to bring new or gently used nature-related items to donate for the silent auction. Please bring the items to the March meeting, or before 5 pm at the banquet. Books, artwork, pottery, native plants — anything related to nature will be auctioned. Bring your checkbook or cash to support this important fund-raiser!

We will order off the menu, so payment in advance is not required. However, we ask that you **email or call Marcia Bonta by April 12**, as we need to let Hoss's know how many plan to attend. Please call Marcia at 814-684-3113 or email: marciabonta@hotmail.com



Juniata Valley Audubon Society

Christmas Bird Count

-By Compiler Laura Jackson

Birders converged on the Culp Christmas Bird Count Circle in Blair County on a cold and windy December 19, 2015 to participate in the 47th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by Juniata Valley Audubon Society, under the direction of National Audubon. The first CBC ever was in 1900 - an alternative activity to count birds ALIVE, since prior to 1900 the tools of choice were not binoculars, but were guns, with participants competing to see how many birds they could KILL.

Although our observers this year did not have to contend with deep snow or fog, the windy day meant birds were more likely to be hunkered down in cover, rather than active and more easily spotted. Birds can also be counted if their calls are identified, even if they aren't seen. Fortunately, persistence paid off and 67 different species were counted from the 5,082 individual birds observed.

Mild weather meant there was plenty of open water, but waterfowl were surprisingly scarce. Canoe Lake is a good location to observe waterfowl, but no Canada geese were to be found. Observers did find 10 Buffleheads, one Common Goldeneye, seven Hooded Mergansers, and one Common Merganser, as well as a few Mallards, at Canoe Lake. Elsewhere in the count circle, 143 Canada Geese were found, just two Wood Ducks, one American Black Duck, and over 200 Mallards. Fortunately, the 10 American Coots spotted at Canoe Lake were alive - last year approximately 12 were found dead floating in the lake. The reason for their death remains a mystery.

It was a good day for raptors: 5 Bald Eagles and 1 Golden Eagle were counted, as well as 1 Merlin, 3 Northern Harriers, 7 American Kestrels, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 6 Cooper's Hawks. As expected, Red-tailed Hawks were the most common - 28 were found. The highlight of the raptor survey was finding a Northern Goshawk. Sinking Valley, with its broad vistas and farm fields, is a good habitat for birds of prey, as well as for the gallinaceous birds like Wild turkey (48), Ring-necked Pheasant (16), and some exotic Chukar (7) - a partridge native to Eurasia that has been introduced as a game bird. Sadly, our state bird, the Ruffed Grouse, is in decline, and only one

was found. Another species that frequents Sinking Valley in the winter is the Horned Lark - 70 were counted.

All species of woodpeckers were observed, except the Red-headed Woodpecker; European Starlings are responsible for their absence. In fact, the Starling was the most common species counted in the circle, with observers reporting a total of 1,714 birds. Brown-headed Cowbirds were the second most common bird with 550 reported. A few Red-winged Blackbirds (8) and just one rusty Blackbird were found in some of the Cowbird flocks.

Many common "winter birds" were seen: Winter Wrens (2), Golden-crowned Kinglets (16), American Tree Sparrows (40), Dark-eyed Juncos (265), White-throated Sparrows (120), Purple Finches (7) and a few Pine Siskins (7), to name a few.

The relatively mild winter meant that many birds which might be scarce during cold winters were still in abundance: 53 Eastern Bluebirds, 50 American Robins, 7 Northern Mockingbirds, and 24 Killdeer were counted.

It is a challenge to thoroughly cover the count circle, centered at Culp - a crossroads in Sinking Valley. The circle is 15 miles in diameter, so the effort includes observations while driving the roads, hiking the fields and forests, or counting birds at backyard feeders. This year, 18 birders counted throughout the day, from dawn to dark - and even after dark for owls, for a cumulative effort of 75 hours looking for birds.

The Culp CBC is usually held the Saturday before Christmas, so if you might like to participate next year, call JVAS President Laura Jackson (814-652-9268) and get your name added to the list of potential participants. If you live in the count circle, you could count birds at your feeder. Otherwise, expect to spend part of a day on an exciting adventure exploring parts of Blair County.

A Christmas Bird Count Dinner was held immediately following the count when most of the birders enjoyed an evening at Marzoni's - after a great meal each group reported their findings at the "tally rally." A good day was had by all!

A big thanks to all the CBC Participants:

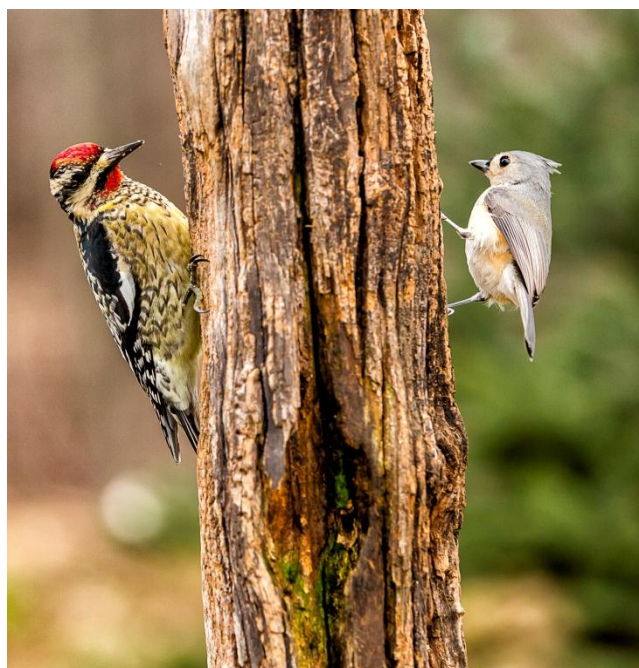
Mark Bonta, Susan Braun, Michael David, JP Dibert, Carl and Kurt Engstrom, Debra Grim, Charlie Hoyer, Laura and Mike Jackson, Kristin Joivell, George Mahon, Stephen Martynuska, Ian McGregor, John Orr, Mark Shields, and Jody Wallace.



George Mahon and John Orr found the pheasants and chukars feeding in a field in Sinking Valley. It's a first time record for chukars.



Feeder watchers get to sit back and enjoy the birds at the feeders. Northern cardinals come readily to feeders, as do Tufted Titmice.



Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Tufted Titmice will feed on animal fat (suet) or Miracle Mix.

No Melt Miracle Mix Recipe

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups quick cook oatmeal
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup lard (no substitutes)
- 1 cup white flour
- 1/3 cup sugar

- A. Melt the lard and peanut butter
- B. Stir in remaining ingredients - bird seed, raisins, peanuts, etc. can be added
- C. Pour into a 13-by-9 inch cake pan
- D. Miracle mix will be 1 - 1/2" thick
- E. Store in freezer
- F. Cut into 4 squares

*Will not melt in warm weather – if kept out of direct sun!

Do It For The Birds!

Don't forget to renew your chapter-only membership. Our membership year runs from January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016. We've included the form in this newsletter.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to JVAS (a donation envelope is enclosed). We would like to start a scholarship fund for students to attend Audubon's Hog Island Programs, or you can donate for other chapter projects.

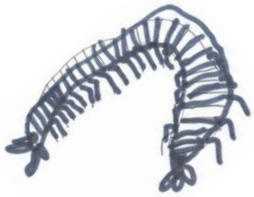
A Guide to Our River

Created by the JV River Project Team

In spring 2015, led by Kristin Joivell (JVAS Field Trip Chair) as part of her work in connection with American Wilderness Leadership School, a team of JV Elementary Science Club students and JV Audubon Members conducted a survey of the life in the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River in our school's nature center. The team found a variety of macroinvertebrates that indicate the health of our waterway to be excellent! The five animals listed here were the ones most commonly found by the team as they conducted their biotic index survey.

Amphipod

Sketches by John Paul Espy and Brayden Wood



Amphipods are crustaceans in their adult form. They are also called freshwater shrimp or scuds. You know you've found an amphipod if you see a tiny gray or clear animal in your water sample swimming on its side very rapidly. Don't be worried; this is typical of the way this creature moves!



Caddisfly

Sketches by Tessa Espy and Landon Maslanik

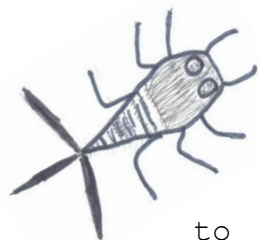


Caddisfly larva are often found crawling along the bottom of the river encased in a house made out of rocks, twigs, or leaf matter that they have stuck together from silk excreted near salivary glands near their mouth. In our river, the team most often found ones that were greenish in coloration, but they can also be brown, yellow, or blackish, too. Eventually, these larvae will transform into an adult flying form with wings.



Mayfly

Sketches by Makenna Hartman and Natalie Zimmerman



Mayfly nymphs are easy to find by flipping rocks over and looking for movement on the bottom of the rock. A mayfly larva's characteristic three tails can help with positive identification of this immature stage of the insect. If you look closely, you can see the up to 7 pairs of gills on the lower half of this animal.



When this nymph finally reaches the adult stage, it will only live for about one day!

Snail

Sketches by Mario Grugan and Matt Hardie



Usually found crawling underwater on rocks using their muscular foot, these adult mollusks have shells made of calcium carbonate which helps to protect their soft bodies. The team found a variety of snails in the river including both gilled snails and lunged snails which both take in oxygen although in different ways. If you wait long enough, you will be able to see the snail stick out its two distinct antennae from its head.



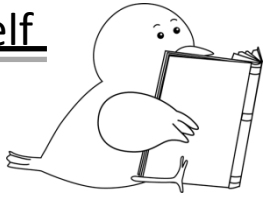
Water Penny

Sketches by Harper Dysard and Aaliyah Foster



A water penny beetle larva looks like a small coin that sticks to the bottom of rocks very tightly! If you look very closely with a magnifying glass, you will be able to see many feathery gills moving at the base of the water penny's abdomen as it takes in oxygen from the water. As adults, water pennies live on land in the form of a small black beetle.





We hope "Off The Shelf" will appear in every issue of *The Gnatcatcher*, but that will only happen if you send in your reviews of natural history books. We also welcome feedback. Email Laura Jackson to contribute a book review, or if you have a comment about a book that was reviewed. Please note that contributions for the next newsletter should be sent to Laura Jackson by **April 10, 2016**. Good reading!

A Review of THE NARROW EDGE

By Marcia Bonta

Nearly thirty years ago, my husband Bruce and I witnessed, for a few days, the recreation of times past, when vast flocks of birds roamed North America before market gunners reduced to pitiful remnants and even drove to extinction edible bird species.

We peered over a shoulder-high pile of sand 200 feet long, flanked on either end by a string of vacation homes, and watched several thousand red knots, ruddy turnstones, sanderlings, dunlins, and semipalmated sandpipers, with here and there a willet, short-billed dowitcher, semipalmated and black-bellied plovers, and white-rumped and least sandpipers. They were feeding on a stew of horseshoe crab eggs on the Delaware Bay beaches before continuing their migration from as far away as the southern tip of South America to their Arctic nesting grounds.

As a former south Jersey girl, I was inspired by Dr. J.P. (Pete) Myers's article in *Natural History* magazine "Sex and Gluttony on Delaware Bay," and was eager to see this amazing natural phenomenon. Like most Jersey residents, my family took us on occasional trips to the Atlantic beaches, but no one bothered with the mosquito-infested beaches of the Delaware Bay.

Dr. Myers, who was Associate Curator of Ornithology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, had studied sanderlings for his Ph. D. and he, along with other ornithologists and birders, rediscovered this natural wonder in the late 1970s. Later, Myers became National Audubon's Senior Scientist, and, as such, came here as Juniata Valley Audubon's banquet speaker in the late 1980s.

Myers banded many of the shorebirds on the Delaware Bay beaches on the New Jersey side to determine their origin and found that 80% of the rufa race of the red knots in the world stopped at the bay as well as 80% of the New World Atlantic populations of sanderlings and ruddy turnstones to bulk up on horseshoe crab eggs before flying on to their Arctic nesting grounds. In May of 1982 avian aerial surveys by seasoned, experienced birders counted 420,000 shorebirds, 95,000 of which were red knots out of an estimated 1,500,000 shorebirds. For two weeks in late May Delaware Bay beaches had become the Serengeti of shorebirds.

Inspired by this, Myers helped to create the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Delaware Bay and coast, especially on the New Jersey side, was the first site in what is now an international network with 32 million acres of protected shorebird habitat in 13 countries.

What could go wrong? In 1991, scientists estimated there were 100,000 horseshoe crab eggs per square yard on Reeds Beach and 300,000-500,000 eggs per square yard on Moore's Beach (the two beaches on the New Jersey side that attracted the most crabs and shorebirds) to feed 100,000 shorebirds at Reeds Beach and 350,000

Off the Shelf continued...

at Moore's Beach. By 2005, there were only 4,000 eggs per square yard on those beaches and the population of semipalmated sandpipers, red knots, and ruddy turnstones had plummeted.

All this and more is covered in Deborah Cramer's excellent book *The Narrow Edge: A Tiny Bird, an Ancient Crab, and an Epic Journey* as she follows the work of ornithologists and citizen scientists at shorebird feeding, nesting, and wintering sites from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic and many stops in between, including the beaches of Brazil, Texas, and the Carolinas. She discusses not only the rise and fall of red knots but other shorebirds and seabirds whose lives have been impacted by humanity, both negatively and positively, warning what is at stake for the birds and the people living on the sea edge.

After I finished her book, I googled "red knot" and learned that when the subspecies "rufa" red knot of the New World (*Calidris canutus rufa*) had been listed on December 9, 2014 as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Dan Ashe wrote, that the red knot is facing "widespread emerging challenges like climate change and coastal development, coupled with the historic impacts of horseshoe crab overharvesting, which have sharply reduced its population in recent decades."

Today the New Jersey Delaware Bay beaches are closed during May and early June when horseshoe crabs are spawning and shorebirds feeding. Last May researchers counted 26,000 red knots, 25,000 on the New Jersey side and 1,000 on the Delaware side, up from 13,000 in 2004, in part because of restrictions on the horseshoe crab bait fishery.

Perhaps, all this shouldn't concern Pennsylvanians. We don't live on or near the coast. But, as the jacket flap of *The Narrow Edge* states, the Threatened listing of the first United States bird "because global warming imperils its existence...will not be the last: the red knot is the twenty-first century's 'canary in the coal mine.'" And besides, this is one of the best natural history books I've read in a long time.

Support "our birds" on their wintering grounds by purchasing organic shade coffee from Honduras.



Cultivated by a small group of farmers in Marcala, Honduras, Lenca coffee is one of the best Arabica coffees in the world. Emilio Garcia and his family have been cultivating coffee since 1915. The Garcia family partners with Sustainable Harvest Specialty Coffee Importers in Portland, Oregon so they can direct market their top quality coffee in the U.S. You can purchase green coffee or medium roast coffee. Contact Laura Jackson for details: 652-9268

Like Café Lenca at www.facebook.com/CafeLenca

JVAS Field Trips for 2016

Check our Facebook page for updates. If you aren't on Facebook, then join the JVAS Listserv - directions at www.jvas.org

March and April Fridays: 12:30 pm - 6 pm Birding Bald Eagle Creek Watershed

If you are interested in getting to know one of the premier birding areas in Pennsylvania, contact Mark Bonta by email (markabonta@yahoo.com) to join him on weekly Friday afternoon outings in March and April to locations along Spring Creek and Bald Eagle Creek in Centre County. Novice birders welcome! Possibilities include multiple locations in Bald Eagle State Park (in the top 5 eBird hotspots for the state), Curtin Wetland, Julian Wetland, Gov. Tom Ridge Wetland, Unionville town park, Talleyrand and Kraus parks in Bellefonte, Spring Creek Nature Park, Fisherman's Paradise and the rest of Spring Creek Canyon, and several State Game Lands. Expect to see large waterfowl concentrations and plenty of other exciting species. You can join a trip in progress at any time during the afternoon if you have a cell phone, or you can join up at the starting point of Bellefonte, in the municipal parking lot across from 409 West High St. downtown; trips leave at 12:30 PM and conclude before dusk. Routes vary depending on what species are where. Possibilities exist for longer hikes or no hikes at all. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and trips are subject to cancellation. Trips run every Friday, beginning 4 March and ending 15 April.

March 15, 2016: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Birding on the Run

JVAS is offering a quick birding tour prior to our March 15 JVAS meeting. We will visit one or more spots between Penn State Altoona and the Bellwood Library. All skill levels welcome. Little, non-strenuous walking is all that is required. Rain or shine. This is by reservation only, because the meeting point will be determined a few days prior to the event, depending on where the best birds are. To sign up, please contact Mark Bonta at markabonta@yahoo.com

March 19, 2016: 8:30 am - 3 pm Bedford Co. Wetlands Birding Trip

Meet at Eat 2 Live Bistro on Rt. 56 at 8:30am to carpool to two very birdy Wetlands. Bring boots and binoculars, listen to the forecast and dress accordingly. After a morning of birding we will eat lunch at Eat 2 Live Bistro (optional), then drive to another wetlands for more birding. Contact trip leaders Mike and Laura Jackson if you have questions, at (814) 652-9268.

April 16, 2016: 11 am to 2 pm Trillium Walk at Lower Trail

Looking for spring wildflowers? Then come to the Lower Trail for the annual Trillium Walk! If we time it right, we might be able to see the plentiful trilliums, Dutchman's Breeches, and bloodroots in bloom along the trail as we walk for an easy 3 to 4 miles. Meet at the Water Street Parking Area to begin the walk at 11am. Bring a lunch and snacks to eat along the way as you discover the majesty of the spring wildflowers with Deb Tencer.

April 17, 2016: 8 am - 5 pm Periglacial and Proglacial Landscapes Driving Tour

During the last million years, and as recently as 12,000 years ago, central Pennsylvania experienced climates as cold as those of present-day Greenland, thanks to nearby continental glaciers. Ancient periglacial landscape features such as blockfields, fossil sand dunes, loess deposits, and palsa and pingo scars, are associated with pervasive cold and intense cycles of freeze and thaw, while proglacial features such as the boulder trains left by jökulhlaups (glacial lake outburst floods) are found on slopes near the Susquehanna River. We will visit a representative sample of these features and discuss parallels with what is happening in the Arctic today. We will meet at the municipal parking lot in front of 409 West High Street in Bellefonte, PA at 8am and carpool from there, returning by 5pm. Pack a picnic lunch and water. Contact Mark Bonta at markabonta@yahoo.com, for more details.

Field Trips Continued...

April 23, 2016: 9 am - 11 am Bird and Wildflower Walk Mtn. Meadows, Everett

Highlights will include exploring the native wildflower gardens and bird watching along the trails. Participants will also see how a recent shelterwood cut will provide better habitat for early successional species such as woodcock, whip-poor-wills, and golden-winged warblers. Wear sturdy walking shoes, bring a lunch and drink. Directions: Take I-99 South to the Everett exit. Follow Rt. 30 East for about 8 miles. Take the exit for Business Rt. 30 into Everett. Turn Right onto 5th Ave. and cross a bridge over the Raystown Branch. (If you pass the Everett Foodliner you have gone too far.) Then make an immediate Right onto Black Valley Road. After 2.5 miles, turn Right onto a gravel road labeled "The Jacksons." Follow this lane for 0.5 miles and watch for parking signs. Trip Leaders: Mike and Laura Jackson 814-652-9268 Address: 8621 Black Valley Road Everett, PA 15537

May 7, 2016: 9:30 am - 3 pm PA Native Plants Festival

JVAS will have a table with interactive displays, Golden-winged Warbler T-shirts and organic shade-grown coffee for sale. Our Children's Activity will be **FEATHER ART**.

The plant sale is in a new location: Boalsburg Military Museum on Rt. 322 in Boalsburg.

May 8, 2016: 1 pm - 4 pm Spring Wildflowers and Birds in Plummer's Hollow

The Bonta family invites you to a wildflower and bird walk up Plummer's Hollow on Sunday, May 8 at 1pm. We'll meet at the bottom of the mountain at their parking lot. The gate will be open. Pull into the parking lot on your right after crossing the railroad line. The walk will be slow and spring wildflowers should be at their peak. Contact trip leaders Marcia Bonta at marciabonta@hotmail.com or Dave Bonta at bontasaurus@yahoo.com with questions or if you need directions to the Bonta property.

May 21 - 22, 2016: Overnight Backpacking Trip led by Kristin Joivell. More details soon!

May 25, 2016: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Forest Botany Walk at Canoe Creek State Park

For this Wednesday evening walk, we will go for an easy hike at Canoe Creek State Park (along the Limestone Trail and spurs) in search of late spring forest plants. Botanist Eric Burkhart (Penn State University) will discuss such topics as field identification, biology and ecology, and ethnobotany of plants we encounter on the walk. Botanical highlights at this time of year should include abundant flowering yellow lady-slipper orchids and Seneca snakeroot. Meet at the parking lot near Pavilion 2.

May 28, 2016: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm Exploring the Orchids and Plants of Black Moshannon

Follow Mary Paoli as she guides you through the unique wetland habitat of Black Moshannon State Park to look for plants, especially orchids. If we are lucky and the plants are blooming, we hope to find ladies tresses, lady slippers, bunch berry, baneberry, fringed orchids, clintonia, pitcher plants, sundews, bladderworts, and many others; however, remember that plants bloom according to own schedule not according to ours! Meet at the parking lot near the swimming area at 12:30 pm to begin the search.

Address Service Requested

TYRONE, PA 16686-0042

PO BOX 42

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON

Golden-winged Warbler T-shirts (Fundraiser)

Shirts are organic cotton and come in S, M, L, XL, and XXL. XXL is \$25, other sizes are \$20 if you buy one at a JVAS meeting. Order through PayPal at www.JVAS.org or save \$5 and buy one at the next JVAS meeting.

ALL proceeds are used to help Golden-winged Warbler Conservation Projects.



Please support our
fundraiser for Golden-winged Warblers.
