

The Gnatcatcher

Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

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as a benefit for members of the...

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



President's Message

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-Laura Jackson

I've been a member of JVAS since moving back to Bedford County in 1983 - that was almost 33 years ago! During that time JVAS has been involved in a number of controversial environmental issues. Members worked hard to stop development on Brush Mountain above Altoona by opposing Logan Towne Centre and a Gamesa wind project. We lost the fight to stop the mall, but Brush Mountain remains turbine free. We also fought to stop a mine developer from destroying Heller Caves, near Williamsburg where bats and other rare wildlife are found. I personally filed a lawsuit against the mining company and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); my action was part of the same lawsuit that JVAS and the Center for Biological Diversity filed. Fortunately, we were represented by Professor Ken Kristi and his law students at Widener University. Under his direction we agreed to drop our lawsuit against the state and the mining company, after receiving a formal pledge from the company that it would not disturb the cave site or surrounding area. I've also been involved in a lot of grassroots efforts through a partnership of organizations to stop industrial wind development on numerous forested ridges in the Appalachians. We have successfully stopped 6 wind projects proposed for forested mountain tops.

Not once, in these stressful and demanding situations, did we receive any physical threats. We protested peacefully, picketed, wrote letters, spoke at hearings, hired attorneys, and worked within the law; but we never worried about someone trying to kill us or throw us in jail. Recently, though, two incidents have occurred that make me more aware that peaceful protests and grassroots activism can lead to bloodshed or incarceration.

A grassroots activist in Honduras, Berta Cáceres, was killed just a few days after five JVAS members (along with 4 other birders) returned from Honduras. We were in Berta's town, La Esperanza, near the end of our *Birding for Conservation* trip led by Mark Bonta, but we did not have a chance to meet her. I wish we had. She successfully stopped the construction of a huge hydroelectric dam in Honduras. You'll read more about her and our trip in Mark's eulogy to Berta later in this issue.

The other incident is taking place right now, in Huntingdon Co., over the Mariner 2 East pipeline project. A landowner who has a Forest Stewardship plan on her property was jailed because she tried to prevent Sunoco from cutting trees on her property. A Huntingdon judge granted Sunoco eminent domain - although a judge in York Co. put Sunoco's request for eminent domain power on hold in that county. Sunoco has not obtained the necessary permits from DEP to begin construction, yet they cut trees on a property without the landowner's permission. To me, this is a case of corporate bullying.

Keep updated on this tense situation at: www.facebook.com/juniatawatershedpeoplebeforepipelines

These types of conflicts will surely increase as more private landowners are faced with the destruction or loss of their property from unwanted development. That makes our role as a conservation organization even more critical. Thank you, JVAS members, for supporting conservation.

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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Birding Honduras – A Paean to Berta Cáceres

Guest Blog by Mark Bonta, JVAS Vice-President, originally published in Canopywatchinternational.org

Berta Cáceres was a human rights and environmental activist in Honduras, Central America. This blog puts her life into a conservation perspective for all people of Honduras, and all citizens of the natural world.



Berta Cáceres accepts the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2015.

David Anderson and I wrote '[Birding Honduras: A Checklist and Guide](#)' in 2003, when a mere handful of Hondurans and foreigners birded regularly in the country. The Honduran Tourism Institute distributed it widely with the intent of inspiring Hondurans and attracting more ecotourists, and as top guide [Alex Alvarado](#) said to me recently, it achieved that effect. Since then, the level of expertise and enthusiasm among birders in and from Honduras has skyrocketed, accompanied by the amazing community effort of eBirding.

The [Asociación Hondureña de Ornitología](#) (ASHO, Honduran Ornithological Association) and several of its local chapters hold bird fairs, bird blitzes, and bird walks on a regularly basis. Several national parks now have canopy towers, birding trails, and trained bird guides, and eco-lodges attract well-heeled clients for some of the best views anywhere of Lovely Cotinga, Great Potoo, and Keel-billed Motmot.

Birding Honduras continued...

There is a national “avitourism” strategy, a network of private reserves catering to birders, an [ASHO-published journal](#), and several Facebook pages. Though no Spanish-language field guide to Honduran birds exists yet, one English-language guide was published in 2015, with a [Peterson guide to northern Central America](#) set to come out in late 2016. In addition to birding activity, ornithological research has also proceeded apace in Honduras, with major studies by [David Anderson at LSU](#), [Ruth Bennett at Cornell](#), and others, including of Golden-winged Warbler (ongoing), [Red-throated Caracara](#), [Honduran Emerald](#), and Three-wattled Bellbird (ongoing). Honduras’s country list has skyrocketed from 701 confirmed species in 2003 to over 760 now, with an average of five new ones added every year, and 800 an attainable goal within 10 years. On eBird, Honduras is now one of the top 30 countries in the world in species and in checklists, and was ranked in the top 15 in Global Big Day 2015 statistics.

All this is proof that Honduras is experiencing its own birding miracle. A culture of bird-watching is being engendered before our very eyes, and additional guidebooks (in Spanish?!) and high-profile birding events over the next couple of years will keep the momentum going, bringing birds and bird tourism increasingly into the Honduran national consciousness. But why is Honduras, by all accounts one of the most violence-ridden places on earth, so enthralled with birds? Wouldn’t birds be the last thing people would be concerned about? I think the answer I have come up with tells us a lot about the power of birds and birding to heal the human spirit. *In the grotesque world of the Honduran everyday, birds transcend the horrors that have beset this country like few others.* Very briefly: grinding poverty, massive corruption, Cold War repression, economic and environmental ravages of Hurricane Mitch, massive out-migration to the US, including of unaccompanied minors, rise of brutal LA-derived street gangs, economic collapse, systematic human rights abuses. This was the 1980s and 1990s, but it was accompanied by the formation of many protected areas, new and better, environmental laws, and hundreds of local environmental and social rights groups and a growing pro-environmental consciousness among ordinary Hondurans. But then, a military coup (2009) and the influx of 80% of the world’s cocaine, with the near-complete collapse of

law and order and targeted assassination of anybody protesting or writing about social and environmental justice, as drug money washed through all economic sectors of society and government. Just last year, with the take-down of the narco-trafficking criminal structure, things started to get better, but Honduras remains a traumatized country with sky-high levels of clinical depression. *Hence, as it has been explained to me, birds.* Honduras, one of the weakest states in our hemisphere, has been on the receiving end of every miserable scheme ever designed to corrupt, indebt, and destroy in the name of profit. Until the rise of biodiversity, Honduras’s wealth was measured in bananas, shrimp, logs and silver. Birds, and all of biodiversity, transcend that, representing *in situ* wealth that is far more and better than what can be measured in dollars. Birding can be therapeutic anywhere, but in Honduras I am convinced that as a part of nature appreciation in general it offers the potential not just to escape the horrendous every day, but also to help us all heal.

Just the other day, [Berta Caceres was murdered](#). She was indisputably Honduras’s highest profile environmentalist, and in 2015 won the coveted Goldman Prize for her work to defeat a hydroelectric project threatening indigenous Lenca lands. Supposedly, the Goldman affords high-profile activists a measure of protection from assassination—and [according to Global Witness](#), Honduras leads the world in rate of environmentalists murdered. But in the Honduran waking nightmare, no one is immune.

Death squads linked to transnational corporate interests and their local subsidiaries send us the message, again and again, that money (for them) comes first, while the environment and its defenders, mostly poor and often indigenous, are expendable. Dozens of hydroelectric projects, wind projects, and mines of all descriptions are slated for development, often linked to narcotics laundering schemes, and not infrequently placed inside national parks (a situation of very dubious legality). Honduran billionaire bankers hide behind suit-and-tie legitimacy and multiple front companies, murders go unsolved, and thus is Honduras’s tragic landscape wrenched open for foreign investment. Export schemes from oil palms to sweatshops necessitate more available energy, and this is gruesomely greenwashed as “eco-friendly” after being permitted

Birding Honduras continued...

by the government in a corrupt process whereby biologists and others throw the environmental impact assessments to their corporate clients and downplay effects on human communities (rarely consulted), natural habitats, and species (many of which are not even included in shoddy, pseudo-scientific reports).



A street scene from La Esperanza, Honduras, home town of Berta Cáceres. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson



La Esperanza, Honduras. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson

None of this “business-friendliness” is making average Hondurans, who subsist on two dollars a day, better off. What is improving Honduras are local efforts toward community-based conservation and truly sustainable development. In Berta Cáceres’ region, local municipalities in the 1990s were the first to close their lands completely to loggers; towns

in the area I work, Olancho, followed. Once this was achieved, and as laws began to favor local conservation, forests began to recover. The town of Gualaco, where I have worked for 25 years, is considered one of the greatest successes in community forestry in all of Central America—its people learned the bitter lessons of massive pine logging (which never benefited them) and hydro development (ditto), both leaving a trail of murders and their land worse off, so they turned to sustainable conservation of water and forest resources.

Now, birders go to Opatoro, La Paz, to see rare cloud forest species like the Blue-throated Motmot on communally-owned Lenca lands, and to remote Olancho pine forests under 40-year sustainable community harvest leases to search for Red-throated Caracara and Ocellated Quail.

Berta Cáceres’ murder was a turning point. In creating a martyr, her murderers spoke to us directly: we can and perhaps will get any of you, at a time and place of our choosing. As an act of terrorism rife with symbolism, this was intended to further demoralize and intimidate the Honduran populace and its multitudinous foreign supporters, but of course it is having the opposite effect. We have turned a corner and are now more willing than ever to speak out and act out to stop the injustices. We will speak out about those who do wrong, and do our utmost to promote those who do right.



Julio Bu is a Honduran conservationist of modest means who entertains visitors at hummingbirds he places outside La Esperanza, Honduras. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson

Birding Honduras continued...

I recently led a “birding for conservation” study tour to expose birder-conservationists from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to Honduran realities. We visited a sustainable, bird-friendly coffee farm in Marcala and attended the first-ever Honduran Migratory Bird Festival in Catacamas, with a Golden-winged Warbler theme. We stayed at locally-run places, ate locally-grown food, and tipped guides and landowners engaging in conservation actions. One highlight was [Isidro Zuniga’s Las Orquideas nature preserve and organic farm](#), something he has done on his own, with minimal outside support, to demonstrate to his neighbors that protecting the environment is the right thing to do. Another was Julio Bu’s hummingbird feeders outside La Esperanza. Don Julio is a 78-year-old conservationist of sparse economic means who is converting his patch of pine forest to a nature-themed retreat. We visited on a tip from William Orellana, co-owner of [Beaks and Peaks](#) guide company, who is helping don Julio bring in eco-tourists. We sat enthralled as Green Violetears and White-eared Hummingbirds zipped by our faces. A few days after we passed through La Esperanza, Berta Cáceres was murdered.



Isidro Zúniga at the gate of the nature reserve he founded and protects in Olancho, Honduras. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson.

This post is my response to that atrocity and to the outpouring of sympathy that ensued, including from the people on my tour, who didn’t shrug it off or turn their backs, but rather asked how they could help and continue to be involved. Bear witness to the magnificence of Honduras’s people, its landscapes, and its biodiversity. Come to Honduras and investment your own money in the local economy.

Volunteer your birding skills in marathons and blitzes; join rapid assessment teams to the dozens of locations that have never been eBirded, birded, or ornithologically studied. Adopt a reserve. Honor Berta and the hundreds of victims before her by speaking out about the injustices and making sure that people understand how birds, community-based conservation, and environmental justice are all interconnected.



White-necked Puffbird (Notharcus hyperhynchus) at Las Orquideas Nature Preserve in Olancho, Honduras. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson



White-eared Hummingbird (Hylocharis leucotis) at don Julio’s patio in La Esperanza, Honduras. Photo © Mike and Laura Jackson.

For more on Berta Cáceres:

www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/berta-caceres/



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

JVAS May Programs (free)

Bellwood-Antis Public Library

526 Main Street, Bellwood, PA 16617

Phone: 814-742-8234

JVAS Programs are presented on the third Tuesday of the month at the library, except in April, June, July, August, and December. Programs begin at 7:00 PM.

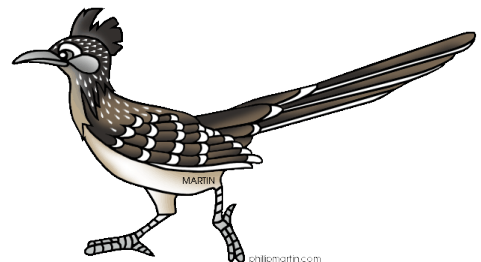
Directions: Take Interstate I-99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin's intersection. Proceed about 4 blocks and turn right at the "Business District" sign, just before the railroad overpass. Turn left at the dead end and travel to the stop sign. Continue straight for a short distance; the library will be on your right.

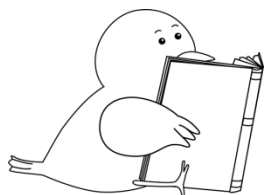


May 17, 2016: "Pueblos and Pinyons" by Jeffrey Hall,

President of Bartramian Audubon Society

This program shows how nature and wildlife, archaeology and ancient cultures, scenery and geology all come together to justify New Mexico's claim to be a "Land of Enchantment."





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 **August 10, 2016**. Good reading!

Bird Droppings: Writing about Watching Birds and Bird Watchers by Pete Dunne

Review by Marcia Bonta

Many of us have read at least some of the more than two dozen books Pete Dunne has written over the years. Others have met him during his tenure as director of the Cape May Bird Observatory. The *Wall Street Journal* calls him "the Bard of Birding," and Ted Floyd, editor of *Birding*, who writes the foreword to this book, refers to him as the "Ernest Hemingway of American nature writing."

Dunne does have a succinct writing style, like Hemingway's, but I've never thought of Hemingway as whimsical or humorous, which best describes Dunne's style in this collection of 33 of his favorite columns that he's written for *Living Bird*, *BirdWatching*, and *Exit Zero*.

While some of his books are instructive, such as *Hawks in Flight*, *The Wind Masters*, and *Prairie Spring*, *Bird Droppings* is pure entertainment if you are a birder or have birders in your life. It makes fun of the worst birder traits, for example, "Confession of a Listing Heretic," in which he writes..."Christmas Bird Counts tend to bring out the loose interpretationist in us all," reminding me of folks who see birds that aren't there during CBCs.

Even though Mike and Laura Jackson (JVAS historian and president, respectively) don't fulfill all Dunne's characteristics of "The Perfect Birder," his lines..."they are impervious to rain, sleet, snow," and "cold that would stop molecular motion" recalled to mind their 33 degrees below zero birding jaunt to Algonquin National Park during the winter of 2015 in quest of birds from the Arctic.

"Lawn Flamingo" made me think of my former sister-in-law Ann's affection for these birds and son Dave's (JVAS webmaster) wish for one of his own. I bought him a small metal one from the Arts Fest in State College as a joke that looks exactly like the one pictured on page 35 of *Bird Droppings*, courtesy of illustrator David Gothard, whose drawings add more fun to this book.

I found my geographer son, Mark, (JVAS VP.) in the essay "Of Birds, Van Gogh and Cheap Beer"—"Once you've found and named all the birds close to home, you travel and find birds that are farther afield...Ten Thousand possibilities in all...Collect them all. Win a lifetime of travel."

And since I am of the same generation as Dunne—the field guide generation—his essay "Fuddy-Duddy Declaration" found me in accord with his self-declared description as "A stone-knives-and-binocular-toting birder who is content to identify—and misidentify—real birds in real time in the field."

While most of his essays are light-hearted and fun, a few take unexpected serious turns, most notably "Chipper." But I'll leave it for you to discover for yourselves.

JVAS Field Trips for 2016

Check our Facebook page for updates. If you are not on Facebook, then join the JVAS Listserv. Directions may be found at www.jvas.org and at the end of this list.*

May 2016 - Bluebird Trail Outing at Fort Roberdeau Led by Stan Kotala. Date and Time will be posted on our Facebook page*.

JVAS Table at the PA Native Plant Festival

May 7, 2016 from 9:30am - 3pm

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 native plant sale is in a new location: Boalsburg Military Museum on Rt. 322 in Boalsburg. Contact Laura Jackson if you would like to help at the JVAS table. Call 814-652-9268 or email: mljackson2@embargmail.com

Spring Wildflowers and Birds in Plummer's Hollow

May 8, 2016 from 1pm to 4pm

The Bonta family invites you to a wildflower and bird walk up Plummer's Hollow. We'll meet at the bottom of the mountain at our 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 our 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.

Canoe Creek Bird Walk and eBird Workshop

May 15, 2016 from 1pm to 5pm

Canoe Creek Watershed IBA contains a jewel of a state park. Meet Mike and Laura Jackson at the park's Education Center in Canoe Creek for a bird walk from 1pm to 3pm, followed by an eBird Workshop in the Education Center from 3pm to 5pm. Learn how to be a Citizen Scientist by enter your bird observations in eBird. Research scientists use eBird data to track migration and other really cool research, but you can use eBird to keep track of your bird observations. It's easy and fun to use, but a powerful tool for research. Bring binoculars. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Call Laura Jackson if you have questions at (814) 652-9268.

Overnight Backpacking Trip on the Standing Stone Trail

May 21 to May 22, 2016

Come hike on the Standing Stone Trail for an overnight trip! Join Kristin Joivell as she teaches you how to backpack using Leave No Trace principles. The total mileage for this trip is approximately 10 miles over the 2 days. This is not a "car camping" trip—there are no bathrooms, running water, or electricity! Additionally, you must carry in everything you need on the trip and carry out everything you use on the trip. The trip begins Saturday morning at 10am and ends on Sunday afternoon at 3pm. Camping space is limited to no more than 10 to 15 backpackers so make sure you RSVP to Kristin at kristinjean@hotmail.com or at (814) 386-6267 if you are planning on joining her for this adventure!

Field Trips Continued...

Forest Botany Walk at Canoe Creek State Park

May 25, 2016 from 5:30 pm until dark (approximately 9:30pm)

For this evening walk, we will go for a non-strenuous hike at Canoe Creek State Park (along the Limestone Trail and spurs) in search of late spring forest plants. Botanist Eric Burkhart (of Penn State University) will discuss such topics as field identification, biology and ecology, and ethno botany 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 plants. Meet at Pavilion #2 at 5:30pm to start your botanical experience with Eric Burkhart. Contact Kristin Joivell, field trip coordinator, with any questions at kristinjean@hotmail.com or at (814) 386-6267.

Exploring the Orchids and Plants of Black Moshannon

May 28, 2016 from 12:30pm until 3:30pm

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 for us, we can hope to find ladies tresses, lady slippers, bunch berry, baneberry, fringed orchids, clintonia pitcher plants, sundews, bladder worts, 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 12:30pm to begin the search for plants and orchids. Contact Kristin Joivell, field trip coordinator, with any questions at kristinjean@hotmail.com or (814) 386-6267.

June 2016 Art in Nature Led by Sam Dietze, local artist. Date, Location, and Time will be posted on our Facebook page*.

A Whole Day of Birding at Shaver's Creek

June 4, 2016 from 9am to 2:30pm

If you want to be fully immersed in the world of birds, this field trip is for you! Join Jason Beale and Jon Kauffman of the Shaver's Creek Raptor Center as they lead you to the Shaver's Creek boardwalk on a 2 hour morning birding walk. Pack your own lunch to enjoy as we break in the middle of the day. During our break, don't forget to explore the bookstore and get a close-up look at over a dozen species of resident, non-releasable raptors, including the Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, and five species of owls. Then, enjoy another 2 hours of birding in the afternoon throughout the Stone Valley Forest. Through the data we collect, we will help to complete an informal breeding bird survey for the areas we explore. Meet at the Education Center at 9am to begin the day's activities. Contact Kristin Joivell, field trip coordinator, with any questions at kristinjean@hotmail.com or at (814) 386-6267.

Driving Tour of Historic Dutch Corner in Bedford County

June 11, 2016 from 9am to 11:30am

Dutch Corner is a beautiful farming area of Bedford County that was recently placed in the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district—the largest in the state. We will meet at the Sheetz gas station located along Business 220 just north of the turnpike entrance. Take the turnpike exit off I-99 South just north of Bedford. We will carpool from there to Dutch Corner. Highlights will be a visit to Indian Eve's grave, scenic views of the valley and Evitt's Mountain, and roadside birding. Optional stop at Eat 2 Live Bistro for lunch. Contact trip leaders Mike and Laura Jackson if you have questions: (814) 652-9268.

Field Trips Continued...

JVAS Maxine Lechvarcik Memorial Picnic at Pine Hill Picnic Area Rothrock State Forest

June 21, 2016 from 6pm to dusk - Celebrate the First Day of Summer!

Bring a covered dish and your own tableware for a 6 pm covered dish social at the Pine Hill Picnic Area, located in Rothrock State Forest, along Diamond Valley Road, northwest of Petersburg. Visitors will find two picnic pavilions, picnic tables, grills, and toilet facilities. We will explore the woods and stream near the picnic area, looking for all sorts of woodland and aquatic critters. For more information, contact Hospitality Chair Marcia Bonta at 684-3113.

Directions to Pine Hill Picnic Area

From Route 22 at Alexandria:

Turn onto PA-305 / Bridge St for 0.5 miles.
Turn right to stay on PA-305 / Main St for 3.0 miles.
Arrive at Petersburg, PA on PA-305 / Diamond St.
Turn left to stay on PA-305 / King St for 0.7 miles.
Turn left onto Diamond Valley Rd for 1.5 miles.
Keep right to stay on Diamond Valley Rd for 3.5 miles.
Arrive at Pine Hill Picnic Area.

From State College:

Depart on PA-26 S / W College Ave. Keep straight onto PA-26 / W College Ave.
Keep straight onto PA-26 / PA-45 / Pine Grove Rd for 1.3 miles.
Turn left onto PA-26 / Water St for 2.0 miles.
Keep straight onto PA-760 / McAlevy's Fort Rd for 2.1 miles.
Turn right onto Charter Oak Rd for 5.9 miles.
Bear right onto PA-305 / Shavers Creek Rd for 1.3 miles
Turn right onto Globe Run Rd for 2.4 miles.
Road name changes to Diamond Valley Rd for 2.0 miles
Arrive at Pine Hill Picnic Area.
(The last intersection is Morton Rd. If you reach Mule Rd, you've gone too far.)

July or August 2016 Pollinator Garden Outing at Fort Roberdeau Led by Stan Kotala when plants are in peak bloom. Date and Time will be posted on our Facebook page*.

*Not on Facebook? Join the JVAS Listserv for timely updates:

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to...JVAS-L-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.

After you have been added to the JVAS-L mailing list, you can send a message to...JVAS-@lists.psu.edu ...which will be routed to all of the people currently subscribed to the list.

You can unsubscribe from the list at any time by sending an email to...JVAS-L-signoff-request@lists.psu.edu ...with **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.



Poetry Corner

We all have moments that inspire us to transcribe our feelings – joy, hope, fear, despair, anticipation, gratitude...Whatever it is that pushes us to write is always better shared than kept in a dark box. Send your nature poetry to Laura Jackson for future issues of *The Gnatcatcher*.

Death Is Not Final

By Terry Carnila June 27, 2015

We lived in a forest visited by birds, raccoons, squirrels and other animals. We welcomed the rain and the sun. I can almost remember back when I was born. My Mother was so happy. She reminded me often to look after my sister who was born later that year. We grew well together and as we grew older we became great friends, and enjoyed telling tales and hugging each other. Weather made a big difference in our lives. Sis was weaker and although I did everything for her, she withered and died. Mother was especially broken up about her loss, but she was brave and barely showed it when I tried to comfort her. She, too, eventually left me after many years. By then I was full grown and able to care for myself.

The Winters were the worst. My clothes no longer protected me. Still, after many years went by, I was happy and enjoyed life.

One day there was a terrible noise nearby. Too late I realized my time had come. My body was slashed thru and thru and I tried so hard to hang on. Then I fell and it took a long time to die.

I had so many happy years that it helped me to accept my fate. Perhaps my seeds will take root and I will live again as seedlings that mature in Chestnut Trees.

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.

Address Service Requested

TYRONE, PA 16686-0042

PO BOX 42

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON

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

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Cultivated by a small group of farmers in Maracala, 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

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