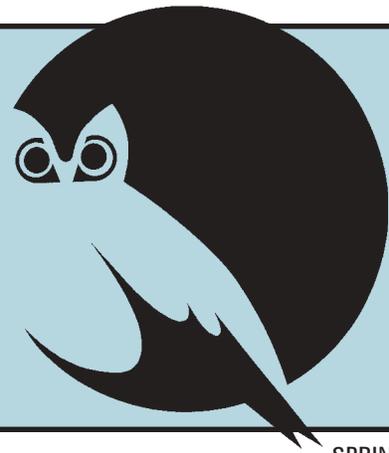


# WV Wildlife Diversity NEWS



Bob Wise, Governor

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1

SPRING 2002

## Bring Butterflies To Your Garden

Butterflies can be a welcome addition to your home and surroundings. Not only do their bright colors add excitement to our lives, but they are also effective crop and flower pollinators, play an important role in the food chain, and are sensitive indicators of environmental quality. Weeds and wildflowers are all it really takes to produce a butterfly garden. However, to attract the greatest number and variety of these beautiful creatures, plants that serve all the life stages of butterflies must be provided.

All of the approximately 760 different butterflies in the U. S. and Canada follow the same general life cycle. The cycle begins with eggs laid in spring, summer or fall. Once hatched the tiny larvae (or caterpillars) molt 4 to 5 times, before enveloping themselves in a cocoon or chrysalis which undergoes metamorphosis and emerges as an adult butterfly. The entire process takes an average of 5 to 6 weeks. Some butterflies go through only one cycle or generation each year. Others, however, may have 2 and even 3 generations in a single season.

The butterfly's life cycle requires food for both the larval and adult stages. Often the food for the larval stage is the most critical. Thus, many butterflies lay their eggs on or near the plants upon which the larvae feed. Most caterpillars eat the leafy parts of their host plants, but, depending on the species, may prefer flowers, weeds, vines, shrubs or trees.

Unlike the finicky caterpillars, adult butterflies may take nectar from many

different plants. Nectar is sipped through a long, straw-like proboscis that is normally kept coiled. The insect's feet possess a special sensing structure which can detect or "taste" sweet liquids, causing the proboscis to uncoil when in contact with nectar.

Butterflies frequent wildflowers as well as cultivated annuals and perennials. The three most important floral characteristics that attract butterflies to a flower are a copious supply of nectar, a blossom with large petals so that the insect can perch while feeding, and flower color. Butterflies seems to investigate purple flowers first, then yellow, pink and finally white. (See box, page 6)

Although their most popular food source is nectar, not all adult butterflies are nectar feeders. Some prefer to "puddle." Puddling is usually done by newly emergent males which gather to take moisture and minerals from damp

sand, mud puddles or stream banks. Often a garden pool will attract butterflies to the water's edge. A number of species will also seek nourishment from the moisture in animal waste or carrion.

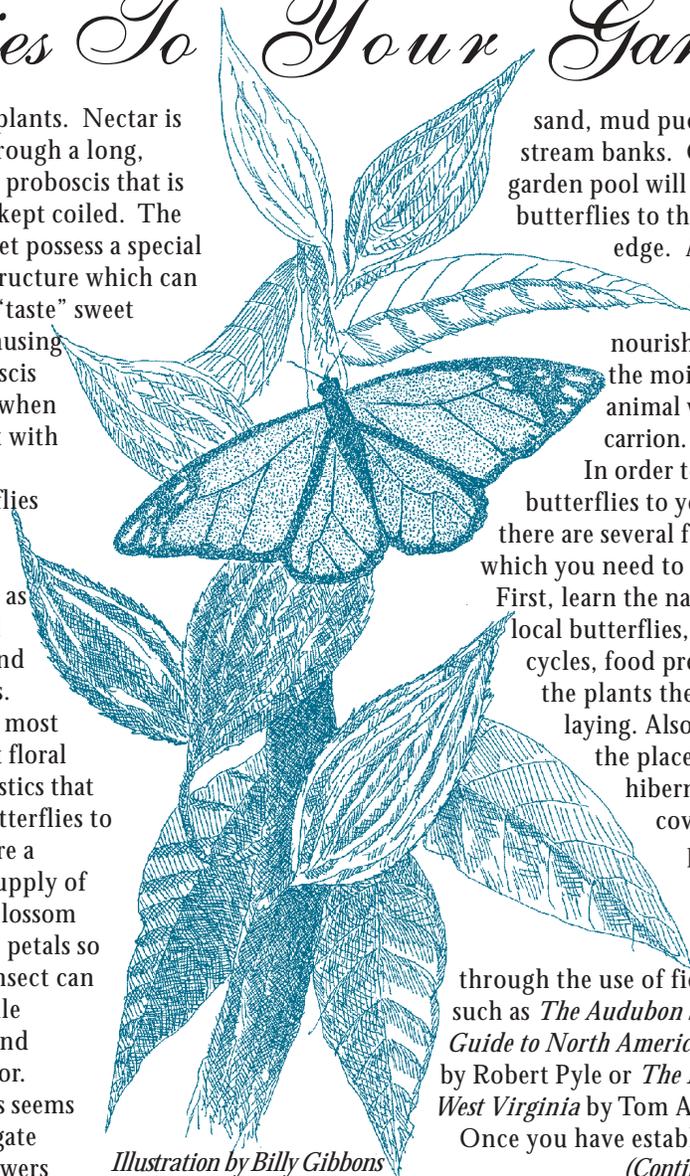
In order to encourage butterflies to your backyard, there are several factors with which you need to be familiar. First, learn the names of the local butterflies, their life cycles, food preferences and the plants they use for egg laying. Also determine the places they hibernate, seek cover and

pupate. This all can be accomplished

through the use of field guides, such as *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies* by Robert Pyle or *The Butterflies of West Virginia* by Tom Allen.

Once you have established which  
(Continued to page 6)

Illustration by Billy Gibbons



### Inside this issue...

- \* Woodcock up close, Pg.2
- \* What's in a name?, Pg. 4
- \* Wildlife Weekend!, Pg. 7

# Springtime Brings The Sound of the Woodcock

During dawn and dusk of late winter and early spring a unique and interesting phenomenon is taking place throughout the brushy fields and swamps of the Mountain State: the “sky dance”. But the sky dance has nothing to do with UFO’s; it is the courtship display of one of our most unique birds, the American woodcock (*Scolopax minor*).

The American woodcock, also known as the timberdoodle, the bogsucker and the mudsnipe is an easily recognized bird; it is about the size of a robin and has mottled brown plumage.

The most distinguishing features of the woodcock are its long pointed bill used for probing for earthworms and its large eyes that are set back high and on the sides of its head. The woodcock requires moist second growth or young brushy forests for cover and food. Habitat is largely dependent on the availability of earthworms, which comprise up to 90% of the woodcock’s diet. Because its digestive system works quickly, a woodcock needs to eat nearly its weight in earthworms everyday.

The American woodcock is a migratory bird which winters in the southern half of the eastern United States and breeds in the northeastern U.S. and southern Canada. The “sky dance” is performed during mating season as a courtship display on territory known as “singing ground.” Singing ground habitat consists of brushy fields, swamps and clear-cut areas.

The “sky dance” begins on the ground when the male woodcock emits a series of nasal calls described as a *peent*. Once the *peenting* stops the song flight begins. The male silently flies into the air rising in concentric circles, each larger than the previous one. As he flies upward, the outer primary feathers of his wings give off a twittering sound. Upon reaching an altitude of up to 300 feet, he hovers briefly while singing and chirping, and then gradually descends back to the ground, chirping the whole

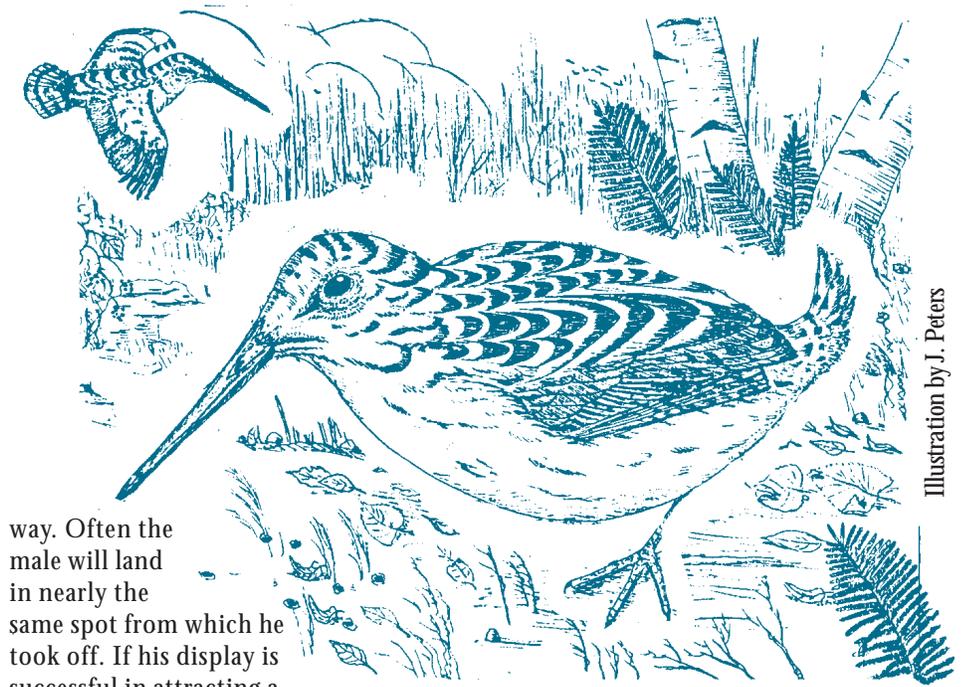


Illustration by J. Peters

way. Often the male will land in nearly the same spot from which he took off. If his display is successful in attracting a female, mating will follow. This display and subsequent mating will continue for brief periods at dawn and dusk throughout the spring.

In West Virginia woodcock breed in every county and migrate throughout the state. Large concentrations can be found during migration in many areas, with Canaan Valley having one of the

**During migration, large concentrations are found in many areas with Canaan Valley having one of the largest concentration areas in the woodcocks’ entire range. Estimates indicate that more than 20,000 woodcock stop in Canaan Valley every year during fall migration.**

largest concentration areas in the woodcocks’ entire range. Estimates indicate that more than 20,000 woodcock stop in Canaan Valley every year during fall migration.

Because woodcock are migratory and are a sought after and challenging gamebird to pursue, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service coordinates

annual singing ground surveys to monitor woodcock populations. Woodcock are monitored in 19 states and parts of southern Canada by conducting these annual singing ground surveys. In West Virginia around 20 routes are surveyed every year by DNR biologists to determine the number of woodcock heard *peenting*. These surveys have been conducted for over 30 years and enable biologists to monitor woodcock population trends.

Another monitoring tool used by biologists to determine the age and sex structure of woodcock populations is the woodcock Wing Collection Survey. Successful woodcock hunters are asked to send in one wing for each bird harvested. By examining the wings, biologists can determine the sex and age of the bird and can also get an idea of hunter success, which can be used in addition to the singing ground surveys to determine population trends.

The American woodcock is a unique bird that exhibits fascinating behavior and is a challenging upland gamebird to pursue. So whether out birding in the spring or hunting in the fall keep an eye out for this interesting migratory bird.

--Rob Tallman

## Rare Species at a Glance

### Loggerhead Shrike

**Scientific name:** *Lanius ludovicianus migrans*

**State status:** Rare in the state, with about 40 sites where this species has been observed. It may be declining in West Virginia, as many of the sites have not produced any shrikes in recent years.

**Global status:** This species is rare throughout its range, and is considered a "Species of Concern" by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**General description:** Shrikes are robin-sized birds and are similar in coloration to mockingbirds: gray backs, with lighter breasts and bellies. The wings and tail are black with white patches showing when the birds are in flight. They can be distinguished from mockingbirds by their stout heads and heavy, hooked beaks. Shrikes also have a conspicuous black face mask which mockingbirds lack.

**Habitat:** Shrikes may be found in pastures with scattered trees, shrubs, fences, utility poles and hedgerows which they use for perching. They utilize the open areas for hunting prey (insects, small mammals and birds, snakes, frogs, worms), and will use hawthorns and barbed wire fences as a place to impale their prey for eating and territorial markings. Shrikes nest four to 12 feet off the ground in hawthorns, red cedars, or multiflora rose. In West Virginia, the shrikes' breeding and wintering habitats are essentially the same.

**Total range:** Historically, the breeding range of the shrike extended from southern Canada to Mexico. Wintering shrikes could be found throughout the southern United States, including West Virginia. However, the breeding range has significantly decreased and is much

more restricted.

It can no longer be found (as a breeder) north of Pennsylvania, except for a band of counties in northern New York and Vermont.

**State range:** The shrike is restricted to the eastern third of West Virginia: Berkeley, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Monroe, Pocahontas and Randolph counties.

**Threats to the species:** The greatest threats to loggerhead shrikes appear to be habitat fragmentation, loss in their breeding and wintering ranges, and mortality due to collisions with cars while hunting.

**Best time to look:** Shrikes may be seen in West Virginia all year, but look for them during the spring when they begin to return to their breeding territories. Report shrike sightings to the WVDNR's Wildlife Diversity Program.

**Sources:** WVDNR - West Virginia Nature Notes: Rare species fact sheet for the loggerhead shrike.

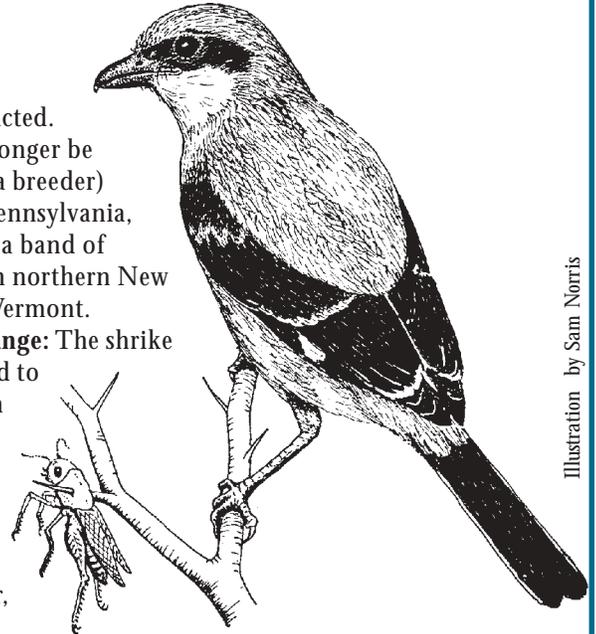


Illustration by Sam Norris

### False Heather

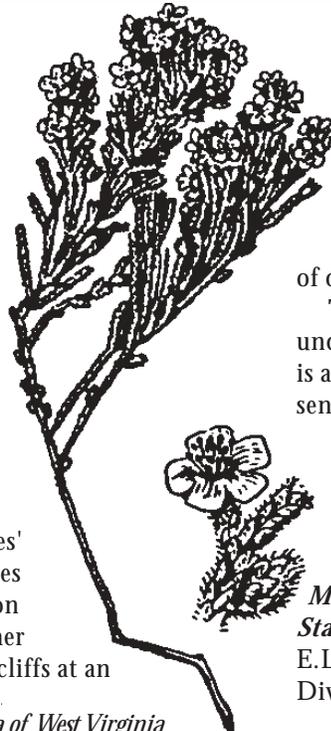
**Scientific name:** *Hudsonia tomentosa*

**State status:** Extremely rare in West Virginia, with just two occurrences in one county.

**Global status:** Common throughout its range.

**General description:** False heather is a low-growing, bushy heath-like shrub that is covered with small, scale-like downy leaves. It is sometimes called woolly hudsonia because of this down. In the spring, showy, but small, yellow flowers can be found clustered on the upper ends of the branches.

**Habitat:** Throughout much of this species' range, it is a coastal plant growing on beaches and sand dunes. In other areas it is found on sandy prairies. In West Virginia, false heather grows in sandy pockets amongst sandstone cliffs at an elevation of over 4,000 feet.



Flora of West Virginia

**Total range:** False heather is found from eastern Quebec south to North Carolina, inland across Ontario to Alberta, south to the Great Lakes and northern Indiana, central Illinois, and North Dakota; and disjunct in West Virginia.

**State range:** This species is found on the summit of only one mountain in Pendleton County.

**Threats to the species:** This species appears to be under little threat in West Virginia. Human trampling is a threat in other areas of this species range due to the sensitive nature of sandy habitats.

**Best time to look:** False heather can be seen anytime of the year, since most of its leaves remain on the branches. Look for its yellow flowers from May through July.

**Sources:** Gleason, H. and A. Cronquist. 1963. *Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*; Strausbaugh, P.D. and E.L. Core. 1970. *Flora of West Virginia*; Wildlife Diversity Program files.

--Barbara Sargent

# NW&NHP Is Now Wildlife Diversity Program

The Division of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program is changing its name to the West Virginia Wildlife Diversity Program, according to WVDNR Director Ed Hamrick.

So what is nongame wildlife? Songbirds, frogs, flying squirrels, turtles, eagles, salamanders, butterflies and wildflowers are considered nongame, species that are not hunted, trapped or fished. They are an integral part of the unique natural heritage of the Mountain State, and for over 20 years they have been studied, managed and conserved by the State's Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program that is part of the Wildlife Resources Section of the WVDNR.

"It has been my experience that people are confused by the term 'nongame'," says DNR Director Ed Hamrick. "It also has a negative connotation when applied to wildlife. Since the Wildlife Resources Section is responsible for managing all species of wildlife and their habitats, we felt the name 'Wildlife Diversity Program' better reflects our mission," continued Hamrick.

Throughout the history of wildlife management in the United States,

hunters and anglers have provided funding for all or most of the activities of state wildlife agencies, including the purchase of land for wildlife habitat, through federal excise taxes on equipment and license sales. As a result,

Since the Wildlife Resources Section is responsible for managing all species of wildlife and their habitats, we felt the name Wildlife Diversity Program better reflects our mission.

--Ed Hamrick, DNR Director

species for which we did not hunt, trap or fish received less attention and little funding. In 1982 an income tax check-off on the state tax form allowed citizens to donate a part or all of their refund to the Nongame Wildlife and Natural Heritage Program. Unfortunately, due to competition from checkoffs for other causes, funds from this source were not enough to sustain the Program. In 1994, in response to citizen demands that more funds be made available to this Program, the legislature appropriated about half a million dollars in general tax revenue to run the Program. In 1997, in order to establish a more permanent funding source, legislation

was passed establishing a motor vehicle license plate that features various wildlife species. "Funds are now adequate to match federal dollars that are becoming available through the Interior Appropriations process and other federal legislation," says Hamrick.

From a handful of biologists in the early 1980s, the Wildlife Diversity Program has grown to 18 fulltime and seasonal employees. Duties of the Program include surveying and monitoring the over 500 species of wildlife, 1,800 plant species and thousands of invertebrates; looking after the federally threatened and endangered species in the state; publishing books, pamphlets, a wildlife calendar and quarterly newsletter as well as providing numerous public presentations to educate the state's citizenry; provide learning opportunities such as the annual Wildlife Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park; offer grants to schools to develop outdoor classrooms; and develop watchable wildlife areas on state lands to name a few.

"All animals play a crucial role in the environment and are part of the intricate dynamic balance of nature. The new name 'Wildlife Diversity Program' accurately reflects the DNR's commitment to these vitally important resources."

## Come Join the Migration Celebration!

**Saturday, May 11**

**10 am-9 pm**

**at Winterplace Ski Resort**

**Birds of Prey ♦ Games ♦  
Photo workshops ♦ Silent Art  
Auction ♦ Live Music**

**Sponsored by**

**The Three Rivers Avian Center**

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## Record Thirteen Schools Funded For OWLS Program

A record number of Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (OWLS) proposals were funded for 2002. The OWLS program provides grants up to \$2,000 to any public or private school on a competitive basis for the creation of outdoor classrooms at or near school grounds. OWL sites are created to facilitate multi-disciplinary learning opportunities as well as creating or improving habitat for a variety of native wildlife.

Half of those awarded grants are highlighted in this issue with the rest being listed next issue.

Congratulations to these schools and all the faculty and volunteers who proposed such exciting projects that will increase students' understanding of the natural world.

### *New Manchester Elementary School OWLS*

*New Cumberland, Hancock County*

The major projects planned for this site will attract wildlife and promote the growth of native plants and aquatic life. Completed projects will generate a site for hands-on studies and observation for students and all members of the New Cumberland Community. Their proposal includes three phases. The OWLS grant provides funds for phase-one, which includes the development of butterfly and hummingbird gardens.

### *Hampshire High School Outdoor Learning Sanctuary (HOWLS)*

*Romney, Hampshire County*

The primary objectives for HOWLS (Hampshire Outdoor Learning Sanctuary) include the



establishment of habitat for a variety of animals. The school is providing a natural shelter where birds can feed and raise young. The students and teachers



*Students at the Buffalo Elementary and High School are already enjoying the results of their previously awarded OWLS grant. Their project combined the efforts of school and town volunteers.*

have selected a wide variety of native plants suitable to provide adequate shelter and nesting sites.

### *Berkeley Heights Elementary: The Outdoor Kids Laboratory*

*Martinsburg, Berkeley County*

The overall objective for the Outdoor Kids Laboratory is to create wildlife habitat and enhance existing landscape features to provide an outdoor setting for multi-disciplinary learning. Some of the many features proposed include a native wildflower garden for nectar seekers, an interpretive trail through a meadow that will be managed and maintained as a meadow and a bird feeding and nesting area.

### *Painter's Point Nature Classroom*

*EACHS Head Start, Franklin, Pendleton County*

The primary objective of this proposal is to develop a safe trail through the meadow and woodlands portion of the center's property. In the first year, students will complete an inventory of the plants and animals of both habitats and delineate the trail based on the elements they discover and the lay of the land. Bird and mammal nest boxes will be placed strategically near the trail to enhance the habitat for wildlife and to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities.

### *Bluefield Intermediate School OWLS*

*Bluefield, Mercer County*

The primary goals of this project include the re-establishment of a native plant meadow on the school grounds, and the addition of bird feeders and blue bird nest boxes on the site. The students have been and will continue to be involved in the environmental assessment of the site and in the design and planning of the features. This project is a continuation of a successful OWLS grant funded a few years ago.

### *Clay-Batelle Middle High School Nature Trail*

*Blacksville, Monongalia County*

The primary goals of this project will be to develop and enhance a wildlife sanctuary and develop an access trail through the sanctuary. School property already includes a mowed area and woodland area bisected by a stream. The features that will be developed on this site include a butterfly garden, bramble patch of native *Rubus* species, an arboretum, and access trail down the embankment to the stream. Students will utilize a greenhouse located at the school to propagate some plants for the site.

*--Emily Grafton*

**See next issue for more 2002 OWLS schools!**

## Results In From Successful Christmas Bird Count

The first official Elkins Area Christmas Bird Count was a success with a good time had by all.

Twenty people participated in the event held on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Fifty-eight species were recorded on the count day; this is the highest number of species ever recorded in the 20-year history of the Elkins Area Count.

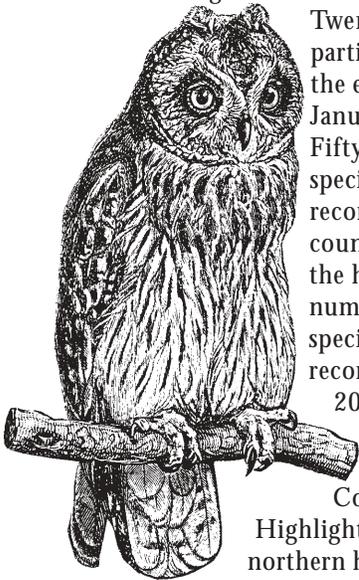
Highlights included a northern harrier and a common snipe.

Other Christmas Bird Counts across the state also were a success. Total species reported for each count were: Canaan Valley 53, Charleston 80, Hampshire County 59, Huntington 74, Inwood 73,

Lewisburg 60, McDowell County 44, Morgantown 56, Oak Hill 59, Ona 63, Parkersburg 70, Pipestem Area 71, Raleigh County 55, and Wheeling 45. Highlights across the state included: bald eagles at Charles Town, Hampshire County, Pipestem Area, and Parkersburg; golden eagle at Hampshire County;

merlin at Oak Hill and Parkersburg; short-eared owl at Inwood; sandhill cranes at Huntington; common loons in Charleston, Morgantown, Wheeling, and Ona; pine siskins at Canaan Valley; horned lark at Charles Town; and a loggerhead shrike at Lewisburg.

--Rob Tallman



### Butterfly Gardening, Continued From Page 1

butterflies you want to attract and the plants that will entice them, gather and sow the desired plant seeds ensuring the proper growing conditions for each plant type. Sun and shade relationships should be assessed, as well as plant groupings. Even with limited space you can still create a world for butterflies.

Many preferred food plants make attractive borders and can be planted in cool shady spots (such as violets) or, as in the case of vines, be trained to archways and fences, thus expanding your garden.

If the area you select is already a natural area, few alterations may be required. Open places such as meadows

are subject to natural succession and may need to be mowed periodically to keep out brush. Only a section should be mowed in any one year so as not to upset the established life cycles of butterflies in unmowed sections. Situating your butterfly garden near a woodland may also attract more species.

Several potions may be used to attract butterflies and moths. One favorite is: 1 bottle of beer spiked with banana, several tablespoons of brown sugar and molasses, ½ cup of raisins and several apple slices. Homogenize the mixture in a blender and store it in a loosely capped bottle for several days. Once the mixture has fermented it is ready for use. For moths, liberally brush on tree trunks. To attract butterflies, soak a sponge in a bowl and place it in broken sunlight or open shade. A slight breeze will broadcast the aroma.

There is no secret formula – but the more time you spend butterfly gardening and the more willing you are to experiment, the more accurately you will be able to assess your butterflies' needs. Butterfly gardening can be a new and enjoyable pastime—as well as enhancing your surroundings and the quality of your environment.

--Tom Allen

### Who Wants To Be A Biologist?



Congratulations to all our players who correctly answered the fall and winter trivia questions. The correct answer for the smallest owl in WV, was the saw-whet. **Carolyn Ruddle of Franklin** was the winner.

Other correct answers were provided by **Bruce Greene**, Elkview; **David Plowright**, Romney; **John Peters**, East Bank; **Jerry Grady**, Given; **Dave Pyle**, Finksburg, MD; **Annie Snyder**, Davis; **Kathryn Gillespie**, Elkins; **Alan Dolan**, Massillon, OH; and **Lilly Dennison**, Clem.

The correct answer for the winter contest about the the chemical pesticide that caused egg shell thinning on many birds of prey was dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, commonly known as DDT. **Calvin Flanagan of Romney** was the winner, but correct answers were also submitted by: **Daniel Walters**, Elkins; **Emily Johnson**, Export, PA; **Charles Williams**, Berkeley Springs;

**John Peters**, East Bank; **Jerry Grady**, Given; **Hallie Sims**, Ballengee; **Ed & Maria Bray**, Bruce Greene, Elkview; **Verna Anson**, Martinsburg; and **Dave Pyle**, Finksburg, MD.

This issue's question is: **What is the only amphibian in the state that is federally listed as threatened or endangered?**

#### Official Rules:

Clearly print your answer on a postcard along with your name, address and phone number and send it to: WV DNR, Wildlife Diversity Newsletter, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, **Attention: trivia contest** or email [nbrossfregonara@dnr.state.wv.us](mailto:nbrossfregonara@dnr.state.wv.us).

Only one postcard will be accepted per household, per question.

Postcards for this issue's contest question must be postmarked by **April 15, 2002** and this issue's winner will be sent **the WV Watchable Wildlife Guide**.

Please do not call our office and ask for the answers. That would be too easy, but you can visit our website: [www.dnr.state.wv.us](http://www.dnr.state.wv.us) and search for clues.

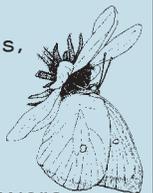
Employees of the WV DNR and the Nongame Wildlife & Natural Heritage Program and their families are ineligible. Each winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by the postmarked deadline.

### Butterfly Magnets

**Spring:** lilacs, azaleas, violets, phlox.

**Summer:** clovers, veggies and herbs, daisies, coneflowers, milkweeds, butterflyweed, sunflowers.

**Fall:** ironweed, native thistles, joe-pye-weed, asters, golden-rods, bee balm, butterfly bush, mint, cardinal flowers, vetch, nettles, yarrow.



## "Wildlife Diversity" Weekend Schedule Announced

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual 2002 Wildlife Weekend at Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis, WV will be held this year on June 7, 8, and 9.

The cost will be \$125 per person for a lodge room or cabin (for children 5 to 12 years of age the cost is \$62.50 per person). This fee includes registration, two nights lodging, 3 meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner) and evening refreshments Friday and Saturday.

If you wish to participate and do not need lodging, the cost will be \$60 per person. This covers meals Saturday, evening refreshments and registration. There is an \$18 registration fee for the weekend, or \$12 for just Saturday if you do not require meals or lodging.

### Friday, June 7, 2002

1pm-- Registration Begins

2pm to 4 or 5pm

*Tour of Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge*--Jackie Burns, USFWS

*Butterflies of WV*--Tom Allen, WVDNR

*Fern Identification on the Yellow Birch Trail*, Emily Grafton, WVDNR

3pm-- *Tour of Blackwater Falls State Park*--Paulita Cousin, Park Naturalist

#### *Dinner on Your Own*

6:30pm--Welcome/Introductions

NEW! 6:30-7:45--*Evening Program for Children*--Emily Grafton and Jim Fregonara, WVDNR

7pm--*Inviting Wildlife to Your Backyard*--Scott Shalaway, Outdoor Writer

8pm--*WV Raptors in the Environment*--Wendy and Ron Perrone, Three Rivers Raptor Center

9pm--Social & Field Trip Sign up

### MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

If you are interested in making some "Music in the Mountains" in the evenings bring along your favorite instrument for some informal pickin' in the Park!



9:30pm--*Evening Field Trips*

*Salamanders*--Tom Pauley, Marshall University

*Owl Prowl*--Rob Tallman, WVDNR

*Bats*--Kieran O'Malley, WVDNR

### Saturday, June 8, 2002

6:30am Bird Walks

#### *Breakfast Buffet--Lodge*

All Day Field Trips--Must Pre-register (in registration packet)

7am--*Warbler Walk at Fernow Experimental Forest*--Brete Griffin and Joey Herron, Naturalists

8:45am--*Dolly Sods Trip*--Kieran O'Malley and Jennifer Wykle, WVDNR

9am--*Nature Mountain Biking Trip in the Blackwater Canyon*--Dale Porter, Mountain State Wheeler's Bike Club and Brian McDonald, WVDNR

9am--*Choice of one Workshop:*

*Small Mammals*--Sue Olcott, WVDNR

*Amphibian Walk*--Jeff Hajenga, WVDNR

*WV Snakes*--Frank Jernejcic, WVDNR

*Fish Identification & Streamlife*--Dan Cincotta, WVDNR

*Cathedral State Park*--Pat Hissom, Blackwater Naturalist

*Nature Workshop for Children--Crafts, Scavenger Hunt, Animal Painting & More!*--Jim Fregonara, WVDNR

*Historical Uses of Animals and Plants by Indians of the 18th Century*, Doug Wood, WVDEP

*Close-up Photography Workshop*--Bill Beatty, Professional Nature Photographer

*Raptors*--Wendy and Ron Perrone

*Orienteering Workshop*--P.J. Harmon, WVDNR

#### *Noon Lunch Buffet--Lodge*

1:30pm *Choice of one field trip:*

*Animal Tracking*--Doug Wood, WVDEP & Dianne Anestis, Naturalist

*Canaan Valley Wetland & Amphibian Walk*--Ed Michael, WVU, & Tom Pauley, MU

*Mushrooms, Wild and Wonderful*--Bill Roody, WVDNR

*Cave Trip to Bowden Cave*--Craig Stihler & Jack Wallace, WVDNR,

*Daubin House Trail: History, Botany & Wildlife*--Emily Grafton and Sue Olcott, WVDNR

*Streamlife Scavenger Hunt for Children*--Dan Cincotta, WVDNR

*Trip to Snake Den*--Frank Jernejcic, WVDNR

*Geology and Paleoecology of Canaan Area*--John Northeimer, Canaan Valley State Park Naturalist

*Butterflies of WV*--Tom Allen

*Interpretive Plant Hike*--PJ Harmon

#### *4:30--6:30pm Dinner*

#### *Buffet--Lodge*

7pm-- *To Be Announced*

8pm-- *"West Virginia Up Close"*

Bill Beatty--Professional Nature Photographer

9:30--*Evening Field Trips*

*Salamanders*--Tom Pauley

*Owl Prowl*--Brete Griffin and Rob Tallman

*Bats*--Jack Wallace & Craig Stihler

### Sunday, June 9, 2002

6:30am Bird Walks

#### *Breakfast on Your Own*

8:30am Sunday Service

9:30am *Informal Workshops:*

*Teacher's Workshop*--Emily Grafton

*Amphibians & Reptiles*--Jeff Hajenga

*Mammals*--Sue Olcott

*Mushrooms*--Bill Roody

*Fish*--Dan Cincotta

*Other Displays*--Staff

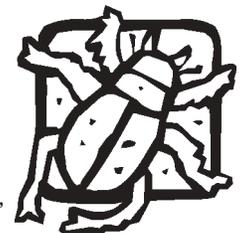
11am *Recap of Weekend Events*--Jim Fregonara

11:15am *Door Prizes & Adjournment*

**Please Note:  
Schedule is subject to  
change**

### Make Tracks to Come!

If you are interested in attending this year's event, please write Dawn Hale, WV DNR, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, call (304) 637-0245 or email dhale@dnr.state.wv.us for a registration packet. You must send your reservation form directly to Blackwater Falls State Park.

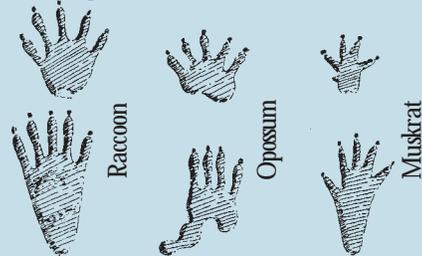


# Kids Crafts

## Keeping Track of Critters

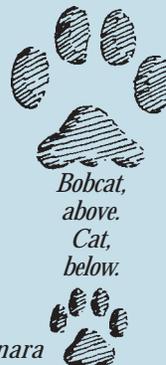
Here's a fun way to find out who walks about the woods when you're not looking! Pick an area of the woods (or at the wood's edge) where you can clear an area about the size of a hula-hoop. Carefully move away any plants and debris to make a nice level surface of earth.

Test the earth with your own hands to see if a print will show up when pressure is applied. Then smooth down the surface again gently. If some more loose soil needs to be added to make the area impressionable, do so.



Place some sardines or cat food (the stinkier the better) in the center of the dirt circle. Leave the area alone overnight, then come back to see what animals checked out the food. Use a field guide such as *Peterson Field Guide to Animal Tracks* or *Stokes Nature Guides: A Guide To Nature in Winter*, to identify the paw prints of the critters who walked about. Looking at the track, try to determine how that animal walks. Are there visible "toenails" or claws? Some animals, like raccoons and bears walk on their hands while others walk or run on their toes, like cats and coyotes. Also look for tracks near the edge of a pond where mud often makes excellent casts of prints.

--Jim Fregonara



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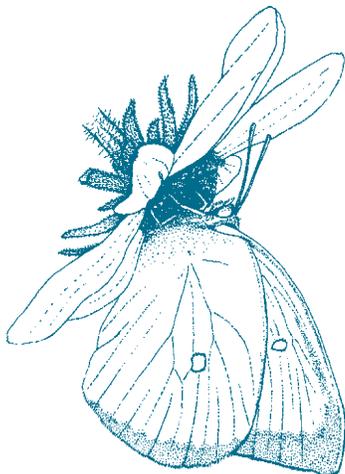


Illustration by Sam Norris