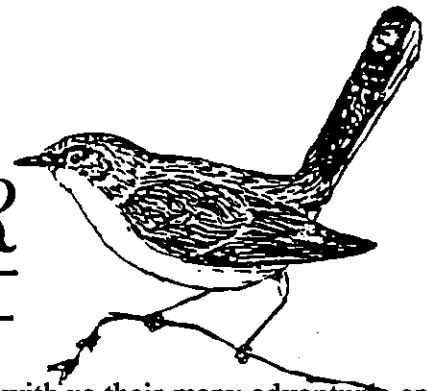


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

November 1989



**NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM:** Marcia and Bruce Bonta will share with us their many adventures on their travels to Latin America. Their talk, "Natural History of Costa Rica," will emphasize the flora and fauna of that country, along with an update on how Costa Rica is attempting to preserve its natural heritage. The meeting is Tuesday, November 28 at the 28th Street Church of the Brethren at Union Avenue and 28th Street in Altoona. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm with the business segment, followed by the program at 7:30. PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE IN SCHEDULING FROM LAST YEAR.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Angeline Stout

JVAS will hold its count on Saturday, December 16th. Our count takes place within a 15 mile circle centering on Culp in Sinking Valley. Statistics of the count are mailed to National Audubon Society with the results being published in American Birds. Past participants have spent 1 - 10 hours walking their back yards or favorite birding hot spots. Many people never leave their homes but turn in interesting and important feeder counts. There are always surprises, like the Golden Eagle seen on CBC 1985, Barred Owl 1986, or to many people's surprise, bluebirds which we have seen on the last 8 counts. Something that isn't a surprise is the good covered dish supper and stories of the bird who got away. We'll meet at the Sinking Valley Grange, at dusk, after the count. Cost is a dish of your choice.

If you have any questions see me after November 28th meeting or call 946-5214 after 6 PM, please. Last years participants will be mailed a check off list in the next few weeks. Hope you will join us and make this one of your holiday traditions.

## HAWK MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

Dave Kyler

Juniata Valley Audubon was once again on the move, Saturday, November 4, 1989. Our destination that sunny morning was the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary near Pottsville, PA.

Arriving at 11:00 am after a 3-1/2 hour trip, our group made their way to the restrooms, gift shop and north lookout in that order.

At the sanctuary, in addition to the established display room, birdfeeding station and gift shop, we found the "Habitat," a landscaped pond with cascading water and also a new brick pathway for handicapped visitors.

At the north lookout, a high altitude rocky overlook, we were witness to over 200 red-tailed hawks heading for the Carolinas and Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. In their company were lesser numbers of northern harrier, red-shouldered hawk, and osprey.

After a stop in Port Clinton for fresh roasted peanuts (Ummm) and a supper at Ponderosa in Harrisburg, we arrived back in Altoona at 10:00 pm.

The next scheduled field trip will be to the Pittsburgh Aviary on Saturday, January 20, 1990. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a great days outing.

# INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Bruce Bonta

The International Issues Interest Group (IIIG) recently learned that we will be receiving another grant in support of our exchange program with Peru. The Bay Foundation in New York awarded us \$1500, which will add to the \$2500 we received from the New Land Foundation to greatly strengthen our program for Peruvian conservation.

Our first project with this money will be to bring two of Peru's leading conservationists, Cecilia Mendiola and Antonio Brack, to central Pennsylvania for several weeks next April. They will be our banquet speakers on April 24th for a program focusing, in the spirit of Earth Day, on the social and environmental realities in Peru. During their visit, we plan to involve them in JVAS committee meetings, local environmental education ventures, talks with parks and resource managers in our area, visits to some of our outstanding natural areas, and more.

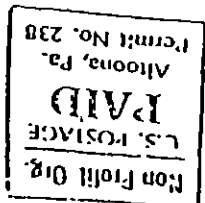
The IIIG will be meeting on Friday evening, December 8th, at 7:00 pm in the basement classroom of the Eiche Library on the Altoona Campus. Part of the meeting will be devoted to planning for the visit of the Peruvians. Another major issue on our agenda will be a review of the rapidly-developing environmental consciousness in the Philippines and plans for the future of our exchange program with the Asian Wetlands Bureau office there.

Our mini-program for the meeting will deal with the importance of People-to-People contacts in supporting conservation and sustainable development in the Third World, with a special focus on Belize. Jon Lyon, graduate student at Penn State in Ecology, will present a talk and slides on the "Community Baboon Sanctuary in Belize: An Experiment in Grassroots Conservation." Everyone interested in these issues is invited to join us on the 8th.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

There will be no Gnatcatcher in December. Please submit items before Friday, January 19 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

STAN KOTALA  
BOX 866 RD 3  
ALTOONA  
PA 16601



DATED MATERIAL

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P. O. Box 2378  
Altoona, PA 16603