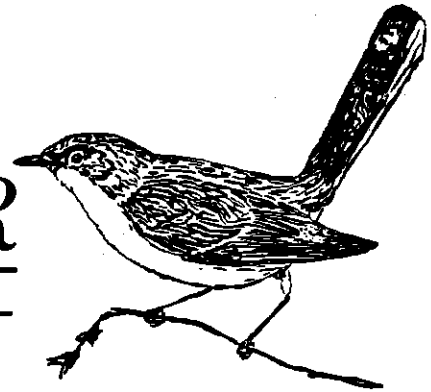


# THE GNATCATCHER

November 1985 Juniata Valley Audubon Society



## November's Program

David Middleton, our scheduled speaker for November, recently moved to Oregon, so John Lennox, our program chair has arranged for a substitute program.

First, we'll see a film that explains the Audubon Energy Program.

Second, John Orr, Chairman of the newly created Tytoona Cave Committee, will show slides of the cave and explain JVAS's role in protecting it. Some of the slides are of the interior accessible only to experienced cave divers; for many of us this will be the only chance we'll ever have to view the soda straw stalactites that are among the best examples of this feature in the whole world.

Don't miss this meeting at the 28th St. Church of the Brethren at 7:30 p.m. on November 26.

Thanks Tom!

October's meeting was one of the best. Tom Troy of Audubon's Mid-Atlantic Office presented an informative and beautifully illustrated talk on the problems facing our National Wildlife Refuges, especially Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge. We thank him!

## Fossil Walk

Thanks to John Lennox and Teddie Kreitz the fossil walk field trip on November 9 was a great success for the six children and five adults who attended. Some splendid specimens were found: Fay Dean found a huge trilobite, and Paula Ford found a crinoid "flower." All of children found plenty of bachiopods at the Berwind site. It didn't even rain!

## Membership Drive

As part of a special membership drive, National Audubon Society is offering new members a special rate for their first year's dues. The fee will be \$20. If you know anyone who would like to join, contact Fran Burgoon (695-5857) for details and a special membership form.

## *Hello, Audubon Hotline?*

**DON'T BE SCOOPED.** Keep up with environmental issues. Find out when decisions are being made in the nation's capital and what you can do to help.

The *Audubon Hotline*, (202) 547-9017, is ready to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A recorded message gives you background information and current status of Audubon's priority issues. The message is updated every week. The *Hotline* lets you know when sounding off will do the most good.

For more information on legislative issues, contact the National Audubon Society's capital office. Phone: (202) 547-9009. The address is: 645 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20009.

**(202) 547-9017**

*Audubon Hotline*

from the President's Desk  
by Marcia Bonta

CHRISTMAS GIFTS--If you are looking for Christmas gifts for naturally-gifted people, be sure to check out the gift table operated by Dick and Nona Weicht at every meeting. Not only will you get bargains, but you'll be helping to fill our coffers as well. Also, consider a gift subscription to America's most popular bird magazine--Bird Watchers' Digest. You can subscribe through Vice President John Lennox at the regular price of \$11.00 and BWD will let our chapter keep their profit--a good deal for us and them.

TRAVELERS--The National Audubon Society has recently instituted an excellent travel program which features special Audubon tour guides. In 1986 there will be guided tours to Baja California, Alaska, the Seychelles, the Red Sea, the Great Barrier Reef, the Danube, the Nile, Greek Islands, Endlish Gardens, Kenya Highlights, Livingstonian Safari (Kenya & Tanzania), and African Hinterland Safari (Zimbabwe, Botswana, & Zambia). JVAS will receive a substantial commission for each member or friend who goes on a tour. The more people who go on one tour, the bigger the commission for JVAS. This commission applies to all members and to anyone who hears about the tours through JVAS. If you are interested, contact me for more information. Or write to National Audubon Society, Travel/Marketing, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Or call (212) 546-9140. Please mention JVAS if you write or call.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT AND COVERED DISH DINNER--Even if you don't count birds, you can join the fun at the Skelp Grange Hall at 5:30 p.m. on December 21 when all the exhausted birders stagger in to eat, drink, and brag about the unusual birds they saw. Just bring your favorite main course, bread, salad, or dessert to share. JVAS will provide a ham. Kathy Burgoon (695-5857) is in charge of the covered dish and would appreciate some help. (For more details on the Christmas Bird Count, see Angeline Stout's information sheet enclosed in this newsletter.)

SEED SALE--JVAS made over \$600 profit on our bird seed sale held October 19. I'd like to specially thank John Lennox who organized it, Doris Thurheimer who did the paper work, and Bob Keppler who supervised the workers. Without the following people who helped on that dreary, wet day, we couldn't have managed: Wendy Reimold, Jean Holland, Alice Goodlin, Dora Brown, Janet Neely, Doris Thurheimer, Nona and Dick Weicht, John, Colin, and Emily Lennox, Eileen Benson, Fran Burgoon, and Rob Loeb. Rick and Scott Imler of Imlers' Agway also assisted. A big thanks to all of you! The bird feeder donated to us by Agway was won by Mr. Becker of Duncansville.

PHOTOGRAPHERS--I need those slides of JVAS activities for Audubon's Mid-Atlantic office by December 1. Please bring me some to the Nov. 26 meeting.

BIRD IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP--It isn't too early to mark Jan. 11 on your new 1986 calendar. That's when Dave Kyler, super birder, will hold a bird identification workshop at the Altoona Campus, Science II Building, Room 101 from 2 to 5 p.m. This indoor outing should appeal to all those who joined Audubon so they could learn more about birds.

#### World of Audubon

Wyoming bighorn sheep. Once a few hundred survived; today they are more than six thousand strong. Follow their migration from alpine peaks to lush valleys.

Then soar among the treetops of Costa Rica's rainforest. Meet ecologists who set fires to save wildlife. And swim with friendly tropical giants called manatees.

Watch "World of Audubon" on Dec. 2 at 10:05 p.m. Rebroadcast dates are Dec 11 at 11:05 p.m., Dec. 16 at 6:05 p.m., and Dec. 23 at 12:05 a.m.

## Top Ten Nesters

According to Pennsylvania's Breeding Bird Survey, these are the top ten nesting birds in the commonwealth:

Robin  
Song sparrow  
Gray catbird  
American crow  
Blue jay  
Common yellowthroat  
Chipping sparrow  
Indigo bunting  
Northern cardinal  
Goldfinch

## Year of the Forest

Trees enhance the quality of life in Pennsylvania in many ways, so all across the commonwealth residents will celebrate 1986 as the Year of the Forest.

As part of this celebration, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association is offering Year of the Forest Activity Packets. Each packet contains a calendar of special events, two hemlock seedlings, a Year of the Forest bumper sticker, and a reproduction of the 1931 proclamation (with art by John Sidelinger) that officially designated the hemlock as Pennsylvania's state tree.

A limited supply of the packets will be available, so you must order as soon as possible. Packets will be shipped in April 1986 at the proper time for planting the hemlocks. Cost per packet is \$6.30, postage and handling included. Send orders to  
Year of the Forest  
c/o Stathmeyer Forests  
R.D. 1, Box 247, Zeigler Rd.  
Dover, PA 17315

## Chesapeake Bay Grant

EPA has announced a \$2.175 million grant to Pennsylvania for grants to help clean up pollution in the Chesapeake. The money will be used to help farmers install management practices that will combat nonpoint source pollution and reduce erosion.

## Bottle Bill Update by Paula Ford

On October 29, the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approved the bottle bill by a vote of 20 to 2. The margin of this vote surprised many who were closely involved with the recent lobby day. It's great to report a pleasant surprise for a change.

We've won a battle, but the war is far from over. The next step will be either a floor vote of the whole House or a referral to another committee. Considering how long the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee tied up this important legislation and considering the political and financial strength of the glass industry, our next move has to be a push for a floor vote.

Here's what you can do:

1. Write to Representatives James Manderino and Leroy Irvis and ask them to bring H.B. 479 up for a full House vote. Remind them of the strong show of support from the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee. If you prefer to call, Rep. Manderino's phone number is (717) 783-5360, and Rep. Irvis's is (717) 787-4610.
2. If you live in the Hollidaysburg area or the Tyrone area and you haven't already written, write to your representative (Hbg.--Rep. Edwin Johnson; Tyrone--Rep. Samuel Hayes, Jr.) and thank him for his support of this important legislation.
3. If you live in Altoona, write to Rep. Richard Geist and ask him why he hasn't supported this bill.

Address your letters to  
Rep.  
House Post Office  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

# Wildlife Report Available

The Audubon Wildlife Report 1985, a new publication from the National Audubon Society, traces the history of 20th century wildlife management and discusses its role in protecting our wildlife resources. A thorough reference to the nation's major wildlife management programs, the 671-page book examines the history, legislation, budget, current trends, issues and responsibilities of such agencies as the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Forest Service.

The first edition in an annual series, the Audubon Wildlife Report 1985 includes authoritative accounts on federal migratory bird management, animal damage control, endangered species management, wetlands preservation, marine mammal protection and many more subjects. Twelve chapters are devoted to individual species such as the grizzly bear, California condor, bald eagle, desert bighorn and green pitcher plant.

Diligently researched and authoritatively written, the report will be welcomed by Auduboners with a serious and active commitment to wildlife conservation.

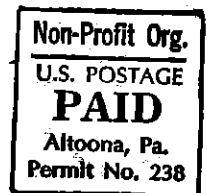
To order, send \$16.50 (make checks payable to National Audubon Society) to Audubon Wildlife Report, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.



*The Carolina parakeet succumbed to overhunting and habitat loss in a time when government turned a deaf ear to the plight of wildlife. The Audubon Wildlife Report 1985 examines the federal agencies and wildlife programs that help avert such extinctions today.*

*Flash: Smler's Agway will give you a 10% discount on feeders if you show your membership card.*

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



*Dated  
Material*