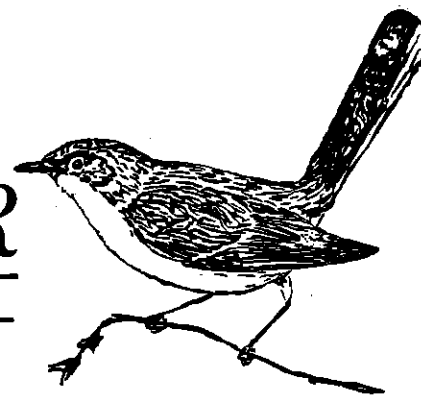


# THE GNATCATCHER

September 1985 Juniata Valley Audubon Society



From the President's Desk

by Marcia Bonta

PROGRAM: Bruce and I hope all of you will come to see our slide show/talk on "The Natural History of Peru." So often we forget how important our sister countries to the south are to our own efforts to conserve birds. For instance, last year one of our Pennsylvania ospreys was shot in Peru's Amazonian rainforest by Indians for food. Furthermore, choice habitats are being logged, mined, and farmed by both large corporations and individual poor peasant families. And while the government in Peru has set aside a fine system of parks and reserves, they cannot afford to pay personnel or to educate the public about what they are doing. Many of the parks we will be talking about are threatened by a variety of problems; some may not exist much longer if they do not get help.

National Audubon now has Ms. Frances Lipscomb in charge of international issues in cooperation with the International Council for Bird Preservation and RARE. These two organizations are familiar with Peru's problems, so I wrote to them and discovered that a donation in any amount would help to support an environmental education project being launched there to inform the local people of what they have and how they can maintain it.

We could also help with studies of endangered species--specifically the Humboldt penguin and diving petrels. Since we have completed our pledge to the Osprey Fund (sending in \$1050 over a five-year period), why not consider donating money to help our birds while they winter in Peru. I will have a can on the back table at our first meeting, if you feel inclined to help after you have seen our presentations on the magnificent wildlife of Peru. Thanks!

ATTENTION BIRDERS: Angeline Stout will be in charge of our Christmas Bird Count on December 21; she needs all the help she can get, especially from old-time birders who know the ropes. Angeline wants to get started immediately on this, so if you plan to participate, please call her at 946-5214.

David Kyler is doing an excellent job as coordinator of the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas in Blair and Huntingdon Counties, but he needs more participants. If you want to become part of this important work next year, please contact Dave (Route 4, Huntingdon, PA 16652) now so he can give you the information you will need. You will also receive the interesting Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Newsletter from Daniel Brauning, the very competent state director of the atlas.  
(cont.)

As part of our field trip programs we are having a number of outings led by outstanding birders. These outings will help you to learn your birds: Waggoner's Gap in October for birds of prey, Middle Creek Management Area in March for waterfowl, and Black Moshannon State Park in May for songbirds. In addition, Dave Kyler is running a bird identification workshop in February for those who need to brush up or even start from scratch. So don't let "unexpert" status keep you from joining in and helping with both the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Finally, a late flash for birders from the Sept./Oct. Bird Watchers' Digest--Dr. Ernest P. Edwards for Sweet Briar College in Virginia would like to have nationwide participants in a Thanksgiving Bird Count which the college has been cosponsoring with the Lynchburg, Virginia, Bird Club since 1966. You need to be able to spend one uninterrupted hour on Thanksgiving Day in observing a previously designated area 15 feet in diameter, counting each bird seen there. They welcome anyone who has even a tiny yard or window feeder as well as those with large yards, gardens, or even woods and fields. If you want to join in, write to Dr. Ernest P. Edwards, Thanksgiving Bird Count, Dept. BWD, Sweet Briar, VA 24595, and he will send you the rules and count forms. This sounds like great fun, and I plan to do it. After all, shouldn't we birders be thankful for birds as well as for all our other blessings?

VIRGINIA KRICK: All of us in Juniata Valley Audubon Society were saddened to hear of Miss Krick's death this summer and extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family. Miss Krick lived life to its fullest with a special spirit of determination that we all admired. Those of us who went on the Rickett's Glen field trip will never forget how Miss Krick covered

those eight miles in pouring rain. She so desperately wanted to see this loveliest of Pennsylvania's natural areas. Her grit on that occasion and her assurance to me that it was the best day of her life despite adversity were truly inspiring. Whenever I think of getting old gracefully and never giving up, I remember Miss Krick. I hope I have her same determination when I reach my eighties!

#### Bottle Bill Needs a Friend in Pennsylvania

Your support is urgently needed for H.B. 479, the Reusable Container Act. This bill--often referred to as the "Bottle Bill"--is currently before the Pa. House of Representatives. Please write or call your state representative today and ask him or her to support H.B. 479.

#### Background

H.B. 479 would require a five-cent deposit on all beer and soft drink containers sold in Pennsylvania. Similar laws have already been passed in nine states, including neighboring New York and Delaware. Deposit bills have a proven record of reducing litter, conserving energy, and creating jobs.

Pennsylvania conservationists have been trying to pass container deposit legislation for almost ten years. These bills have never been voted out of committee because of strong opposition from the glass industry and little visible support from Pennsylvania's citizens.

#### Current situation

This year all of our hard work might actually pay off. H.B. 479 is presently before the House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee. We are confident that the bill will be reported out of the committee and come before the full House for a floor vote in mid October. When it does we must be there. Your support is essential.

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Now our opponents will be there. The glass industry is well-organized and well-financed. Busloads of glass workers attended recent public hearings held around the state.

Skilled lobbyists have orchestrated an effective letter-writing campaign based on partial truths. The glass industry is sure to come out in full force when the issue comes up for a vote.

The odds seem against us, but we can win this one if we are committed enough to work hard. Audubon activists must speak up with letters, telephone calls, and visits to Harrisburg. This is the most important conservation issue to come before the Pennsylvania Legislature for some time.

#### Our position

The National Audubon Society strongly supports H. B. 479. Deposit legislation reduces litter, conserves energy, reduces the waste flow to landfills, and creates jobs.

Michigan reports a net gain of almost 10,000 jobs as they recycle 15,000 tons of aluminum and 65,000 tons of glass each year since enacting deposit legislation. Alcoa and Reynolds Aluminum both opened recycling plants in Michigan. Other states with deposit legislation report similar successes. New York reduced its roadside litter by 80% in the first year of its program.

Solid waste management is a serious problem in Pennsylvania. We are running out of places to put our trash. A bottle bill is one giant step toward solving this problem for the long term.

#### What you can do

1. Write to your state representative. Ask him to support H.B. 479, the Reusable Container Act. Also urge your representative to contact Rep. Samuel Morris, Chairman of the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, and let Rep. Morris know of his support for the bill. Address your letters to

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
House Post Office  
Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

#### Representatives:

Altoona	Richard Geist
Hollidaysburg area	Edwin Johnson
Tyrone area	Samuel Hayes, Jr.

2. Send a copy of your letter to House Leader James Manderino at the above address and ask him to bring H.B. 479 before the House for a vote.

3. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in support of H.B. 479. In your own words, explain why the bill is important to you. If you've noticed a difference in states with bottle bills where you've travelled, that might be a useful comment to include.

4. Come to Harrisburg on Wednesday, October 16, 1985, to participate in a state-wide Deposit Bill Lobby Day. This one-day, action packed event will include briefing sessions, information booths, a press conference, and the opportunity to lobby your state reps. If you plan to attend, please call Paula Ford (695-4799) for more information and to arrange car-pooling. Paula will let Audubon's regional office know how many JVAS members will be attending, so sign up by October 10.

(MARO)



#### Field Trip to Waggoner's Gap

Our first field trip of the year should be a great one. We'll be looking for birds of prey at Waggoner's Gap. Meet at the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center at 6:00 a.m. or at the Huntingdon McDonalds at 6:45 a.m. Bring a bag lunch. Call Bob Keppler (695-0742) for more information.

Bob has put together a fine program of field trips for the year, and we thank him.