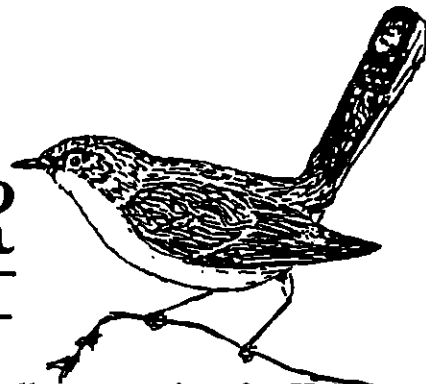


# THE GNATCATCHER

Juniata Valley Audubon Society

October 1989



**OCTOBER'S PROGRAM:** Our October program is especially appropriate for Halloween: "Pennsylvania's Bats" will be presented by Cal Butchkowski. 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. The meeting is Tuesday, October 31 at the 28th Street Church of The Brethren at Union Avenue and 28th Street in Altoona.

## INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Jim Winsor

The International Issues Interest Group held its most recent meeting on September 29. We heard a report from the Philippines Committee, which had gathered earlier in the evening. Efforts to obtain field equipment (i.e. binoculars and spotting telescopes) for naturalists in the Philippines have been very successful. Contacts with conservation groups, chiefly the Asian Wetland Bureau, are developing quickly.

We also discussed the possibility of a field trip to Costa Rica within the next two years, and discussed support for the Wilson Botanical Garden, as a "adopt a garden" approach. Laura and Mike Jackson reported on the growth of a national organization, Save the Rainforest, and efforts on the part of their students to raise money for tropical forest conservation. The Jacksons also reported on their involvement with the new Audubon teleconference program, through which Audubon members discuss designated issues by telephone conference calls.

Much of the meeting was devoted to preliminary plans for the visit of APECO members Cecilia Mendiola and Antonio Brack from Peru next spring. The exact timing of the visit is yet to be decided, but we plan for it to coincide with the Annual IVAS banquet. Numerous activities, all chosen to involve our visitors with local conservation programs and events, were suggested.

New participants are welcome to join the International Issues Group, or just visit our meetings. Please contact the International Issues chair, Bruce Bonta, for the date of the next meeting.

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Wilson Kreitz

On September 26, 1989 the Juniata Valley Audubon Society began its 20th year as an organization dedicated to the preservation of our environment.

In an effort to maintain our connections with our past, many of our charter members were invited to come, listen to, see the raptors and share cake and coffee with current members. Present were John Orr, John McCall, Truth Close, Mary Slippey, Fran Burgoon, and the Rev. and Mrs. Brumbaugh. I apologize if I've missed any of our early members who were present.

Our program that evening was on raptors and was presented by our own Jana Atwell and Kelly Schaeffer from Shaver's Creek Environmental Center.

The live birds, hawks, both buteo and accipiter, the sparrow hawk, screech-owls and great horned were very popular.

We'd like to thank Jana, Kelly and their bird friends for getting this year off to a really fine start.

Following the meeting the group had pieces of our anniversary cake, with coffee and tea.

Just in case you didn't take a head count, I believe we had between 103-105 persons at the meeting, hope we can keep it up!

## NATURE TOUR TO CENTRAL AMERICA

There is still time to register for the March trip to Belize and Tikal, Guatemala. The major themes of the trip will be natural history, birding and conservation.

An itinerary customized for the group includes Tikal and all of the habitats of Belize: -- world's 2nd largest barrier reef -- tropical forests (primary and secondary) -- mangrove swamps -- marshes -- savannahs -- Caribbean pine forests.

Tour Guide: Dora Weyer - Belize's foremost naturalist, a founder of Belize Audubon Society, and environmental consultant to the government of Belize.

### SPECIAL FEATURES

- \*\* all-day trip on the barrier reef to view coral, tropical fish, the famous Blue Holes, and seabirds
- \*\* 6 Belizean nature reserves including Cockscomb Basin Jaguar Reserve and the new Rio Bravo Reserve, formerly Coca-Cola lands
- \*\* reception and dinner with and briefing by staff and Board of Belize Audubon Society, manager of many of Belize's national reserves
- \*\* comparisons of slash-and-burn agriculture with 2 types of sustainable agriculture
- \*\* selective mahogany logging
- \*\* Mayan ruins of Xunantunich, Belize, and magnificent Tikal
- \*\* Parrot's Woods Biological Station

**Registration Deadline: November 15, 1989**

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Please send me the complete itinerary and a registration form for Audubon Council of Pennsylvania's Nature Tour to Belize and Tikal, March 11-15, 1990.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: World Tours, Inc. P.O. Box 693, Silver Spring, MD 20901, (301) 593-2522 or (until Oct 7 only) Barb Warren, Treas., ACP, P.O. Box 430, Mt. Wolf, PA 17347, (717) 266-3530.

### HAWK MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP

Early Saturday morning we will be leaving Pleasant Valley Shopping Center for a field trip to one of the most famous hawk watching locations in North America. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, located just east of Pottsville, PA is a natural funnel in the Appalachians that channels migrating raptors on their travels south. In addition to the passing hawks and eagles overhead, the sanctuary also has an interesting gift shop, display room and outdoor feeding stations. Bring a bag lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, field guides and a comfortable cushion. Van transportation is available. \$20.00/person. Leaving P.V.S.C. at 6 a.m. back at 9 p.m. Contact: Dave Kyler, 643-6030.

### BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be held Thursday, November 9 at 7 pm in the board room (basement) of the Altoona Public Library.

## Some Post-Convention Thoughts

by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

**T**hink big. Challenge the system. Fight for what you believe in." These fighting words were uttered by John Turner, the new director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in September, at the National Audubon Society Convention in Tucson, Arizona.

Coming from a public official, those words are refreshing and should give us all hope that a new wind is blowing in our nation's capital. We will need our government's support—engendered by a renewed commitment on our end—if we are to fight effectively against an increasingly virulent anti-environment campaign by some narrow-minded interests on several specific environmental issues.

- After EPA chief William Reilly began a review of the Two Forks Dam project in Colorado that is likely to result in the project's veto, the Denver Water Board and other Two Forks partisans joined forces to mount an intense, multi-million-dollar lobbying effort to have Mr. Reilly's decision reversed. Only the overwhelming grassroots opposition to the project, led by Audubon, saved the day, and on August 29 EPA announced its intention to proceed with the veto process.

- Shrimp fishermen in the Gulf Coast refused this summer to install the simple devices known as TEDs—Turtle Excluder Devices—that can routinely save thousands of endangered sea turtles from drowning. Even though TEDs are required under federal law, the shrimpers blockaded ports and threatened violence to protest the rule, forcing the Administration to postpone enforcement. The National Audubon Society has called a boycott of shrimp in order to pressure shrimpers to obey the law.



- Before they had ever seen a single second of footage from "Rage Over Trees," the Audubon Television Special about ancient forests, the logging industry launched a massive publicity blitz to prevent the public from seeing the program and judging for itself. Our sponsor dropped funding for Audubon's entire television series, and several companies pulled their advertising, as a direct result of this campaign. Nevertheless, the show did air, and millions of people will have the chance to express their opinions--the democratic way.

Against the well-financed forces of industry and business, Audubon's greatest resource is its members. Audubon activists have turned the tide on Two Forks, and can also do so for sea turtles and ancient forests.

The need for our commitment to the environment has never been greater. At the recent Audubon Biennial Convention, Paul Ehrlich, the well-known scientist and population expert, asked everyone to give at least ten percent of his or her time to working to make the planet more livable. I say let's go for twenty percent.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

Please submit items before Friday, November 17 to Jim Winsor: 102 Halleck Place, Altoona, PA 16602 (943-8213) or Altoona Campus, Altoona, PA 16601-3760 (949-5180).

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