The urgent need for a great creative effort has become apparent in the affairs of mankind. It is manifest that unless some unity of purpose can be achieved in the world, unless the ever more violent and disastrous incidence of war can be averted, unless some common control can be imposed on the heading waste of man’s limited inheritance of coal, oil, and moral energy that is now going on, the history of humanity must presently culminate in some sort of disaster, repeating and aggravating the disaster of the Great War, producing chaotic social conditions, and going thereafter in a degenerative process towards extinction.

- H.C. Wells

The April Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, April 30th

**PLACE:** Twenty-sixth Street Church of the Brethren - 2800 Union Ave.
Altoona, Pa.

Our April Meeting will be devoted to a study of the solid waste problem. Dr. Thomas Hayes, Professor of Chemistry at the Altoona Campus and the Chairman of the Ad hoc committee on solid waste in Altoona, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Hueson will give us the latest word on the local problems and will answer any questions members might have about solid waste disposal.

A nice color film entitled "All the Difference" will be presented to supplement our evening’s study. This film deals with pollution, ecology and solid waste.

Remember - our meetings are formatted so as to have the first third devoted to members' common interests, discussion, etc. The second third is devoted to the program and the final third is given to an informal period of refreshments and talk. Keep up the good turnouts. Bring somebody new - a friend who might be interested in our program.

Field Trip to Western Conservancy

All Burd will be going on a wildflower expedition to the Western Conservancy on the 5th of May - the first Sunday in May - so anyone interested in going along should give him a call: 943-0506. It's possible that several carloads of people might coordinate a trip on this date.

"Bird Watchers Score: In Hawaii, They 'Discover a New Species'"

Eight students flew in by helicopter, established a base camp in one of the world’s wettest spots, and promptly discovered a new species of bird. It’s a previously unknown kind of Hawaiian Honeycreeper with a distinctive black mask, found in a remote rainforest on Haleakala Volcano on Maui, the second largest Hawaiian island.

The University of Hawaii students were studying the flora and fauna of the Poo-lau and Upper Hanu Forest Reserves, where the annual rainfall exceeds 400 inches. Their work is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and their goal is to write an environmental reference work about this rain forest.

The unnamed bird was the first one found in Hawaii in 50 years and one of the few discovered anywhere in the past decade. The discovery was called "an extremely rare event" by Dean Asa, the last curator of birds at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The bird is 5½ inches long, about the size of an English sparrow. Its back is brownish-olive, and its underside is light buff. The bird’s bill, like its mask, is black. The bird vies at tree bark for insects with its conical bill.

The bird was seen at elevations of 5,900 to 6,900 feet, almost always in the
company of three other birds in the Honeyeater family: the Hali creeper, emu-kiwi, and parrotbill. One of the students, James Jacoby, said the finding of this new bird "demonstrates that everything has not been discovered and documented."

- by James G. Driscoll (in National Observer)

"Hated FC, the Courtship and Mating of a Sparrow Hawk"

On Saturday, April 19, while in the yard whistling a whistle stick for the kids, I heard a hawk-like screech that captured the majority of my attentions. I scanned the sky to spot the source of the high pitched noise. I saw what I thought was a sparrow hawk. I had never seen one so close to the house before nor in and around the trees. The hawk climbed emitting the call and then plunging toward the ground pulled out of his dive in time at about tree top level. This he repeated several times and then disappeared beyond the pine trees near the house. I thought the show was over and went back to my writing.

Approaching five o'clock, I heard the cries of the hawk again and saw him land in the top of a large white oak at the end of the yard. At this time I rushed into the house for my binoculars returning to see him still perched atop and the classes on him and watched for a few minutes. A slight movement about eight feet to the left of the hawk caught my eye. It was another sparrow hawk. I watched the pair for another few minutes and then the female flicked her tail up and sailed over landing on top of her and mated for 15 to 20 seconds. They separated and sat on their separate perches for a few minutes and then the female flew off in a southern direction and the male in a northerly direction. Later I noticed the same male, or another, calling and diving. After diving five or six times he hovered in mid-air, would glide a place and hover again. I felt that I was very fortunate to witness this spectacular event and thought I would write it on to the Gnatcatcher readers. Spring must be here!

- Earl Higgins from Hton Hill, Spruce Cr.

Earl is planning to come in for our Annual meeting. He and his family will be in their new home in Bellefonte soon.

Miscellaneous Bits and Pieces

A nice graduation gift would be a students subscription to Audubon.

All birds are on filled trip chairman. He has proposed another trip - in late May to the Black Kosciusko State Park for birds and wildflowers.

John Opf has information on the Great Dismal Swamp of so. "Virginia. The Big Day" for birds, especially waterfowl is May 11th or 12th (Sat./Sun.) One can see plenty of species migrating through on these two days.

May's program will be a slide talk by the people from the Lemon House.

Bluebirds have been seen. John McFall's neighbors set them in houses in S. Valley: Scott Geesey saw two nesting in houses in Jefferson County, 5 miles west of Punxsutawney. He and others have said that the lack of fence posts is a major cause of their demise.

JWAS will be represented at the Belfair - a new fair to be held right after Labor this coming Sep. at Lebanon Park. We will have a display. Get more details on this from Mrs. Blythe and Miss Sullivan (by phone or at the meeting).

If you see violations of environmental law - no matter how seemingly insignificant - call the state officials concerned with them and give your report or complaint. Earth Day passed quietly - April 22nd

Peoples' Park on Sixth Avenue across from the Library needs a shot in the arm...