**The Noble Nature**

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make men better be;
Or standing long on oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, mold, and core:
A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May,
Although it fall and die that night;
It was the plant and flower of Light.
In small proportions we just beauties see;
And in short measures life may perfect be.

- Ben Jonson

**The May Meeting**

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.
**DATE:** May 29th 1979 - Tuesday
**PLACE:** St. John's Church of the Brethren Union Ave. & 26th St. Altoona

**PROGRAM:** Bird Calls

Bill Rosevear, John Orr & Truth Cope will set up tapes and opaque projections of numerous birds. The purpose of this meeting is to stimulate the interest in bird identification and encourage group participation.

**The Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday evening one hour prior to the regular meeting (6:30). Anyone may attend. Please get out for the last meeting of the season - the last at the church until September.

**The Proposal for Amending the Constitution**

All members received - mostly by mail - the proposed amendments to the 1969 Constitution. Everyone is urged to take a second of time to check off the blank spaces or NO and drop the postcard ballot into the mail. We need the vote as an expression from the local membership of its concern for the group. The outdated document was (still is) a drag on the efficient operation of our business. Please use the cards. If a member (new or old) who did not get the Constitution and sheet of proposed changes - and ballot - call John Orr (953-5629) right away. The adoption of a constitution to each and every member is an accomplishment many have worked out for many times past. This document is not a new ruling but it is critical to the continued success of our conservation committee.

**The Annual Banquet: Another Success!**

Nearly 75 members and friends attended this annual affair. Again, a fine meal! Very nice program - our thanks go to Bill Rosevear who was able to get Mike Ondik as our guest speaker. The banquet had consistently had excellent programs and pie!

**Audubon Workshop in Connecticut**

Last call from anyone interested or from those who might nominate a recipient of this one week scholarship sponsored by JVAS. Person selected need not be a member but should be able to put the knowledge gained in Connecticut to use in our community. See or call (574-5021) Bill Rosevear or this. Call Bill collect on any and all business.

**June Meetings / Outings —— Fort Point Headland**

We have had June meetings - Walden Pond dinners would be one example - but an indoor gathering has not been our custom. This June 26th we will meet at the Kemmis Farm (nature center) at the Fort for a walk along the trails and a slide/film show in the building. Meet at 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. and bring a bag lunch if you wish. Drinks will be served (provided). This will be an informal outing. We hope the public will attend and take part in both the planned activities.
Alaska: Halibut There An Alaska Coalition update (May 22nd) informs us that protection of the Alaskan lands is now close at hand. The House just voted 360 - 65 in favor of H.R. 39, the Udall-Anderson substitute bill. This allows 125 million acres to be set aside and provides for a balanced approach to development. The Coalition says that grassroots support led to this victory. Now the Durkin bill, S-222, has 19 co-sponsors and needs more. Write to Senators Hainz and Schweiker asking if they will be co-sponsors. (Address: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) See Time magazine for an up to date article (May 28th) on the Alaska situation. It mentioned that there seems to be sentiment running now against the oil interests in Alaska. Not hard to understand why in these troubled times.

Kestrel in the City Joann Noonan reports that a pair of kestrels has nested near their home at 1703 22nd Avenue in Altoona. The hawks are up in the eaves. A nest of robins two doors down has caused a problem as the parents fly vigorously at the kestrel's chases. It seems as if the robins are trying to distract their neighbors from their own nest of newly hatched young. The robins' eggs hatched the 12 & 13th of May, but the attacks started 2 to 3 weeks before that.

Miscellaneous Notes Colette Haller has asked if we would put a lost and found note in on missing flower holders (frogs) and planters from the banquet. Call her at 742-7481 if you accidentally took them.

The Keystone Festival will be held on September 8th & 9th and we will be in it with a booth showing what our group is actively working on. We'll also be selling something - possibly lemonade. John Orr is chairman for this operation - call him at 941-5529 if interested in working there or if you have some good ideas on this.

The water quality of our area streams and rivers is now in the news as an EPA grant might go to Altoona if the city matching funds are available. It is a long time coming and we must keep informed on the matter. Many millions of dollars could be awarded for improvements on the sewer system if the study grant is given and a subsequent "need" is shown. This will be an item of business at the May meeting.

"Big Day in May" This annual census is loosely structured - a date early in May for the entrepising birder who wants to challenge a 24 hour limitation on a count within the Christmas Count circle. This year only Stephen Bonta reported a tally. He went out for birds on his farm which lies tucked away up a hollow in the mountains just barely out of Tyrone on Rt. 360 heading off the Rt 220 by-pass. The Bonta’s farm is high up and off to your right as you leave Tyrone. There on May 13th, Stephen saw 52 species - pretty good for one limited habitat! Mountaintop woods and fields. His list follows:
- catbird, indigo bunting, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow, chipping sparrow, red-winged blackbird, brown-headed cowbird, coon crow, cape may warbler, magnolia warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, American redstart, cowbird flicker, white breasted nut_MOUNT, blue-gray gnatcatcher, wood pewee, great crested flycatcher, scarlet tanager, Baltimore oriole, orchard oriole, older-winged warbler, pine warbler, yellow-breasted chat, yellow-throat, eastern phoebe, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, brown thrasher, Tennessee warbler, Blackburnian warbler, ovenbird, Louisiana water thrush, worm eating warbler, tufted titmouse, black-capped chickadee, cardinal, broadwing hawk, red-tailed hawk, ruby-throated hummingbird, turkey vulture, bay-breasted warbler, chestnut sided warbler, barn swallow, cumberland warbler, black-throated warbler, dowsey woodpecker, hooded warbler, mourning dove, field sparrow, rufous-sided towhee, American goldfinch, house wren. Eighteen warblers is a fine number for a day. This list shows what can be seen with some work early in May for the warbler group. (note: yellow-throat, chat, ovenbird, water thrush and redstart are warblers.)

Unusual Warblers sighted May 8th Steve Bonta saw a rare stray (migrant?) sighted only a couple of times before by the St. College people - a yellow-throated warbler. It was in a pine tree near his home. On the same day - May 8th - he sighted a blue-winged warbler in the same vicinity. Two most notable species for our area.

The Gnatcatcher 3001 4th Avenue Altoona, Pa. 16602
94-3-5629

May 29 = meeting with bird call presentation.
June 26th = meeting/outing at Ft. Hoberdeau

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