Sing a Song Of Sixpence
Sing a song of sixpence
A pocket full of pine;
Four-and-twenty Blackbirds
Baked in a pie!
When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing;
Was not that a dainty dish
To set before the king?
The king was in his counting-house,
Counting out his money;
The queen was in the parlor,
Eating bread and honey.
The maid was in the garden,
Hanging out the clothes;
When down came a blackbird
And snapped off her nose.

June 22nd Wildfoods Dinner
At Ft. Roberdeau 2:00 p.m. All invited. Bring wild foods or just a regular picnic lunch. Be sure to come out for this fascinating dinner. You don't have to bring wild edibles, although Al Dur for help in preparing, getting ideas, etc. - that's fine. Actual eating place will be at the large at the old Rhena Farm. Blackbirds pie possible but not probable. A bit of wild honey would be very nice (hint) and -- see for yourself what is a dainty dish.

May Meeting - Last Regular Meeting of the Season

TIME: 7:30 p.m. PLACE: 28th St. Church of the Brethren / Union Ave. & 28th St.
Altoona, Pa. (Social Hall)
Date: May 27th - Tuesday
Program: Two Films - Threshold of Eternity - on things endangered + nesting - A study of nesting

These are two outstanding Gene Commission films. Also on the agenda is a discussion of important summer activities and work as well as the up-coming wildfoods dinner at Fort Roberdeau. Refreshments will be served / All are urged to make it out for this last gathering at the church.

In Memoriam... Charley Walton
We have lost a good friend and fellow Auduboner. Charley will be missed but his impact on us on field trips and at meetings will be long remembered and treasured. He loved bluebirds and was very active in raising houses for them and in setting up the bluebird trail that runs from Dwyart to McCough's Hill near Prince Gallitsin St. Park. Charley loved to walk in the woods. He loved his flowers and his birds, and although never a hunter or fisher, he did spend plenty of time out hiking. We have purchased and donated a memorial book for him. Escape to the Mountain, A Family's Adventures in the Wilderness, now ready for loan at the Hollidaysburg Library.

The Fallingswater Bus Trip
To all participants: Please note that the departure time is 6:30 a.m. (not 6:00 a.m.) Bring rain gear in case of bad weather. Also: good hiking shoes, that is, comfortable shoes + a brown bag lunch. Meet at the parking lot of the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center.

Membership Drive - Coming to a Close
June 30th is the last day of the 6 month period of our current membership drive. Consider the student who might benefit from having a student membership in Audubon. It would be a nice graduation gift. We need 3 new members to hit our quota in qualifying under the incentive guidelines of National. Be sure to give Fran Burgen your name if personally responsible for getting new members. Anyone who signs up someone will get a beautiful Audubon print.

1960-1961 JVAS Program
Ideas and suggestions are needed now for next year's program. Call Truth Close, Program Chairperson at

Osprey Information
Big Day in May: Spring Count

A total of 67 species did not set a record, but the day was not arranged for breaking past highs. Rather, a few birders got out for a few hours watching and the inevitable joys of some sightings made. Next year it is definitely planned to structure this outing into a 15 mile diameter circle centered on Altoona and covered by many people who can, collectively, give us a 100 species count. As a rule of thumb, State College Bird Club sighted 111 different birds in their May 13, 1979 "Big Day" count. We should be able to hit 100 with an all-out effort. And in the fun, the joy will still be there. Taking part formally in this year's census were: Karola Bonta with the high count of 45, John Orr, Colette Heller, Katherine Everts, Lee McCartney, and Christella Butler.

Here are the birds:

- common loon
- mallard
- scaup duck (specie)
- turkey vulture
- American kestrel
- ruffed grouse
- turkey
- killdeer
- solitary sandpiper
- rock dove
- mourning dove
- barn swallow
- scarlet tanager
- common cardinal
- rose-breasted grosbeak
- indigo bunting
- house finch
- Amer. goldfinch
- field sparrow
- common starling
- chimney swift
- ruby-thr. hummingbird
- belted kingfisher
- common flicker
- piliated woodpecker
- red-bellied woodpecker
- yellow-bellied sapsucker
- hairy woodpecker
- downy woodpecker
- great crested flycatcher
- eastern phoebe
- eastern wood peewee
- pine warbler
- ovenbird
- No. waterthrush
- common yellowthroat
- Canada warbler
- Amer. redstart
- rufous-sided towhee
- white-crowned sparrow
- song sparrow
- blue jay
- common crow
- black-capped chickadee
- tufted titmouse
- white-breasted nuthatch
- house wren
- gray catbird
- brown thrasher
- Amer. robin
- wood thrush
- blue-gray gnatcatcher
- red-eyed vireo
- black & white warbler
- worm eating warbler
- yellow warbler
- Cape may warbler
- yellow-rumped warbler
- chestnut-sided warbler
- Bay-breasted warbler
- house sparrow
- red-winged blackbird
- northern oriole
- common grackle
- brown-headed cowbird
- chipping sparrow
- white-throated sparrow

The Annual Banquet: An Afterword

Nearly 110 people! Great talk - Thanks to Karola Bonta for her fine program. And - to her husband, Bruce, for his excellent slides. Our new officers were formally installed: Colette Heller (742-7481 / 425 Bellview Ave., Bellewood, Pa. 16617), Judge Wick (742-3719), and Ann Borland (695-9718), president, treasurer and secretary respectively. A number of new members are expressing a wish to be involved, to get into activities. The future looks good for our group. We are getting things going.

State College Bird Club Program

Wed. May 28th 7:30 p.m. Schlow Mem. Library, St. College "The Galapagos Islands"

Raptor Conference

June 14th, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. Sponsored by the Pa. Sierra Club. A one-day non-technical conference to discuss the problems relating to birds of prey in Pa. Open to all interested persons. $3.00 if pre-registering by June 1st. / $3.50 if walk-in. $3.45 lunch - arranged if pre-registered. Call Karola Bonta - 684-3113 if interested or in need of more information.

The Gnatcatcher

3001 4th Avenue
Altoona, Pa. 16602

May Meeting: May 27th
June Wildfoods Dinner: June 22nd