

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

Walter Elwood, Chairman,
Conservation Committee

Our battlefield this winter has been as fluctuating as the one over in Korea. And we can't yet predict, either, just how it will all come out.

It's a tough time for us, hard-pressed by a number of serious conservation issues, to make our small arms effective in the roar of the heavy artillery. In the face of such matters as astronomical billions of dollars and armies of millions of men, it is hard for us to make our pleas heard in behalf of the Bald Eagles of Alaska, the little Key Deer of Florida, the Dinosaur National Monument, and similar problems crying out for solution now or never.

By the same token, a number of hostile forces are making the most of the present opportunity to achieve their special-interest ends, more or less hidden by the smoke screen of the world situation. This guerilla fighting is something we must watch out for. Not long ago, to cite one minor example, it was proposed that the deer-hunting season should be liberally extended --- to provide more buckskin gloves for the armed forces!

In our own State, at the present writing, we're having a variety of headaches --- as you know from the bulletins we have issued since the New Year:

Can we succeed in securing temporary protection for Wood Duck and Eider Ducks? (Senate 2243, Int. 2128). Our law-makers are unwilling to consider a period longer than three years for such protection; and the State Conservation Department is against any change at all.

Will the concurrent resolution win out, returning to the people of the state their rights in the matter of regulating the flow of streams, thus restricting the powers now wielded by river regulating boards? (Assembly 1; Senate 55)

Senator Stokes has introduced some good forest fire bills which would authorize the Governor to close the forests of the State whenever there was a danger of forest fires, instead of just in times of drought; to bar people from state-owned lands at such times; and to place the same ban on private lands with the consent of the owners.

Mrs. Walter B. Slifer of Rochester, conservation chairman of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, was deeply interested in our Federation's conservation efforts, just as we were in what her strong organization is undertaking. One of the Federated Garden Club's immediate projects is the promotion of community forests far and wide throughout the State, an opportunity to encourage direct participation by many in a constructive movement.

We wish the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society all kinds of good luck in its serious efforts to rescue from obliteration that irreplaceable 1500-acre area, 350 acres of which it has been able, thus far, to buy. Mr. H. E. Clements, 1116 Sibley Tower Building, Rochester 4, N. Y., is the treasurer, and always glad to hear from you.

We wish the Rockland Audubon Society the best of fortune also in its endeavor to modify the proposed plans for a reservoir, which would wipe out the beautiful Hackensack swamp. Mr. Richard Pough and Mrs. William G. Irving appeared in Albany recently at the hearing before the Water Power and Control Commission.

You will be interested to learn that Mrs. William

Lochead, Marlborough, N. Y., is chairman of the Bird Committee of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State, a new department set up at the request of the National Council of Garden Clubs.

(Ed. Note: Bill to remove Snowy Owl from protected bird list was killed in Senate committee.)

We salute the Conservation Forum of New York State for the fine legislative program it has projected, including (among other issues with which we, too, have concerned ourselves) the following:

- 1) Prohibition of use of pole-traps on state or other game preserves.
- 2) Make illegal the destruction of fish-eating birds around state and other fish hatcheries and require that such hatcheries should be protected by wire netting. (The new Dingall Bill will provide around \$3,000,000 annually for the promotion of better fishing. The National Audubon Society urges that some of this money be spent on proper screening at the hatcheries.)
- 3) Ban on commercial traffic in lycopodiums (club-mosses used as Christmas greens).

COLOR BANDING EVENING GROSBEAKS

Many bird-banders and observers having a particular interest in the movements and habits of the Evening Grosbeak, are joining in a survey to pool their observations of this interesting but unpredictable bird.

To help trace movements and migration of the Evening Grosbeak the bird-banding office is stressing the use of colored aluminum bands in six easily recognizable colors. Thus it will be easy to spot these birds so banded at feeding stations.