

The grove of sugar pines in California, the subject of years of strife between public interest and private enterprise, may yet be rescued. The U. S. Forest Service has promised to take steps to acquire the tract from the Pickering Lumber Company, offering the company other timberland in exchange, and has promised to leave the area inviolate so that, as funds are contributed, it can be added to the long-desired proposed State Park.

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The Fish and Wildlife Service has *not* turned in — shame on them! — a favorable report on the bill extending protection to the Bald Eagle in Alaska (H.R.1870). Alaskans don't like the bill, those at least who wrote in are dead set against it. The toes of local autonomy have been stepped on again!

In the interests of whittling down our national budget, the Department of the Interior will be obliged to abolish 4,180 jobs, including 105 in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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Read "Enjoy Them While They Last" by Ben East, in *Natural History*, Sept. 1951. Its subtitle reads: "Our slaughtered shorebirds sound a grim warning for the vanishing wildlife of Alaska. Today the same lies are being invented by men unwilling to admit their own guilt in the killing." Mr. East's article is a deeply moving narrative.

A NEW AUDUBON SOCIETY WILDLIFE REFUGE IN WESTERN NEW YORK

During April 1951 the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.*, purchased a 48.5 acre tract of land in the Town of Java about 2 miles east of Java Village, N. Y. It originally comprised arable and non-arable land, a wooded hillside and two types of grassy marsh. Just to the east of this tract lay a large beaver-pond.

After negotiations with our farmer neighbors, who were eager for some of this arable land, the pond, lodge and dam became Audubon property with an increase of about 20 acres and the good will of our neighbors who will more or less act as wardens.

This pond covers about 20 acres and contains over 13 million gallons of water. Its value in maintaining water-table and atmospheric moisture is felt for miles around. It is a ready-made "project" for flood control.

Its abundance of aquatic plants and surrounding marshy terrain afford food and cover for several species of ducks and other marsh birds. Its large population of frogs, their tadpoles and other amphibia, which thrive on the well represented insect life, offer food for the feathered denizens of such an area, and even the dead trees present nesting sites for hole-nesting birds who find a bountiful supply of food right at hand.

Here we find an example of Nature's way of maintaining a balance, a self-sustaining area where the nature-lover, sportsman or student may come to relax and reflect on life as it was before "progress" took over. *The Buffalo Audubon Society*, present and future, and the little beavers intend to keep it so.

This fall the Soil Conservation Service, under the direction of Mr. Keil, will plant 11,500 coniferous trees and several thousand fruit-bearing shrubs on most of the non-arable land which will establish a foundation for future increases in the flora of the property. A 2 acre area will be set aside for annual planting of seed bearing crops for bird food.

As the development of this sanctuary proceeds its value as a community

service will increase, for here scout groups, 4-H clubs, garden clubs and other outdoor groups may come to increase their knowledge of the outdoors and leave with the feeling that a good step in the overall Conservation program has been taken. The entire property as well as that of our neighbors will be posted before the hunting season begins.

W. H. Almendinger, Vice-President
Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.
Buffalo, New York

1952 CONVENTION NEWS

The Schenectady Bird Club, Inc., has already completed the preliminary ground work concerning meeting, housing and field trip arrangements for the fifth annual convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs. It is anticipated that the convention in Schenectady on May 24th and 25th, 1952, will be the largest and best attended to that date.

Headquarters will be the Edison Golf Club, which offers excellent facilities for meetings and dinners. Field trips will be taken to many varied areas. The upper austral influence of the Hudson River Valley, the transition influence, which is dominant in the state, and the Canadian influence of the Adirondack foothills will all be incorporated in area trips.

Schenectady is unique in that it can be reached with ease from every bird club city in the state. It is located on the main line of the New York Central. Bus stations are centrally located, and both Albany and Schenectady airports are in the city's suburbs. Plan now to attend the convention — mark down May 24, 25, 1952. Further details about specific events and arrangements will be announced in future issues of *The Kingbird*. If you have some questions regarding the convention, address your queries to either:

Miss Nellie G. Van Vorst, Pres.
Schenectady Bird Club, Inc.
67 Snowden Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.

or

Samuel R. Madison, Chairman, 1952 Convention
18 Oakwood Place, Delmar, N. Y.

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THE ROCKLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

West Nyack, New York