

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

SAMUEL R. MADISON. *Chairman, Conservation Committee*

The annual meeting of the Conservation Committee was held in Schenectady on Friday evening, May 23, prior to the Fifth Annual Convention of the Federation. Your chairman is pleased to be able to report that six of the seven committee members attended the meeting. This is an excellent record, especially when it is remembered that the members are scattered throughout the State.

To date the activities of the committee have been mostly carried on by the chairman. This has been the result of the distances which separated the members of the committee and the fact that the committee has been meeting only once a year. This is very unsatisfactory because the full benefits of committee action — diversity of opinion and multiplicity of hand and minds to accomplish action — cannot be achieved under such circumstances. We took two important steps at our meeting to enable us to operate more as a committee. First of all we decided to meet twice a year. A meeting is temporarily scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 1952 at Syracuse. Not only is this a forward step for the Conservation Committee but it is one which may well be followed by other branches of the Federation. Secondly, various important activities of the committee were assigned to individual committee members.

The Committee discussed means of decreasing the present heavy toll of waterfowl from lead poisoning resulting from being wounded during the hunting season or introduction of lead shot by feeding in hunting areas. It was decided to study the possibility of substituting a non-poisonous shot for lead shot in shot-gun shells. This study has been undertaken by H. Everest Clements. He will study the available data on the present toll of waterfowl from lead poisoning and the technical and economic feasibility of substituting a non-poisonous pellet for lead, and report to the November meeting of the committee. Any assistance which you can give him in this undertaking will be greatly appreciated.

Our unsuccessful efforts to prevent the New York State Thru-way from crossing Montezuma have resulted in an incidental gain. In order to avoid a repetition of such difficulties, Bertram D. Tallamy, Superintendent of Public Works and head of the Thruway Commission, has appointed Clare E. Smith, an engineer in the Department of Public Works, to work with conservation organizations and obtain their views in advance. Mr. Tallamy has also asked Donald M. Tobey, President of the New York State Conservation Council, to appoint a committee representative of all conservation organizations in the State to work with the Department of Public Works and the Thruway Commission. Mr. Tobey invited the Federation to designate a representative to serve on that committee. The Conservation Committee, upon the recommendation of the chairman, recommended to the Federation Council at its meeting on May 24 that Mr. Clements be designated to represent the Federation on that committee. The Council followed the committee's recommendation and Mr. Clements is now serving on that committee.

Results of the 1952 Legislative Session

The bill which prohibits throwing or dumping of oil, acid, sludge, cinders or ashes into the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers from any vessel has been signed by the Governor and has become Chapter 760 of the Laws of 1952. The bill which would have set up regulation of timber cutting on private commercial lands died in committee, as expected. The Wood Duck bill which would have prohibited an open season on the Wood Duck or any species of Eider Duck before 1955, died in the Assembly Rules Committee, despite all our efforts to dislodge it. The Hammond-Ostrander constitutional amendment which would make it impossible to undertake a stream control project in the forest preserve without amendment to the Constitution, passed the Senate and Assembly. It must be passed again by both branches of the Legislature this fall and be approved by the voters at the general election in November 1953 in order to become effective.

NOTES AND NEWS FROM MEMBER CLUBS

NATURALISTS' CLUB (Binghamton, New York)

Founded in April, 1950, after Mrs. Marcelle Schubert placed an advertisement in a local paper asking for all interested in birds to attend a meeting at Harpur College, the *Naturalists' Club* of Binghamton, Johnson City, and Endicott has grown in stature and expanded its activities over its two year of existence.

Now boasting forty active members, the club sponsors monthly meetings, Audubon Screen Tour programs, the Binghamton Christmas Census and weekly local field trips, as well as occasional trips to distant birding territories. The club has also begun to systematize local bird records in cooperation with the State Federation's program of research.

BURROUGHS-AUDUBON NATURE CLUB

Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club of Rochester members have enjoyed a variety of interesting hikes this spring.

Mr. Richard Hughes, geologist, took the group to the kames, eskers, and kettle holes of Mendon Ponds Park on April 26 to give us a clear picture of how these land features were formed in glacial times. Ducks on the ponds and a Marsh hawk overhead added to the interest of guests and members.

May 18 the early morning bird hike began at Durand-Eastman Park and continued to Irondequoit Bay, Bushnells Basin and Burroughs-Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. A total of 84 different birds was seen, including Yellow-throated, Red-eye, and Warbling Vireos, 15 Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, and 5 sparrows, including White-crowned and White-throated.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward T. Boardman of Rochester Museum led a procession of 16 cars to the south entrance of Bergen Swamp on Sunday, June 15. Visitors from Buffalo, Newfane, Binghamton, and Warsaw area were in the party for the early bird hike. Many birds were seen including both Cuckoos and 14 warblers. Late in afternoon a group of 3 saw 15 Turkey Vultures perched in a tree below Torpy Hill. Unusual flowers included