

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

yellow ladyslipper, sundew, pitcher plant, wood lily, laborador tea, and twin flower. A redbellied snake, spotted and Muhlenberg's turtles belong in the day's list.

June 22 was set aside as Junior Day at the Sanctuary. After lunch, Carl Hedweiller led the group on an exploratory tour across the bog and back along the creek edge. Many interesting plants were seen, including four-leaved milkweed, pentstemon, galium, shrubby cinquefoil, golden alexander, angelica, poison sumac and many ferns. Two birds of note were seen that day—Golden-winged Warbler and Brewster's Warbler.

Popularity of BANC hikes seems to have been enhanced this season perhaps because of such well-chosen leadership, or because of publicity in the Museum Association Summer Schedule.

Elizabeth Slater, Recording Secretary

BUFFALO AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Near materialization at the present time are plans which have been developed during the past several months for a small wildlife sanctuary within the city limits of Buffalo. The project will be known as the Elmwood Avenue Wildlife Sanctuary and Conservation Workshop. It is to be sponsored jointly by Buffalo State Teachers College and the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.*, with actual development of the property to be performed by the science students of the teachers college under the direction of Dr. John Urban of the Science Department.

The four-acre plot adjacent to Delaware Park lies along the north bank of Scajaquada Creek across Elmwood Avenue from the Buffalo Historical Society's museum building. This land has been unused for the past several years and is at the present time overgrown with brush. Tentative plans for development call for the planting of a hedge of Multiflora Rose along the street-side boundary to discourage vandalism. Planting will be made which will attract birds and other wildlife to the area. Re-introduction of plants formerly native to western New York will be attempted. Nature trails will be made through the area with labeled maps available to those who wish to identify the plantings. A small pond has been suggested for possible future development.

The great value of this tract lies in its proximity to State Teachers College which is situated directly across the creek from the project. Thus the land will be readily accessible to science classes, decreasing the need for more distant and time-consuming field trips. Here Dr. Urban hopes to be able to provide field demonstrations and experience for students in principles of conservation education — student who will be the public school teachers of tomorrow. The area will also be available to groups of teachers and students in the Buffalo school system who wish to avail themselves of this source of practical demonstration. It will also be available to other interested groups if properly supervised.

The tract is city-owned land. It is being leased to the two sponsoring parties at a nominal fee of one dollar per year. Ed Seeber and Gertrude Webster of the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.*, and Dr. Urban of Buffalo State Teachers College were instrumental in the formulation of the plan, development of which has been aided by Dr. Harold Axtell of the Buffalo Museum of Science, Bill Almendinger, Harold Mitchell and the writer, of

the *Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.*, and other interested persons.

There is one possible threat to the project. An arterial branch of the New York State Thruway system is being planned across the city of Buffalo. One of the proposed routes would bring the road along Scajaquada Creek, possible along the north bank. Plans for the more permanent elements of the sanctuary project must remain pending until the outcome of these plans is definitely known.

Gilbert B. Tybring, Jr.
Buffalo Audubon Society, Inc.

KEUKA PARK CONSERVATION CLUB

The *Keuka Park Conservation Club* held their annual Spring census Sunday, May 18, combining their observers with those from the *Eaton Bird Club* of Geneva. The area covered was primarily in the vicinity of Lake Keuka but scattered records were taken from the entire area covered by the club. 138 species were listed, with no rarities reported on a rather "average" day. Among the uncommon species for our territory were Carolina Wren, Blue gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Short-billed Marsh Wren and Olive-billed Flycatcher.

Francis H. Orcutt, President

NORTH COUNTRY BIRD CLUB

Four Whistling Swans were seen in the marshes near Ellisburg early in April and they remained for about ten days. These birds are sometimes seen here, but they are much less common than in the western part of the state.

On June 15 we plan to visit Gull Island in Lake Ontario to see the gulls and other birds that nest there. This is the same place we visited two and three years ago and saw the Double-crested Cormorants. It is my belief that bird clubs should seek to have these birds protected at all times. Evidence indicates that these birds do little harm to fishing and also that they live mostly on stunted fish and those of little use to the fisherman and in this way really make the fishing better. The least we can do is to collect more evidence on the food of the Cormorants in Lake Ontario.

The *North Country Bird Club* will sponsor the Audubon Screen tours during the coming year. This is the first time that the screen tours have been brought to Watertown. The first is on October 4 when Telford H. Work will show "Bits of Land Along the Coast". Next is "Below the Big Bend", which is the topic of Allan Cruickshank on December 3. On March 21, G. Harrison Orions will show "Erie's Changing Shores".

Frank A. Clinch
Watertown, N. Y.

All members and member clubs are urged to send reports of club activities, projects or news to the Editor for inclusion in this section of THE KINGBIRD.