

SASSAFRAS BIRD CLUB

c/o Miss Lucy J. Collins, Hagaman, N. Y.

SCARSDALE AUDUBON SOCIETY

c/o Mrs. Werner Ulrich, 184 Wilmont Rd., New Rochelle, N. Y.

SCHENECTADY BIRD CLUB

c/o Mr. Guy Bartlett, 1053 Parkwood Blvd., Schenectady, N. Y.

SULLIVAN COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY

c/o Mr. Kenneth Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello, N. Y.

An exchange of publications has been in effect since early in 1949. In an effort to keep this list up-to-date on addresses each participating club was asked to send in any changes in name and address of the person who is to receive the publications during 1953. Most of the clubs responded and we are listing the new addresses above. If your club did not respond and there is a change to be made, or if some other club wishes to take part in this exchange please send me this information as soon as possible.

Mrs. William Gary Irving,
Van Houten Fields, West Nyack, N. Y.

CONSERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

SAMUEL R. MADISON, *Chairman, Conservation Committee*

It is heartening to be able to report that several of our wildlife friends are prospering. The common European Partridge, known locally as the Hungarian Partridge, was liberated in New York in the spring of 1909 (Eaton). It likes open farmlands, well sprinkled with grassfields and has become well established in the northern part of the State. It has also done well in the northern plains states and north into Canada. Its numbers have increased so much in New York that last autumn hunters enjoyed the first open season, limited to five days in the counties of Franklin, Jefferson and St. Lawrence.

The beaver too is flourishing again in New York. When the Dutch first arrived in the Hudson valley the beaver provided their first industry and Albany boomed with the expansion of the trade in beaver pelts. By 1900 it was estimated that only a dozen beaver survived in the State. Recent aerial animal surveys by the Conservation Department show an overabundance of beaver in the Adirondacks. As a result, the department has announced that there will be no bag limit and a 32-day open season in the Adirondacks starting March 20. The department reports that so many beaver dams have been built in the Adirondacks that choice winter feeding areas needed by deer have been inundated.

In Arizona the Desert Bighorn Sheep, protected by state law since 1912, have been added to the list of huntable big game animals. They have become well established in the Kofa and Cabeza Prieta game refuges in remote sections of Arizona, according to the Wildlife Management Institute. The Arizona Fish and Game Commission has decided to allow limited hunting to alleviate the present unfavorable sex ratio.

Two closely related species, the Prairie Chicken and the Sharp-tailed Grouse are in need of assistance. The National Wildlife Federation recently

announced the formation of a committee to help save the Prairie Chicken which once flourished in great numbers. The Prairie Chicken is not in danger of extinction, but its numbers have decreased greatly so that only four states — Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan — had enough to permit limited hunting last year. The aim of the committee is to assure their survival by the development of refuges of undisturbed grasslands in the Midwest in which the birds could live during the winter.

The remarkable courtship behavior of the male Prairie Chicken has led to its difficulties. During the breeding season the birds gather in open fields where the males inflate their ruddy-yellow skin pouches, erect their tufts and strut and rush at each other in violent bodily contact. The resonant booming call they produce attracts the poacher as well as the biologist and warden interested in their number. Ornithologists differ over whether the booming sound has a come-hither appeal to the hens or whether its purpose is to intimidate less virile males.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse is losing ground in Wisconsin and quick action is needed according to the Wisconsin Conservation Department. The Sharp-tail inhabit areas interspersed with grass and brush. Modern farming practices have eliminated suitable brush lands. So, too, have the forest crop incentive plans which are producing forest lands in which the grouse cannot exist. Action must be taken to retain the remaining grouse habitat and create additional areas, particularly in lands with poor soil and economically unimportant trees. Such action will not only assist the sharp-tails, but will also benefit the ruffed grouse and other birds and animals.

Forests are very much in the news these days. An old federal statute, enacted during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt and backed by Gifford Pinchot, the leading conservationist, has come to the rescue of a grove of towering sugar pines in California's Sierra Nevadas. The sugar is the mightiest of the pines. It ranks after the two Sequoias, the Sitka spruce and the Douglas fir as the fifth greatest of American trees in size. The 370 acre grove contains thousands of pines, some centuries old and as high as 250 feet. There are sugar pines scattered amongst the forests of the Pacific Coast, but this grove is representative of growth which would probably never be seen again if a good sample were not preserved. The tract bearing the trees has been transferred to the United States Forestry Service's preserve under a 1909 statute under which the owner, the Pickering Lumber Company, received a comparable stand of expendable timber on nearby federal land.

The grove is in the heart of the gold rush country, on Beaver Creek in Tuolumne County, 125 miles east of San Francisco and 25 miles north-east of Yosemite National Park. It is adjacent to Calaveras State Park, a 1950 acre stand of giant redwood trees.

Here in New York, a battle is being fought to save a forest. A Sunken Forest Committee has been created under the chairmanship of James N. Dunlop to prevent the destruction of this miniature wilderness. Although small, Sunken Forest is a primeval forest just east of Point O' Woods on Fire Island, a sandspit off the south shore of Long Island. It has developed through the centuries sheltered by high dunes on the ocean side, producing some of the oldest holly trees in America. The forest is endangered by real

estate developers and the Committee is trying to save it by a campaign to raise funds to purchase the area.

The United States and Canada are joining forces to eradicate the destructive sea lampreys from the Great Lakes region. This twelve inch eel-like predator of fish has invaded the Lakes and threatens to wipe out the lake trout and other fish. They subsist on other fish by attaching themselves to their victims by their mouths and feeding on their blood. A proposed treaty calls for war on the lamprey by the use of mechanical and electrical eradicators, developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, in streams of both nations flowing into the Lakes.

REGIONAL REPORTS FOR LATE FALL MIGRATION AND CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

