

**"SOUNDS
OF
NATURE"**



recordings

**Produced by
Dr. W. W. H. Gunn
for the**

**Federation of
Ontario Naturalists**

- Vol 1. Songs of Spring**
- Vol 2. A Day in Algonquin Park**
- Vol 3. Birds of the Forest**
- Vol 4. Warblers**
- Vol 5. A Day at Flores Morades**
- Vol 6. Finches**

Each at \$5.95 post free.

Shipped from Connecticut

Write for brochure:

**FEDERATION OF
ONTARIO NATURALISTS**

**EDWARDS GARDENS
Don Mills, Ontario**

CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

This summer was a time of conservation conferences (or as most were labeled — symposiums) in New York State. It began with the Fire Island Symposium in June (reported in the last Kingbird), which idea was picked up by the group fighting for the Town of Hempstead's salt wetlands on Long Island's south shore and they held a symposium last September in Freeport. In Albany a conference on use of the forest lands and a symposium on insecticides were held.

These gatherings seemed to be in the spirit of summing up the persuasive arguments supporting the goals of the interested parties organizing these meetings — goals acceptable and, in fact, greatly desired by the Federation in regard to creating a Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island and preserving Hempstead's 10,000 acres of wetlands, but questionable with regard to multiple use of the forested lands and continued use of pesticides.

Certainly organizers of conferences are not under any obligation to arrange panels and programs in any other way than to favor their viewpoint — and this was done in the Hempstead and Fire Island symposiums. Dr. Richard Pough, for instance, was a speaker at both and this prominent conservationist and author of bird guides fervently stressed the need for preserving these areas.

The Hempstead meeting was particularly interesting for the persons who appeared on the panel to cite the importance of the salt marshes and shallow bay waters comprising the wetlands. James O'Brien, director of the State Conservation Department's motor boat division said that the beauties of the wetlands were important for the pleasure of the many boatmen. He said that any necessary channeling should be done with consultation from marine scientists. Although Mr. O'Brien's remarks were general it was considered significant that he had said them.

The national secretary of Ducks Unlimited said that all the work that has been done in saving the waterfowl breeding grounds would go to naught if we don't have wintering grounds or stopping off grounds. Henry Coe further declared that the ever-vanishing marshlands of Long Island are contributing to the duck decline — which has been perilous in recent years. He cited the Brant which would again be brought close to the diminishing point if the wetlands are tampered with. Milton Anderson of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service said that last January 30 per cent of the Atlantic Brant were found in Long Island waters, principally on the south shore. Seven per cent of the diving ducks on the Atlantic Flyway and three per cent of the puddle ducks were also found in these waters, he added.

That multiple use of the forest lands in the state would be favored at the New York State Forest Land Use Conference in September could have been predicted by looking at some of the five cooperating agencies — the New York Forest Industries Committee for one and the New York State college of Forestry at Syracuse for another.

Joseph Tonelli, vice president of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers made a strong statement favoring multiple use of state forest lands. He noted that the payrolls, jobs and the very livelihoods of more than 125,000 workers in New York State depend on a vigorous forest industry. Multiple use was defined by Dr. Richard V. Lea, manager of the New York Woodlands Department of the Diamond National Corporation as meaning a combination of timber harvesting, watershed protection, wildlife preservation and public recreation. According to the news release issued by the conference of organization, S. James Matthews, vice president of the New York State Conservation Council, "set the tone on remarks about the state's 2½ million acre Forest Preserve" when he charged that "the cumbersome, outmoded restrictions placed on these forever wild lands by the State Constitution have long outlived their usefulness." The Federation is officially opposed to any change in the Constitution's 'forever wild' protection.

What was somewhat surprising was the overwhelming plus given the use of pesticides at symposium conducted on this problem by the Joint Legislative Committee on Natural Resources in September at Albany. The chairman, Assemblyman R. Watson Pomeroy, said it was held to determine if additional legislation was needed.

However, the State Health Commissioner, Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, urged caution in drafting any regulatory legislation declaring that the benefits of pesticides "from the evidence we have, greatly overbalances the

risks." He conceded that "we must also remain alert to all possible danger from their use," but he asserted that because of their benefits use of chemical pesticides is "a chance we must take."

Dr. Richard O'Brien, professor of entomology at Cornell, urged that chemical pesticides be expanded rather than frowned upon. E. H. Smith, also a professor of entomology at Cornell, called pesticides a boon to mankind. However, he did warn that although "There is no evidence that serious harm has yet been caused . . . neither is there evidence that continuation of our present practices will not cause harm."

At the end of the story reporting on this conference, the New York Times added another short news item with a small headline reading "Carrots Seized Here." It told of the seizure by Federal marshals of 30,000 pounds of carrots containing a residue of the insecticide, Endrin.

At this writing hearings on the proposed Fire Island National Seashore seemed to be very much a possibility. A few weeks earlier Federation member Robert Snyder, vice president of the Baldwin Bird Club, was among 11 citizens (members of the Citizens' Committee for a Fire Island National Seashore) who made a trip to Washington, D. C., where they presented their case to various senators and congressmen.

333 Bedell St., Freeport, L. I.

FIELD NOTES

"Operation Bluebird," Warren County, Penna. Seventh Report — 1963

The winter of 1962-63 will go down in climatological history as the coldest of this century as far as Warren County, Penna. is concerned.

Although March and April were months of normal Spring weather with the Bluebirds returning in good numbers, the weather for the month of May reverted to the winter pattern with temperatures considerably below normal with a great deal of chilling wind.

As a result of these two periods of extreme cold weather, the numbers of young Bluebirds fledged dropped from an all time high of 432 in 1962 to 316 in 1963 — a decline of 26% — the second best year on record, however.

The same number of nesting boxes were under observation during 1962 and 1963 — approximately 100.

During 1963 — 70 boxes were initially occupied by Bluebirds with 318 eggs laid. 215 of these eggs hatched with 188 young fledged. 27 dead young were removed from the boxes.

During the initial occupancy in 1962, 62 pairs of Bluebirds laid 297 eggs of which 265 hatched and 265 fledged.

By comparison, the initial hatching success was 89% in 1962 and 68% in 1963. The fledging success was 100% in 1962 and 86% in 1963.

During 1963 — 43 boxes were used for second nestings by Bluebirds with 176 eggs laid of which 144 hatched and 128 young Bluebirds were fledged. 16 young Bluebirds died in the boxes. Thus during the more normal weather of June and July, the hatching success was 82% and fledging success 88%. This compares with 80% and 100% in 1962.

During the first nesting period of 1962, 62 pairs of Bluebirds averaged 4.8 eggs per nest compared to 4.55 eggs per nest in 1963 by 70 pairs of Bluebirds.

During both 1962 and 1963, the average number of eggs for the second nesting period was 4.1 per nest.