
JOSEPH A. BLAKE, JR. 1891-1966

Joseph A. Blake Jr. died at his home in Watertown, N.Y. on May 9, Mr. Blake was a charter member and past president of the North Country Bird Club. An ardent conservationist, he was chairman of the Federation's Conservation Committee in 1960 and 1961. He was active in the affairs of the North Country Bird Club and attended a number of Annual Meetings of the Federation.

Mr. Blake was born in New York City, attended the Taft School, Watertown, Connecticut, and graduated from Yale University in 1916. He served as a Captain during the First World War. Moving to Clayton, N.Y. in 1930, he became associated with the Consaul-Hall Company and later with the Northern New York Coal Company. In 1939 he married Agnes Phelps Lansing of Watertown. Mrs. Blake and a son Joseph A. Blake, survive.

Mr. Blake was active in the selection of a sanctuary for the North Country Bird Club, and a tract of 102 acres was recently acquired in the town of Rutland. Following Mr. Blake's death this was designated The Joseph A. Blake, Jr. Wildlife Refuge.

John B. Belknap

CONSERVATION AND STATE SECRETS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

Our New York State government is probably one of the most secretive in the world—even the Kremlin would have to padlock every pigeonhole to keep its machinations more in the dark. The essential difference is that we can speak out freely. But we can't always locate the facts on which to exercise our outraged oratory. How a lawmaker votes on a Kingfisher protection bill is, in effect, none of the public's business. Also, you could arrive some spring morning at your favorite wooded stream to look for the Prothonotary Warbler, only to find that bulldozers had already smashed its willows and stumps—the first you or perhaps any resident knew of it.

The massive, Victorian structure burgeoning atop Albany's State Street is really a huge locked closet of legislative votes and debates. Its keys should be dispensed to the public, insisted an unfortunately defeated candidate for the Constitutional Convention, Attorney David K. Kadane of Rockville Centre. Last fall at a meeting of the Huntington Audubon