

Redpolls are indeed very confusing. I have been studying them for seven years now and have examined thousands of skins and living birds. There are always individuals which one cannot surely identify. However, with this bird there is no doubt."

A Common Redpoll photograph is included for comparison. Note the general paleness, pure white unstreaked rump, reduced streaking of the underparts, and the more stubby, conical bill of the Hoary Redpoll.

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The problems of man and his environment are a tangled mess today. Most of us who are interested in birds are interested in the rest of nature as well, because we realize that the natural community is all of one piece and that no one species exists unto itself.

I have been interested to observe that the rest of the world is catching on. The Third Annual Yearbook of Conservation is called "The Third Wave", and its theme is that conservation in the United States is now entering its third phase, the phase based on recognition that you cannot conserve organisms — you must conserve environments. Conservation is a problem of human ecology as well as a problem in technology.

Since I have spent a number of years in trying to teach this concept to both young people and adults, I am gratified to see that it is now official doctrine. But it has a corollary which is perhaps just a little more difficult to recognize. The conservation movement has been fragmented ever since it began. Technicians did not understand conservation philosophy. Foresters were not concerned about birds, bird lovers were not concerned about soil and water, sportsmen were at odds with preservationists, and each one was trying desperately, and vainly, to improve the particular resource he was interested in without regard to the others.

Now that we understand that it won't work, that you can't have one without the other, we ought to be able to overcome the narrowness of viewpoint that has hampered us in the past. We of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs should cooperate fully with the Nature Conservancy, which is interested in natural areas; with the Adirondack Mountain Club, which is interested in trails; yes, even with the sportsmen's clubs whose interests are close to ours even though their reasons are different.

If we are to breath pure air, drink pure water, walk in untouched forests and observe untamed wildlife in a natural habitat, we must unite on all points of agreement. Our common areas of interest are greater than the areas of divergence. We must work together today, or tomorrow there may be little left worth working for.

Allen H. Benton