

ELDORADO SHORES — THE NATURE CONSERVANCY PROJECT

Almost every reader of *The Kingbird* will be familiar with the name ELDORADO. They know from the Region 6 reports what an extraordinary spot this is for the study of migrating shorebirds in Central New York where good, undisturbed shorebird habitat is extremely scarce. The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs was alerted at its annual meeting in April to the present danger to the conditions which make it such a remarkable place. The report of the North Country Bird Club of Watertown "Threat to Important Habitat" was printed in full in the July issue of *The Kingbird* (note that the location is in southwestern Jefferson County—southeastern was an error). Unless action is taken immediately, the owner of the property (3600-foot lake frontage and 250 acres) expects to sell off the frontage property to sportsmen. The ecology of the area cannot help but be altered drastically if that should happen, and without doubt the birds would no longer enjoy the feeding potential it now has. And, of course, birders would no longer be able to have their inspiring visits to Eldorado.

For some months members of the Eldorado Shores Project Committee of the North Country Bird Club have been active in obtaining all the necessary information about the property in order to approach The Nature Conservancy for financial backing in purchasing the property. **THIS BACKING HAS NOW BEEN OBTAINED**, and The Conservancy has authorized the project committee to proceed with final negotiations and signing the option to buy. The sale price is \$56,250.

All who have a deep interest in birds should view the Eldorado Shores as a sacred trust, something worth working for. This means **ACTIVE** responsibility! Laura Moon, as editor of *The Goshawk* published by the Genesee Ornithological Society, has already made a wonderful contribution to Eldorado Shores. Through her efforts \$8,726 has already been pledged in the Rochester area; and she is confident much more can be obtained. Single gifts there have been \$5,000 and \$1,000, the latter one being a memorial gift. Memorial gifts are an excellent way of doing two great things at one time! From the central New York area (the chapter of The Conservancy covers 19 counties) the total amount presently known or estimated to be pledged was about \$17,000 even before The Nature Conservancy had promised its backing.

But active responsibility cannot be confined to the birders of the Watertown area, or even of Central New York, if Eldorado is to be saved for the shorebirds, the migrating waterfowl and the birders. Don't forget those you know who might contribute \$1,000 or \$100. All contributions are tax deductible—a handsome contribution to the Eldorado Project might easily make the difference in a tax bracket for someone. Better that Eldorado Shores get it than the Internal Revenue Service!

Dr. Fritz Scheider will write an article on Eldorado Shores for the May *Kingbird*, to give you information on the ornithological importance of this area. The Central New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is ready to provide printed material concerning Eldorado Shores, and The Conservancy, to help you. To obtain this information write to the chapter at P.O. Box 175, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Prompt attention will be given to your request.

*Frank Eldridge, Chairman
Central New York Chapter of The Nature Conservancy*

Since the above was written, the papers have been signed and at the end of January The Nature Conservancy made the down payment of \$14,000, most of which had already been contributed. Starting on about March 1, there will be a major campaign to raise the remainder of the money.