

REED ROAD SANCTUARY

JOHN W. BROWN

In his "President's Page" in the January, 1970 KINGBIRD Dr. Reilly suggested a series of articles on the sanctuaries managed by the Federation clubs in various parts of the State. We hope that this will be the first of such series.

Reed Road Sanctuary is situated on both sides of Reed Road, between Ballantyne Road and Morgan Road in the southeast section of the Town of Chili, Monroe County (Region 2). It consists of approximately one hundred acres of moist, second and third growth, largely deciduous woods with heavy undergrowth. Toward the back of the west side on slightly higher ground there is a small stand of cedars and white pines. Today, due to the dying out of the elms, the upper story is gone over a considerable area, which will doubtless result in a change in the character of the plant growth in the future and in the bird population. The latter is already evident in the newly created openings.

Reed Road's original eighty-four acres were secured in 1949 by a hastily-organized corporation, Bird Refuges, Inc. in order to save it as a bird habitat from threatened purchase for relumbering to supply a basket factory. Some acreage has been added since that time, and all continues to be held by Bird Refuges, Inc., directors of which are members of the Genesee Ornithological Society. Recently Burroughs-Audubon Nature Club has been given about twenty acres adjoining the northeast corner.

Since the woods usually contain large pools of water until well into the summer, boots should be worn for invading the "swamp." There is a well-maintained path from the road on the west side which penetrates the more remote sections and is well worth following, although it also is quite wet particularly near the road. The woods does have a plentiful supply of mosquitos and poison ivy, but the path is wide enough so that the ivy should be no problem unless one is especially allergic to it. It is about a half hour walk in and out. Many birds, however, may be identified from the road and along the drier edges. It is an excellent area for the novice bird watcher and is used by a number of schools during the winter. The Sanctuary on the east side of the road has deep water in many areas and should not be attempted without a local birder and, even then, probably only in the winter when the ground is frozen.

Thanks to interested volunteers, feeding stations are maintained along the road. Chickadees and wintering birds may become extremely tame. Such wintering birds include the following:

Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse

Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl

Pileated Woodpecker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Common Crow
 Blue Jay

White-breasted Nuthatch
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Cardinal
 Slate-colored Junco
 Tree Sparrow

Numbers of winter finches are often seen from November through March, and even a rare-in-the-winter Myrtle Warbler may stay during the cold weather.

In the spring Reed Road can be one of the best places in the county for migrating passerines, particularly warblers. All of the regularly identified species have been recorded there, and even the rare Worm-eating Warbler has been reported. This area is notable for the wide variety of nesting species. Breeding specialties here include:

American Woodcock
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Screech Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Yellow-shafted Flicker
 Red-bellied Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Traill's Flycatcher
 Wood Pewee
 Common Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 House Wren
 Winter Wren
 Wood Thrush

Veery
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Yellow Warbler
 Black-throated Green Warbler
 Cerulean Warbler
 Northern Waterthrush
 Mourning Warbler
 Northern Yellowthroat
 Canada Warbler
 American Redstart
 Baltimore Oriole
 Scarlet Tanager
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Indigo Bunting
 Swamp Sparrow
 Song Sparrow

It is also probable that Pileated Woodpeckers breed somewhere in the area, and there is even a possibility that the Brown Creeper might be found nesting here.

On warm spring evenings the Woodcock may be observed along the edge of the woods in their courtship flight song and "dance." Their nests are most often found on hummocks in the woods on the east side of Reed Road.

This then is an invitation to all members of the Federation to visit Reed Road Sanctuary, a fascinating place at any time of the year.

Oatka Farm, Scottsville, New York 14546