

can survive the spraying, they soon succumb to the shortage of insects. And the orchards which once supported hundreds of Bluebirds have now become a mecca for Blackbirds, Starlings, Cowbirds and other "pest" species, attracted by the abundance of "perfect" fruit. We're caught in our own machinations; we *have* to spray our orchards because we've killed off the natural controls so that the unchecked orchard insects run rampant unless sprayed.

The fate of all species, like that of all individuals, is to eventually die. They may evolve into new species or, like the dinosaurs, simply disappear from the face of the earth. Theoretically man could manage his environment so that only the plants and animals directly useful to him survive; every living thing would have its exact role and place. Some agricultural experts have made such forecasts — even while admitting that they couldn't eliminate some of our most serious agricultural pests. Who would select those who were to remain? Would the beautiful orioles be eliminated because they ate some of our fruit? We might look at the present record and note that the population of many bird species are alarmingly low. They have yet to appear on the endangered species lists but the roster includes the House Wren, the Yellowthroat, the Redstart, the Hermit Thrush, the Baltimore Oriole, the Bluebird, the Red-tailed Hawk, the Spotted Sandpiper and others — all friends; all attractive; all part of our more pleasant scenes. Strangely missing, in fact becoming more abundant, are the Red-winged Blackbird, the Common Grackle, the Starling; all predominantly pests. When our friends have disappeared and only the "select" few remain will not man have lost something more than the material things: his soul?

Old Chatham, New York 12136

1974 ANNUAL MEETING

The Jamestown Audubon Society and the Lake Erie Bird Club will host the 27th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs on October 18-20, 1974. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Holiday Inn of Dunkirk-Fredonia.

In addition to the papers read at the annual meeting, it is planned to hold workshops on bird identification. If you have an idea for a group of birds which you would like to have included, or if you would like to lead such a workshop, or if you have any suggestion as to someone who might be especially well qualified to lead a workshop, please contact: Allen H. Benton, Department of Biology, State University College, Fredonia, New York 14063