

Following an enjoyable picnic and cookout on the Ditterline front lawn, closely adjacent to the Chernick Sanctuary, Briarcliff, the meeting was called to order by President Hugh D. Moore in the Ditterline living room with the following Directors present: President Moore; Mesdames Anderson, Coggeshall, Geiffert and Holmes; Dr. Bligh, Dr. Frair, and Messrs. Ditterline, Holmes and Ritchey. Also present were Mrs. Ditterline, Miss Eunice Ditterline, Mrs. Jennie Smith, Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Fennell, and Chairman of the Board and Mrs. Nettleton.

The President expressed the pleasure and appreciation of the Board for the very enjoyable Ditterline hospitality.

1 REPORTS

Reading of the Minutes of the last meeting were omitted because of absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr. Messiah who was ill. Mr. Nettleton acted as Recording Secretary.

The Treasurer's report for the month of May, presented by Mrs. Holmes, showed a General Fund balance of \$461.22, a Sanctuary Fund balance of \$519.41, a Scholarship and Education Fund balance of \$279.33 and a total bank balance of \$1259.96 as of May 31. A copy is attached to these minutes.

There was an explanation of this year's summer scholarships, which have developed into three from SMRAS Inc., plus one by the Chappaqua Garden Club. The President expressed his satisfaction as to the value of the scholarships to the Society, both in the work of conservation and in making available potential future leadership and contributions to our Society.

Membership Committee Chairman Let Holmes reported several new members, some resignations and one death, resulting in a present total of 370 members. The President stated that he would continue the previous practice of welcoming each new member with a personally-written postal.

2 CONSERVATION

Mrs. Coggeshall, Conservation and Open Spaces Chairman, reported on the following matters: The Wilderness Bill is now reported favorably by one House sub-committee and is at present in the most nearly favorable status yet.

A plan to increase numbers of the whooping crane has been proposed by the Fish & Wildlife Service by taking a few eggs each year from selected nests and hatching them artificially. The National Audubon Society is opposed to the plan, believing that it may jeopardize existing flocks.

NAS has a new sanctuary in New Jersey totaling 98 acres with a variety of wildlife and topography.

Carmel, N.Y. has applied to the City of New York for an additional two million gallons of water supply daily, apparently resulting from plans of a brewery company there to increase its production of beer. Apparently the City of New York legally cannot allow such an increase for use by private business, but it appears that by some means the increase may be allowed. Mr. Ditterline pointed out that half of the large additional amount of water to be used would be returned to the land in the form of mash and similar effluent, a conservation threat in itself thru non-disposal.

The Rolling Hills property in Thornwood has aroused interest of some recreation groups and is now under study by them and by the Open Spaces Committee, the latter in hopes of having part or all of the area preserved as a natural wildlife sanctuary, about which the Nature Conservancy is much enthused and may begin a careful campaign, at present delayed because of the Westlake school budget controversy demanding interest of citizens, by first approaching

area, reported at a previous meeting, also for his more recent report on species of trees, shrubs and wildlife available at Rolling Hills. New Rochelle Water Shed the new soft detergent that will dissolve and not prove a threat in polluting water and land. Mr. Ditterline was commended for his fine report on the Chernick Sanctuary and surrounding property. is now available thru the Larrytown Company distributing K-9 dog food, Mr. Fennell reported. Apparently it has no brand name but is sold in drums. Mr. Fennell added that apparently 90% of the detergent companies voluntarily are switching over to this type of product, which will be all they sell in about a year from now. (Secretary's note: NAS President Buchheister

has stated, in an article in the Audubon Magazine, that even if the present, polluting, type of detergent were eliminated now, the effects would continue for another ten years)

3 JUNIOR AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Audubon Junior Clubs,

Mrs. Geiffert reported on the ~~Hawthorne Junior Audubon Club's~~ activities of the past year, replete with field trips to Rye Beach, Pleasantville pool and other spots, outside speakers, and an exhibit in town. The exhibit, staged at the Hawthorne school at the request of its PTA, aroused much interest among young non-members, parents, and particularly of teachers. Pupils in grades 4-6 grades, and one in 7th, comprise the group with an average age of 10½. The Pleasantville group, led by Doug Eckels, also has been active with regular meetings, an exciting meeting with an exhibit of snakes, some trips, shell collecting, pressed flowers and other activities. Eunice Ditterline, who recently volunteered to head a new group in Briarcliff, may be selected to lead an older girls' club during the coming year.

Mr. Fennell briefly reviewed the history of the Pleasantville Junior Club, which he founded, and mentioned that for a time much related nature activity formed part of the curriculum in the Chappaqua schools, thanks to a number of SMRAS members.

There was a discussion of a possible Junior Audubon program, perhaps in the afternoon, some time during the year, sponsored by SMRAS with low charge admission, possibly featuring Mrs. George of Bedford, whom Mr. and Mrs. Holmes have observed at a children's program and enthusiastically recommend. Mrs. George's fee is not known. there was also a discussion of the Junior Audubon budget appropriations of SMRAS for the coming year and Mrs. Geiffert mentioned a few of the items for which the money may be spent. One suggestion from members present was that leaders be reimbursed in advance for transportation expenses of trips.

4 SANCTUARY NEWS

Ditterline reported that the Conservation Club of the Briarcliff High School was making regular trips and systematic research at the Chernick Sanctuary, now in the process of identifying trees and shrubs, as well as helping in building trails.

Jim Ritchie Brinton Brook co-chairman, reported that Miss Farida Wiley of the Museum of Natural History plans to take one of her group field trips to Brington Brook on ~~October~~ ^{Malone} ~~11,~~ ^{11,} Na- for which Jim and Joe, also chairman, have given permission. They will arrange for the group to picnic at the cabin and make whatever other arrangements are needed. There was a discus- sion of inviting Miss Wiley to be the featured speaker on one of our programs, and the con- sensus was that she would be most valuable as a field trip leader, also that in any case there would be expense involved.

5 FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS CONVENTION

~~Federations of New York State Bird Clubs represent 22 counties and 17 incorporated cities in the Empire State and thank members of the Federation and present twenty members of the~~

There are 560 individual members. Jim reported on business meetings, a field trip at Oriskany Falls, and a talk regarding Cuyahoga Island towards Putnam and Presque Isle; Lake Erie; Buckhorn State Park, Grand Island; Nature Conservancy commendation in saving four areas,

motorized vehicles in the Forest Preserve and other Wilderness areas, the proposed American bomb test site on Japanes island threatening rare wildlife, Land and Water Conservation Fund bill, Wilderness Bill, Predator Control, the Hempstead Wetlands and insecticides. Host organization for the Convention was the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Next year's host will be the Onondaga Audubon Society of Syracuse. A copy of the Convention report is attached.

There was discussion of one item in Mr. Ritchie's report, a resolution at a business meeting asking each member club to donate the sum of \$10 to help balance the Federation's present \$150 deficit. Mr. Ditterline moved that the item be laid on the table; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

In response to an inquiry as to the values of our belonging to the Federation, Mr. Fennell said that altho there were many national organizations in the conservation field to express views and exert pressures, there were few on the State level, of which this is one. Mr. Nettleton mentioned the valuable work of the Federation, supported by organizations such as our Society, in opposing threats to the golden eagle, a year or two ago. Both members held the view that it was valuable for our Society to be a member of the Federation.

6 NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fennell outlined the cost of a 1964-65 directory. It was moved, seconded and passed un-animously that he be empowered to go ahead with a directory for the coming year.

In connection with our publications, for which Mr. Fennell is chairman, special mention was made of the value of the Society's history, recently contained in the newsletter by install-ments. There was general approval of the value of Mr. Youman's initiative and presentation.

The President also expressed our appreciation for the fine work of Mr. Fennell as chairman for the directory, newsletter and our newspaper publicity. Apparently the newsletters is generally approved, as almost no criticisms have been received.

Mrs. Holmes reported that a showcase is available at a Mt. Vernon School, now disposing of equipment, which we may have for use as part of the museum at Brinton Brook, if we go and get it. Mrs. Anderson volunteered to furnish transportation in the form of her station wagon. Mr. Ditterline volunteered to assist in the moving.

Mr. Ditterline reported on his and Eunice's work in the salvage permit project. They are at present checking, usually by canoe daily, 120 nests. He listed the variety of species--red-winged blackbirds in the majority--and the fact that about one-tenth of one percent of the eggs do not hatch.

Mr. Nettleton mentioned some conservation matters: the State of New Jersey's discontinuing use of DDT in combating the gypsy moth; Miss Carson's bequests to Nature Conservancy and the Sierra Club; two free newsletters--CONSERVATION NEWS of the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C., and a newsletter on threats and developments in mechanized vehicles' intrusions in wilderness areas, available from Newsletter, 2812 Panorama Place, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93105. He also mentioned the report of declining human birth rate, despite an increase in marriages. (his allusion to DDT as a possible fact--or, made half in jest, has since been refuted by Mr. Fennell, who quoted a World Telegram report that the cause may be a rising use of birth control pills, a possible antidote to the population explosion)

Regarding summer responsibilities in carrying out any demands of the Society, it was agreed, in the absence from the area of the President, Vice President and Chairman of the Board that any needed business be carried out by a four-man team, Mr. Fennell, Dr. Bligh, Let Holmes and Ed Ditterline, the last-named acting as chairman.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Anderson in Thornwood.

Mention was made of the tardiness of National Audubon Society, on a few occasions, in sending members their notices of dues due; consequently, several now make a practice of renewing membership upon the respective anniversaries without awaiting the notices.

Meeting adjourned at 10.23 p.m.

Respectfully,

Leon D. Nettleton

Leon D. Nettleton,

Recording Secretary pro tempore

Attachments (2), c. to Mr. Moore

1964 CONVENTION REPORT
by Alice and James R. Ritchie.

The Poughkeepsie Inn was the Headquarters for the Seventeenth Annual Convention of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs Inc.,

We arrived Friday evening 5/22 in time to attend the Reception given by the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club - our host for this delightful weekend.

Later in the evening we gathered in the Town Room to be briefed by Mr. Wheat - Chairman of the Conservation Committee and member of Baldwin Bird Club - on the resolutions to be discussed and voted on the following morning at the Council meeting. Between 45 and 50 members attended this session and Mr. Wheat was very pleased to announce that this was an unusual good turn-out for a Friday evening and we were very happy to meet our friends from Scarsdale Mr. & Mrs. Hastings.

About 9 a.m. Saturday morning the Council Meeting was called to order by our President Mr. Robert S. Arbib, Jr. The Roll Call showed 27 (out of 35) Bird Clubs represented and a quorum was declared. Mrs. Florence Germond, President of the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club greeted the meeting. Miss Margaret #. Husk, Rec. Sec. read the minutes from last years meeting. Minutes approved. Treasurer Mr. Kenneth D. Niven gave us a very gloomy report about the Federations financial standing - we went about \$150.00 in the red during 1963 - The "Kingbird" costing more than \$3.00 a year to be printed - a raise in dues inevitable - an increase to \$5.00 suggested, but to leave it at the old price for students - as the By-Laws must be **ratified** before an increase can go into effect and it will take two years to have that change made, it was suggested that each Club donate \$10.00 this year to help our finances and also each member could up-grade themselves voluntarily to either Sustaining member (\$5.00) or Supporting (\$10.00), would help greatly in the interim Mrs. Alice E. Ulrich, Editor of the Kingbird, asked for interesting items suitable for our magazine - and stressed the importance of correct addresses with Zip code numbers as it costs the Federation 20¢ for every returned magazine. The members on the John J. Elliott Memorial Fund are planing an award for the best article submitted to the Kingbird Magazine and hope many of our members will participate. Mr. Arbib was very happy to announce that we have finally found an enthusiastic and capable Editor and Author for the State Book, namely: John L. Bull member of the Linnean Society of New York.

A 20 minute COFFEEBREAK at 10:40 a.m.

The Nominating Committee's slate of officers was approved and the only change was the Corr. Sec. post taken over by Mrs. Frederick Marsi in place of Mrs. Lillian C. Stoner. Membership Com. reported 35 Clubs plus 560 individual members

The following eleven Resolutions were passed:

1. Cruger Island Atomic Plant to be built elsewhere
2. Presque Island, Lake Erie to be left as is
3. Buckhorn State Park, Grand Island to be left wild.
4. Mr. Hastings recommendation to commend Nature Conservancy for their work during

the past year in saving four areas.

5. Motorized Vehicles in Forest Preserve and other Wilderness Areas.
6. American Bomb Test Site on Japanese Island With Rare Wildlife.
7. Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill
8. Wilderness Bill
9. Resolution on Predator Control
10. Resolution on Hempstead Wetlands
11. Statement on Insecticides

The proposed resolution on Pigeon (Rock Dove) Control was defeated. (13 for, more against
Adjournment for Lunch at 12:40 p.m.

The PAPERS SESSION got under way at 1:45 p.m. and about ten Speakers covered this session with illustrations, slides and movies. All very interesting but especially Mr. James M. Hartshorne's "Behavior of the Eastern Bluebird at the nest" showing the nesting and rearing of the young birds inside birdhouses and laboratory cages, a marvelous job of photography and much patience involved. Harold D. Mitchell (Buffalo Audubon Society) film of "Nesting Red Crossbill's in Western New York" and of the Demoiselle Crane (breeding range "south central Eurasia) discovered on the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Western Orleans County. The session adjourned by 5:20 p.m.

Later on that evening we attended the Annual Banquet (Top Sirloin of Beef) at the Hellenic Center, a beautiful new building in the southern part of the City. Herb Salt-ford (Waterman Bird Club) was Toastmaster and the main Speaker of the evening was other than our own member Mr. Charles Bertram Schaughency showing his wonderful film none "New Jersey Out Doors", which shows not only birds but also some exotic wildflowers growing in the Pine Barrens and other places of New Jersey. We thoroughly enjoyed his informative and humorous commentary. Mr. Schaughency is to be complimented on the wonderful job he does with his films.

It was midnight when we got back to our room, but we were up at 5 a.m. for our scheduled Breakfast at 6 and our field trip start at 7 a.m. It was a clear cool morning with a slight westerly breeze. Ideal. Groups of 5 to 6 cars, each group with a leader and different destinations traveled north. We were on Rte 9 for awhile then turning in on a lovely country lane we saw a Bobolink on top of a tall birch. We parked near Bard College and walked the 1 1/2 miles to and around Crugers Island. This is indeed a place for birds. One wishes this area could be set aside for a Wildlife Sanctuary. There is an abundance of wildflowers and grand old trees. This was really "Natures Cathedral" on a beautiful Sunday morn. AND TO THINK THAT SOMEBODY WANTS TO BUILD AN ATOMIC PLANT HERE!!! By 12:30 all cars gathered at Bard College for a box lunch on the lawn overlooking the Hudson River.

We wish to express our gratitude to all the members of the R.T. Waterman B.C. who gave so willingly of their time to make this visit such a memorable one for us.

The Onondaga Audubon Society of Syracuse will be the host for next years Convention. Thank you SMRAS for giving us the honor of delegates at this Convention.

Area South of David E. Chernick Sanctuary

The area of Pocantico River Reservoir North of Old Sleepy Hollow Road to the intersection of Long Hill Road, Briarcliff, and Beech Hill Road, Town of Mt. Pleasant, Pleasantville, N.Y. bounded on the East side by the old New York Central railroad and curving around the East side of the David E. Chernick Sanctuary and on the West by the first top of ridge of hills running Parallel with the river is a natural paradise.

The valley portion of this area is submerged by backwater from Pocantico River Reservoir. The area is divided into four phases- three swampy marshlands connected by the river channel. The depth of water varies from 10 feet in the channel to 6" to 3'-0" deep on the marshlands which contain numerous islands and boggs. The hillside is covered with heavy vegetation and meadowlands. With in the area is one Drunning North and South which was left by the glacier.

The area supports many forms of wild life as well as trees, scrubs, bushes and wild flowers. The animal life living and rearing young in this area includes: Deer, possum, raccoon, skunks, muskrats, fox, rabbits cottontails and hare, woodchucks, squirrel, deer mice, field mice and rats, shrew, moles star nose and plain as a few types.

There are various types of frogs, water snakes, land snakes, box turtle, painted, spotted and snapping turtle and several varieties of fish.

The trees scrubs and bushes are: tulip, White, black chestnut Oaks, beech, linden, black cherry, a few third growth chestnuts, black walnut, honey locust, black, yellow, white and silver birch, white cedar, willow, water willow, ash, pussy willow, pig hickory shaggy bark hickory, American Elm (dying out), swamp maple, red, and sugar maple, spice bush red twig, yellow twig, wild pink azalea, bush honeysuckle, wild honeysuckle, bayberry, high and low bush blueberry, huckleberry, fox grape, bar berry, bitter sweet, staghorn shoemac, poison ivy, white dog wood and others.

The flowers are: skunk cabbage, lady slippers, Trillium (wake robin), John-jump-ups, Jack in the pulpits, white, yellow, blue, marsh and dog tooth violets, false lily of the valley, false solomon seal, real solomon seal, marsh marigolds, Dutchman britches, various golden rods, water lotus, water lilies, yellow field lilly, wind flowers, spring beauties, asters, white and purple bee balm, blood root, ginseng, cat tails, buttercups, Queen Ann's lace, Ax seed, purple vetch, woody nitshade. red clover, meadow rue, wild geranium, many ferns and leechans.

The growth of flowers, grasses, scrubs, bushes and trees untouched is a natural place for the animals and birds. This is an oasis in our land, and area approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ mile wide by $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile long.

It is unusual to find Canada geese nesting this far south. Normally they nest north in Canada, yet ~~there~~ were six ~~known~~ nests with in the area this year.

The following is a list of more than 105 different birds seen in this area, yet many more are actually here: canada goose, mallard, wood, teal (blue and green wing) ducks nesting in the area. Besides these we see coots, common loon, pied bill grebe, great blue heron, green heron, black crown night heron, american bittern, common merganser, turkey vulture, red tail hawk, rough legged hawk, marsh hawk, sparrow hawk, ruff grouse, ring neck pheasant, Virginia rail sors rails, American wood cock, yellowlegged ~~sua~~ piper herring gulls, mourning dove, ground dove, yellow and black billed cuckoo, great horned owl, barn owl, screech owl, whip-poor will, chuck wills-widow, ruby-throated humming bird, yellow shafted flicker, pileated, hairy, ~~a~~ and downy woodpeckers, eastern king bird, great crested fly catcher, eastern phoebe, least flycatcher, swallows-Tree, rough wing, barn, blue jays, common crow, fish crow black capped chickadee, tufted titmouse, white breasted nut hatch, brown creeper, house wren, short and long bill marsh wren, catbird, brown thrasher, hermit, wood and veery thrush, eastern bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, starling, red eye vireo, warbler's- black and white, swainsons, worm eating, blue wing, yellow, magnolia, myrtle, yellow throated, and prairie ovenbird, canada warbler, american red start, house sparrow, red wing (2

the list, which is not complete, but is a list of the birds seen in the area.

types), baltimore oriole, boat tailed, purple, and bronze grackle, brown headed cow bird, scarlet tangers, cardinal, rose breasted grosbeak, american gold finch, eastern towhee, arctic or ten spot towhee, junco slate colored, sparrows- tree, chipping, clay colored, field, white crown, white throat, fox, swamp, song, robbin, and bald eagle. The above birds are all seen during the year on migratory flights as a stopover to rest and feed; a large number stay and nest in this area.

This is one of the very few areas left in the county of Westchester or southern New York State where one can find such a variety of wild life. The area should be preserved in its natural state free from heavy recreational use and used as a science laboratory for schools and people interested in the wild life.

As more and more land is taken over for housing and industrial uses, our natural wilds, with the animals and birds disappear- never to be regained. Areas like this are needed to hold back our precious water which is restored to the natural underground water reserves. With the building of housing and industrial parks, the faster the run off of the water causing flooding in the low lands and the lowering of the underground water table. Therefore places of this type are needed for the benefit of man as well as wild life.

E.E. Ditterlins
Chairman David F. Chernick Sanctu