

Saw Mill River Audubon Society, Inc.
Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Director and Chairmen of Standing Committees
September 15, 1964

[Transcribed from hand-written originals by Anne Swaim. Capitalization/Punctuation as in original.]

The first meeting of the Fall Season of the Board of the Directors, Officers and Chairmen of the Standing Committees was held that Mr. and Mrs. Paul Anderson.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. Moore, Nettleton, Ritchie, Youmans, Ditterline, Holmes, Spear, Bligh, Messiah, and Malone; Mesdames Anderson, Forsyth and Coggeshall.

The Secretary's report of the June 9th meeting was read and approved with minor corrections.

The Treasurer's Report indicated a balance of \$614.82 in the general fund, \$510.91 in the sanctuary fund and \$159.33 in the scholarship and education fund, for a total bank balance as of August 31, 1964 in the amount of \$1285.06.

The membership chairman Mr. Holmes reported a total of 334 members. Since 370 members were reported at the last meeting, Mrs. Holmes explained the apparent drop was a reflection of a thorough check of the membership list which in many cases listed names whose dues were in arrears sometimes up to two years. The membership list is accurate at this time and while possible methods of improvement in maintaining the list were discussed it was decided the present system is adequate. The president will be notified of new members by Miss Reiter, the corresponding secretary, so that he may welcome them into the Society.

Brinton Brook Sanctuary – Mrs. Malone and Mr. Ritchies reporting. Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Ditterline were able to bring a case to the cabin in Mrs. Anderson's station wagon. The case is being used to display the birds nests donated by Mrs. Laire. The committee meeting is to be held at the Sanctuary on September 20th. Precautions against fire were discussed particularly in view of a possible visit to the Sanctuary by a group of young people led by Mrs. Farida Wiley of the American Museum of Natural History. Dam repairs were made in the spring during which time the water level was at its highest. The water is now at its lower level because of the extended drought. The possibility of closing the sanctuary during the dry spell was discussed but no final decision was reached. A suggestion was made that the group led by Mr. Spendelow could be employed to clean out the pond since the water is at its present low level. This will be investigated further by the committee. The proposed field book to be written on Brinton Brook was discussed. A possible aid in defraying the cost of book preparation is a subscription list. Mr. Ritchie reported he fished the pond at four different times of approximately one hour duration each time and numbered a 2-1/2 pound bass and twenty five sunfish among his catches. Mrs. Forsyth reported a snapping turtle attacking a bass. Mrs. Coggeshall, her sister and Mr. George Porter visited the sanctuary during which time a Cape May Warbler was sighted.

David Chernick Sanctuary. Mr. Ditterline reporting. The Pocantico River bed is dry except for a small trickle. No fish are present except for some stranded on mud. Large numbers of red-winged blackbirds were observed. Mr. Ditterline estimate 10% destruction of birds nests due to animals and windstorms about 20% rejects of eggs and about 15% deaths among fledgling birds. Two fledgling cardinals were observed in a nest on September 14. Litter was observed being thrown on the Sanctuary path by residents. It is hoped this will be discouraged by asking the residents for their cooperation. If not, other methods will be sought.

Miss Eunice Ditterline has been able to form a new Junior Audubon Club. Its name is Audubon Junior near Chernick. The club meets in the Ditterline basement on Friday afternoons every other Friday. Present membership is 17 members about half of them from areas outside Briarcliff. The club is at present engaged in

raising money to purchase copies of Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds by selling jellies made from wild fruit. Jars are needed by the group. The club's program the year has been completed.

A green heron was reported trapped by a snapping turtle in the marsh in the mud. The bird was subsequently freed with the aid of Miss Ditterline.

Conservation Committee. – Mrs. Coggeshall reporting. The Wilderness Bill and Land and Conservation Bills have been signed by President Johnson. The statement issued by the President after signing the bills on conservation was an enlightened and appropriate one. Steps in the creation of Fire Island Park continue to move forward. A letter was read from Mr. Charles Little of the Open Space Action Committee expressing the wish of a Mr. Martin Breck for a survey of land 20 acres or more in private or public ownership and asking for the help of Saw Mill River Audubon. Mrs. Coggeshall will write for more specific information about how SMRAS may assist. There appears to be some possibility of state aid being made available in acquiring the Rolling Hills property in Thornwood.

During the summer SMRA was asked by Mr. Frances Thurber to use its influence in encouraging the village of Ossining to develop the property which formerly was a reservoir into a park. It was the judgement of the Open Space Committee that this was a local issue fraught with political complications and any action should therefore be guided by the wishes of those SMRAS members who reside in Ossining. Card containing a group of questions were mailed to Ossining members. Replies received were 17 for favoring the park project, 4 against and one objection. Mrs. Thurber was sent a letter containing the information revealed by the card poll. This matter will rest there for the present. National Fish and Wildlife Federation Bulletin will be issued in October. House Bill 5922 concerns the John Martin Reservoir in Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma was spoken of by Mr. Ditterline and asked if the Society should support. He will write for more information before SMRA can act.

Program Committee. Arthur Spear reporting. Program is in good order and all set except for one date.

Field Trips. Mr. Malone reporting. The best flight of hawks in history was reported at Hawk Mountain. About 3200 hawks were counted. A bald eagle was also sighted.

President's Report. Valhalla Garden Club which is holding a show September 23 and 24 asked that SMRAS sponsor a booth. A motion was passed authorizing the sum of \$10.00 from the General Fund to be spent to set up a booth for SMRAS at the garden club show. The theme to be promotion of SMRA and conservation.

Stationery will be sold at the November and December meetings. Sales held previous to those dates were not considered worthwhile.

A motion was passed authorizing the expenditure of the sum of \$12.00 from the general fund to purchase 500 reprints of the article on Conservation appearing in the Readers Digest. These reprints are to be mailed with the new directory to club members.

The president urged that consideration be given to the choice of a delegate to the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs and the to the Long Range Planning Program and selection of a chairman for the paid meeting.

A motion was passed naming Mrs. Mary Forsyth as SMRAS delegate to the National Audubon convention at Tucson, Arizona November 7-11.

Motion remained table on Federation of Birds club deficit. [Transcriber note: no other information noted.]

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Coggeshall on October 6th.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson for their hospitality.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted

Willis J. Messiah

Recording Secretary

Saw Mill River



Audubon Society

FOUNDED IN 1895 AND DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

August 15, 1964

It has been brought to the attention of the Conservation and Open Spaces Committee of the Saw Mill River Audubon Society that there is the possibility of a park being developed on the site of the reservoir on Pleasantville Road in the Village of Ossining. This reservoir has been replaced by a water storage tank, is no longer needed for water supply purposes, and possibly will be filled in. The area comprises about 5 acres and, to the best of our knowledge, would be a small neighborhood recreational park.

Opponents of the proposed park feel that this area could benefit the Village financially if used for business or industrial use and that such a park would not benefit enough residents to warrant giving up this tax advantage.

The Saw Mill River Audubon Society now has three sanctuaries: 112 acre Brinton Brook in Croton, the Thurber Sanctuary of about 6 acres in Ossining, and the 5.8 acre Chernick Sanctuary in the Town of Mount Pleasant. Brinton Brook is a Wildlife Refuge, not a community recreational center; its main purposes being education and research. The Thurber and Chernick Sanctuaries both have a large proportion of swamp land and therefore are valuable from a wildlife sanctuary and water conservation viewpoint. The Society is vitally concerned about land use in the area whether it be in the interests of wildlife or for recreation purposes.

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors feels that it should be guided in any action on this matter by the opinions of the Audubon members who live in the Village of Ossining. Therefore, we are asking that you return the enclosed post card so that any future investigation and possible support of this park will reflect the thinking of the Ossining membership.

We strongly urge you to make known your wishes directly to the Mayor and the Board of Trustees, as well.

Carol Coggeshall, Chairman
Conservation and Open Spaces Com.
for the Executive Committee of the
Board of Directors

SAW MILL RIVER AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Financial Statement

For the months of June, July and August 1964

GENERAL FUND

<u>BALANCE</u> June 1, 1964		\$ 461.22
<u>RECEIPTS</u> - N.A.S. dues	\$ 158.50	
Sale of books	26.52	
Interest	11.18	196.20
		<u>657.42</u>
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u> - Postage	11.37	
Program	7.35	
Cost of books	17.28	
Safe deposit box rental	6.60	42.60
		<u>614.82</u>
<u>BALANCE</u> August 31, 1964		<u>614.82</u>

SANCTUARY FUND

<u>BALANCE</u> June 1, 1964		519.41
<u>RECEIPTS</u> - None		
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u> - Brinton membership	8.50	8.50
		<u>510.91</u>
<u>BALANCE</u> August 31, 1964		<u>510.91</u>

SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION FUND

<u>BALANCE</u> June 1, 1964		279.33
<u>RECEIPTS</u> - None		
<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u> - Balance on scholarships	120.00	120.00
		<u>159.33</u>
<u>BALANCE</u> August 31, 1964		<u>159.33</u>

TOTAL BANK BALANCE August 31, 1964 1285.06

Catharine D. Holmes
Treasurer