



# Conservation

... with Marie Mellinger

## Doing One's Thing

Spring brings thoughts of the out of doors, a longing to be out and doing where "flowers are springing and birds are a-winging." Now is the time to get as close to nature as possible. What ever your favorite form of outdoor fun, spring is the time when all nature is going through a renewal that can give our lives a special lift. Back-pack along the Appalachian trail, attend spring CBC and GOS, take in the wild flower pilgrimage, or just get out and sit on a mossy log in your own woods and watch the first butterflies flitting over the first flowers of the season.

For those of you who enjoy wilderness camping, South Carolina offers some exceptional scenery and mountain hiking. Oconee State Park, 12 miles NW of Walhalla, is in the heart of the South Carolina Mountains, on the borders of the National Forest. There are hiking trails extending for miles, and you can see such springtime beauties as masses of mountain laurel and rhododendrons, and beds of blossoming trillium and violets. Table Rock State Park is 30 miles N of Greenville, and from there nature trails climb Table Rock and the Pinnacle mountains.

## Good News!

In these days of ecological disasters and forwarnings of doom I thought it would be refreshing for once to record only bright spots on the environmental picture. To begin with, it seems definitely established that there is still an Ivory-billed Woodpecker alive in South Carolina. In recognition of his work to prevent lumbering in the Santee Swamp, supposed haunt of the Ivory-billed, Alex Sanders was presented with a painting of the species by the Sierra Club. This presentation followed the announcement by William Campbell, Columbia chapter president of the Audubon Society, that the Ivory-billed had recently been photographed. Location has carefully not been pinpointed to protect the birds from an invasion of bird-watchers that might disturb both the birds and their habitat.

The only known recording of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is now available on a new record from the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Department. The record, Bird Songs

of South Carolina, was produced by Peter Paul Kellogg in cooperation with Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. The record may be obtained by sending \$2.00 to the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Dept., Box 167, Columbia, S. C. 29202.

The Army Corps of Engineers announced that the controversial request to dredge a canal on Pawley's Island had been withdrawn.

The South Carolina State Development Board issued a report opposing the Trotter Shoals dam project on the Savannah River. In this they join an ever increasing number of conservation organizations, the Georgia Department of Game and Fish, and an unofficial position by representatives of the South Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

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Nathaniel P. Reed, assistant secretary of the Interior, recently states that a survey showed twice as much time spent in bird watching last year, than was spent in hunting. This same survey by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife states that "there are over 870,000 persons who watch birds over an average of 117 days per year." In another rather astounding statement, Fish and Wildlife Officials stated "units of wilderness within National Wildlife Refuges will be administered in such a manner as to preserve their wilderness character for the use and enjoyment of the American people, and at the same time, leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment."

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I recently visited the Sea Pines Forest Preserve on Hilton Head Island, a 572-acre wilderness set aside by Charles Frazier and planned by Glen McCaskey to protect animals and birds and provide visitors with a unique experience. Trails wind through varying habitats, with ponds of waterfowl and with areas of deep woods with age-old live oaks and magnolias. A 3,400-year-old Indian shell ring is within the area, as well as dikes from the original Lawton Plantation rice fields. A permanent forest preserve set in the heart of a major development is truly remarkable, and this project should set a pattern for community planners every where.

Mr. Frazier also recently purchased some 500 acres comprising the two heronries on Hilton Head, that these may be preserved. White Ibis, Great Blue Herons, Little Blue Herons, Louisiana Herons, Common Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and Cattle Egrets nest in these rookeries. Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons nest on the outskirts of the colonies, and one rookery is ringed by five Osprey nests. Birders and ecologists can be very thankful that these valuable breeding grounds are being preserved.

### **To Have and to Hold**

Alaska's "pageant of wildlife," with emphasis on its abundant migratory birds, is illustrated in a 16-page color booklet just issued by the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service. Titled "To Have and to Hold," the booklet points out, mostly in photographs, that this natural bounty will not be easy to preserve in a vast area now threatened by rapid change.

In his foreword, Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton stresses that "the life cycle of tens of millions of Northern Hemisphere waterfowl, sea birds and other species are dependent upon Alaska's islands, coastal plains, river valleys and marine waters." The Secretary adds: "As the decisions to develop Alaska's oil and water resources are being made, it is essential that man also preserve the living riches of this northern land. It will be a crucial test of man's ability, ingenuity and self-restraint to do so. This is the highest aspiration of the Department of the Interior."

The pamphlet, for sale at 35 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402, describes the vital role of Alaska

in producing migratory birds for America and the entire Pacific Ocean basin and describes the areas that must be protected if these valuable species are to survive.

### **Fast Action Increases Penalties for Killing Eagles**

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton praised Congress for taking fast action toward increasing the Federal penalties for killing Bald and Golden Eagles. The House voted favorably 7 February on the recommendation of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee amendments to the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 that would provide for maximum penalties of \$5,000 and one year imprisonment for subsequent offenses. "After the deplorable eagle slaughters in Wyoming revealed last year, the present efforts indicate the continuing concern of the Congress for the preservation of our national bird," Secretary Morton said.

Congress became concerned with the possible extinction of the Bald Eagle as early as 1940. The Bald Eagle Protection Act of that year forbid the taking, selling, etc., of Bald Eagles or their parts unless under special permit. It provided for fines of not more than \$500 and imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or both.

The Department of the Interior had recommended enactment of legislation similar to that just passed by the House of Representatives. Under Secretary Pecora advised the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in September that "increased penalties, together with a requirement of less specific criminal intent will serve to deter future violations of the Act." The Bald Eagle Protection Act was amended in 1962, extending to the Golden Eagle those protections already afforded the Bald Eagle.

### **Now Available:**

Plans for the Duncan bluebird nest box, available from W. G. Duncan, 519 Ridgewood Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40207. Or completed nest boxes from Greenfield Wood Products, Youngs Creek, Indiana 47472, \$3.00 each.

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From Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19120: *Camping in the National Park System*, 25 cents, and *Back-Country Travel in the National Park System*, 35 cents.

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Conservation Yearbook, *Our Living Land*-\$2.00 from U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402