

Conservation

. . . with Marie Mellinger

What is so rare as a day in June?

"What is so rare as a day in June, then if ever come
perfect days,
When heaven tries earth if it be in tune, and over it
softly a warm ear lays,
And whether we look or whether we listen, we hear life
murmur and see it glisten,
For every clod feels a stir of might, an instinct within it
that reaches and towers,
And groping blindly about it for light, climbs to a soul in
grass and flowers."

On a pleasant June morning, with a resounding bird chorus echoing through the trees, it is pleasant to write about the forming of the bird watching movement in America. After hearing the great Carl Bucheister give an account of the founding of the National Audubon Society, women's lib should enjoy hearing what a big part women took in birding beginnings. When Grinnell founded the Audubon Society he named it not only for John James, but for Lucy Audubon who was his tutor when he was a child. Men were asked to pledge, "I will not kill any bird whose flesh I will not eat," and women, "I pledge I will not wear in my millinery, feathers of egrets or birds of paradise."

Mean time some ladies had started the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and when Grinnell gave up his society, Massachusetts Audubon took it over. By 1905 several independent organizations were melded together with T. Gilbert Pearson, from Guilford College, N. C., as first executive secretary. In 1906 the name was changed to National Audubon Association, with a single purpose "to preserve bird life." By 1930 this concept was changed "to preserve soil, water, plants, and wild life." This was the beginning of Audubon's ecology movement, not the study of an independent species, but the study of the whole, all related and interdependent. "To save the heron you must save the marsh."

Mr. Bucheister stated, "Today we must be concerned with the totality of our environment. It is a question of survival, not only of species of wild life and plants, but of human survival." And he concluded, "When you save natural beauty and teach others to see and feel and cherish it, you are on the side of creation, doing something for the human spirit."

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If you have ever enjoyed the heart of a southern swamp in spring, when you feel the mystical quality of being surrounded by bird song and smell the sweetness of the blossoming heaths, you will be happy to know that two logging firms have cancelled their timber cutting contracts in the Santee Swamp. Long live the wilderness!

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There has been some helpful publicity in South Carolina newspapers on enforcement of the hawk and owl law. Several arrests have been made, but those arrested usually

escape by pleading ignorance of the law. Birds of prey protected include all hawks, both vultures, harriers, falcons, and eagles. Please publicize this law as much as possible!

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June and vacation time go together, but camping vacations may soon be on a reservation only basis. Over-crowding and demand for too many camping refinements tax nature to the utmost. Erma Bombeck wrote that man camps and then "must have his electric blanket, his electric coffee pot, his electric martini mixer, his t.v., his high fi (but he complained that the sound of the waterfall interfered with his high fi). Most campers demand a swimming pool, a boat dock, a laundermat, a general store, and a half a dozen playgrounds." A national out door writer warned that "true camping will soon become extinct if people don't stop demanding more and more of the comforts they seldom have at home."

Plans are being made for recreation areas along the proposed Trotter Shoals flowage, some 200 miles of them involving 14 counties in Georgia and 8 counties in South Carolina. This would be a national recreation (?) area with such goodies as golf courses, motels, developed indian villages, antebellum plantations, zoos, and outdoor amusement parks. I think the Savannah would rise and flood in protest!

Edward P. Cliff, of the U. S. Forest Service, said, "Public use is taxing National Forest land to the danger point, and may lead to stringent restrictions on usage of wilderness areas."

Books We Recommend

Two new books, one written by young people, would do everyone a world of good. *The Foxfire Book*-\$3.95 in paperback, available from Foxfire, Rabun Gap, Georgia 30568.

Where Have All the Flowers, Fishes, Birds, Trees, Water, and Air Gone? by Osborn Segerberg, Jr., available from David McKay Company.

The Foxfire Book was written by the students of Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School, under the guidance of Elliott Wigginton. In the mountains we are but shortly removed from a time when man was still dependent on the resources of nature for his daily living. This was a world of wood, of hunting and fishing for badly needed food. To go back to such a world and enjoy the fabulous photographs of old timers and old time occupations, read this book.

In *Where Have* etc., Mr. Segerberg gives a comprehensive but easily read summary of our ecological problems and some possible solutions. He writes, "Much of the danger to man is summed up in the simple phrase 'we don't know'. We pollute the environment today, tomorrow the environment pollutes our children."

New Guide to Birds of Mexico

A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico by Ernest P. Edwards contains 24 color plates illustrating nearly 500 Mexican species. Among the several artists is CBC member Douglas Pratt. For information about books, lithographs, note paper, and other items available from Dr. Edwards, write him at Box AQ, Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595.

Purple Martin House Plans

Purple Martin house plans and tips on attracting these interesting birds can be obtained by sending 25 cents and a stamped addressed envelope to Ray K. Walker, Box 711, St. Louis, Missouri 63188. Five copies for a dollar will be sent to one address in a single 8 cent stamped addressed envelope.