

HOW IMPORTANT ARE BIRDS? An Editorial

Bird lovers are familiar with Roger Tory Peterson's, "A Field Guide To The Birds", first published in 1934 and has become a classic for bird lovers. One of the world's leading ornithologists discusses the mounting destructive pressures mankind has brought to bear on wildlife.

Nearly eighty full species of birds have become extinct in the world — in less than three centuries — since the do-od. More than ninety percent of them lived on islands. The majority have been hastened on their way by the activities of man.

Europe has been settled much longer than North America and yet, it has been pointed out, during the last 1,000 years, not one native European land bird has become extinct although a number of species have held on by the narrowest of margins. Until modern times the principal centers of urban civilization was in the land mass and along the large navigable rivers. There were always wilderness spaces in the heartland. The nobility had always preserved some of the forest and its game for their own pleasure.

Two new factors are rapidly changing this. — The first is biological — the rapid increase in human population which places great pressure on the remaining "virgin lands".

The second new factor is mechanical and chemical. Bulldozers can change the landscape more thoroughly in ten years than our ancestors could in a thousand.

Each year the consolidation of farm land into bigger units, the mechanization doing away with hedges, thickets and ponds that are the last refuges of wildlife in farming country. Man's tendency to exterminate those wild creatures that come into competition with him.

North America has lost more species through extinction in the last hundred years than Europe has lost in a thousand. We have lost the passenger pigeon, the ivory billed woodpecker is almost extinct; the whooping crane numbers scarcely more than forty. The California condor also numbers about forty and in slow decline.

A number of fresh water fish have recently become extinct or else become so rare that their future is in jeopardy.

The United States, with its abundant natural resources, is the best wildlife haven the great federal refuge and the most graduate students in wildlife management and conservation. All this has been urged.

Although hunting has at times, put undue pressure on certain game species, it now has been brought under careful regulations. The hunter has a great stake in maintaining his sport and today there is less worry at his hand than about the attrition of environment.

Every day new plans are made somewhere to drain another pond or swamp or marsh until more than 50 million acres of the original 127 million acres of wetland have disappeared, and millions of other acres are crisscrossed with mosquito control ditches.

The waterfowl must congregate where the water is and because of the drainage of wetlands, their numbers have been declining.

Birds continue to damage planes, and sometimes they are sucked into the jets. As our air channels become more crowded, we cannot help but feel that the ultimate answer may be the redesign of planes or of their engine intakes. This idea is not far-fetched. It has been considered.

Tall structures — lighthouses, buildings, radio towers — are hazardous to birds traveling at night especially when it is foggy. Thousands of birds hit television towers; as many as 20,000 have been killed in a single night.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the emergence of the World Wildlife Fund are not accidental.



50 YEARS AGO

August 17, 1907

J. H. Backus, Publisher

The most disastrous electric storm ever known in this vicinity passed just Southeast of Andover Village, between here and Whitesville Monday afternoon. Within a radius of a few miles, four barns and a house were struck and burned to the ground. Abe Austin, lost a barn; Norman Rogers, a barn; Tim Blair a barn and Will O'Dell, two big barns and his house.

W. W. Pingrey has accepted the principalship of the Panama High School for the coming year.

Edward Dean, Jr., of Scranton, Pa., is spending the week with the Horan family on South Hill.

Henry Horan is spending the week at the home of his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Snyder of East Valley.

Miss Edith Truman of Alfred is a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Green this week.

John E. Cannon was in attendance at the Chautauqua at Chautauqua Lake, the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Baker and her brother, Carroll Tucker, left the first of the week for Canada, for a two weeks vacation trip.

Miss Lee Robbins and daughter, Doris of Geneva; Mr. and Mrs. W. W. VanNoy of Rochester; and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Willinson of Cuba, were among the former Andover people in attendance at the Annual Harvest Home held at the Presbyterian Church August 10th.

Miss Gladys Cummings, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George Cummings, has returned to her home in Detroit, Michigan.

Leon Blakeslee and Miss Irene Blakeslee of Castle, passed Tuesday and Wednesday guests at the home of Mrs. LaRue Crandall.

B. B. Brown and family of Andover, and Mrs. S. S. Scribner for several days last week.

Miss Helen Folsom, of Andover, was in town Monday after spending two weeks with friends in Andover and Cincinnati.

Jennie Crandall, hostess of the "New" is enjoying a well earned two weeks vacation.

Mr. John Snyder and daughter of Detroit, Michigan, are visiting her brother, George Cummings and family this week.

Mrs. Elia Bundy went to the Adirondacks Friday for a few days vacation.

Mrs. Ralph Pratt, of Andover, and Robert of Bondi are guests this week at Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Thorne.

40 YEARS AGO

August 19, 1927

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Mr. Doris Ethel Wagner of Andover, and Felix C. Schnelle of Wellsville were united in marriage Sunday, August 14th.

A company of forty members of the Seventh Day Baptist Ladies Aid Society and their husbands, gave Mr. and Mrs. Henry Livermore a surprise visit at their new home on Rochambeau Ave., Tuesday night.

Attorney Mira Diffin opened an office Monday morning, August 15th over the J. D. Cheesman Store in Andover for the practice of law.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Baker, L. C. Kenyon and family, C. T. Burdick and family, and Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Burdick of Tip Top, attended the farmers' picnic held at Canas craga, Thursday.

Mrs. M. F. Baker of Salamanca is spending the week at the home of Mrs. B. S. Baker of Tip Top.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Green and daughter, Christine and Mrs. Green's mother and sister of Cleveland, Ohio, spent the weekend at the home of E. V. Green of Tip Top.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Greene of New York City, were guests last week at the home of their sister, Mrs. C. M. Crandall of Independence.

Miss Hilda Crandall of Alfred is a guest of her aunt, Mrs. Floyd

Convention Viewpoint

As urbanization advances, we in Andover are becoming increasingly aware of the values of wilderness, recreational space and pure air and water. What is done today to conserve, develop or spend the State's natural resources will have a profound effect on the welfare of its people in years to come. The Delegates to the Constitutional Convention have recognized this need and have already advanced proposals maintaining the Constitutional protection of our State's most important resources.

Clarke of Independence this week. Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Moran and daughter, Agatha of Cleveland, Ohio, were guests of Andover relatives and friends last week.

Mrs. Harry Kemp is visiting relatives and friends in Shinglehouse, Pa., this week.

The Misses Aileen and Madeline Walsh are visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bunt of Duke Center, Pa., this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wallace are spending the week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Wallace of Perry, N. Y.

Mrs. L. J. Blauvelt and daughter, Ruth, of Dowagiac, Michigan, are visiting his sister, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Earley and other friends.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Clarke of California, are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Trowbridge and other Andover relatives and friends.

George Probasco motored over from Whitesville Saturday afternoon. Mrs. E. G. Probasco, who has been visiting Andover relatives and friends, returned home with him.

30 YEARS AGO

August 13, 1937

J. H. Backus & Son, Publisher

Miss Evelyn Louise Edwards of West Union and Lawrence F. Hann of Andover, were united in marriage Tuesday, August 3rd.

William I. Brownell, died at his home on Burney Street, Saturday, August 7th. His wife, a daughter and two sons survive.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Northrup are the parents of a daughter, Marie Adlene, born Tuesday, August 3rd.

At the regular meeting of the members of the board of Education of Andover High School held this week, Mrs. Raymond Snyder was elected President.

The 61st Annual Harvest Home will be held Thursday, August 19th on the Presbyterian Church lawn.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Burdick of Rochester were weekend guests at the home of his brother, Mr. Burdick of Elm Valley.

Kenneth Leonard of Olean, is passing some time at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Lavina Osborn of Elm Valley.

Mrs. Florence Granter of Elm Valley, is visiting Mrs. Charles Clarke of Independence. They spent Monday in Hornell, guest of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Granter.

Miss Carol Walton is spending this week at Silver Lake, guest of Mrs. Reba Darc.

Eighth District Adjutant, Fay E. Boyd is attending the State Legion Convention at Troy this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Childs and daughter, Barbara and Lila, are passing some time guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harland Robinson at Baker, Montana.

Mrs. Mae Cocoman of Buffalo is passing a two weeks vacation at the home of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. James Baker.

John and Earl Richardson are spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bassett in Buffalo.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyd and sons of Batavia, are spending a few days with his aunt and brother, Miss Mary Snyder and F. Boyd.

Mrs. Bertha Hardy is representing the Andover American Legion Auxiliary Unit at the Troy Convention this week.

John DeRemer is spending a week in Meadville, Pa., his old home-town.

Mr. and Mrs. Clare Jackson and family returned Saturday from Dunkirk, where they enjoyed a few days camping near Lake Erie.

Thus steps have now been taken, championed by the Convention President, Anthony J. Travia, and leaders in all political parties, to continue the Constitutional protection of our "Forever Wild" Forest Preserve.

Because of its great variety of topography, from sub-Alpine mountain tops to sandy beaches, New York is the habitat of many species of animals, including about 60 species of mammals, 400 kinds of birds, and hundreds of varieties of fresh and salt water fish, mollusks and crustaceans.

In addition to such popular local forms of enjoyment as bird-watching and photography, many Andover residents were among the more than half million licensed hunters and even more licensed fishermen, plus thousands of unlicensed saltwater fishermen, who used these living resources. About \$92 million is spent by sportsmen annually on hunting and fishing, plus over \$5 million for licenses.

The Delegates, in debate on these items on the Convention floor, heard startling statistics concerning the use New Yorkers make of their State's natural outdoor recreational areas. The almost 90 public camping grounds in the State handled, in 1966, over 2.5 million visitor days and the total will undoubtedly be higher this year. The State maintains over 1,200 miles of foot trails and 271 lean-to shelters.

The Convention was aware of the needs for open space and wilderness recreational facilities.

Campgrounds Grow As Business Booms

Privately owned campgrounds are on the increase in New York State and business is good, reports a Cornell University forester.

Operators have felt the impact of Expo 67 in Montreal and are providing services wanted by trailer campers, said Prof. Fred E. Winch, Jr., N. Y. State College of Agriculture, Cornell.

Winch said there were only a few privately owned and operated campgrounds in 1957 but with a 20 per cent annual growth during the past 10 years, there are now about 350 in the State.

With the trend from tent to trailer campers, operators have been quick to meet the changing needs Winch said. He said the operators are in personal contact with the campers so they know their needs and can meet them more quickly than can be done at public sites.

Winch said many operators provide special features, such as indoor and four hole golf courses and play areas for youngsters. One camp gives the youngsters a hay ride on weekends when there are many young guests in camp. Also, some camps provide special accommodations for caravans allowing them to stay together in the campsite and set up a convenient cook tent.

In many campgrounds, as many as 10 per cent of the campsites are rented on a seasonal basis so a family can park its trailer and then visit it on week-ends and during vacation periods.

In calendar year 1966, the U. S. had a total favorable trade balance — the margin of merchandise exports over imports — of \$3.6 billion. Of that total, the agricultural trade balance accounted for \$2.4 billion, or two-thirds of the favorable margin.

WOMEN

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