

A Quiet Island

by CHARLES LAPPEN,
Chairman, Sanctuary Committee

As the world rushes on, the need becomes all the more vital that patches of land become preserved and protected so that wildlife, plant life, and yes, man himself can find sanctuary.

Wildlife, in all its forms, needs the opportunity to develop in its predestined manner.

Man, from time to time, needs the opportunity to find some seclusion and to re-establish himself with the world about him.

For an organization such as the Illinois Audubon Society, a sanctuary gives living witness to some of its ideals and objectives.

The Board of Directors adopted the following Statement of Policy when it established guidelines for property acquisition: "The acquisition of wildlife sanctuaries is one of the highest objectives of the Illinois Audubon Society. No other activity that we engage in will so directly affect the preservation of birds and other wildlife, and no other endeavor will so strongly influence the growth of our Society in membership and influence."

For us, ownership of land certainly cannot become an end in itself, but must be directly related to our formal purposes, as stated in Article One of our By-Laws:

"To encourage the study, preservation and appreciation of the wildlife of the State, especially the birdlife.

To promote the conservation and protection of all natural resources.

To develop and implement a broad education program in the interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment, and preservation of our natural heritage."

The Sanctuary Committee, under the leadership of our Executive Director, Warren Dewalt, who made a detailed study of sanctuary programs of other Audubon groups, has established guidelines for property acquisition.

It is not the essence of this article to list or review these guidelines but rather to bring to the attention of our members that we seek land appropriate for sanctuaries and funds to maintain them properly.

From a financial viewpoint, the donor can gain some important tax advantages.

From a personal viewpoint, the donor can perpetuate a living tribute in his name, or in the name of his loved ones, the grandeur of a sanctuary.