

MICHIGAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS, PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP MARCH 24, 1973 AND APPROVED

No. 1

WHEREAS, the Point Mouillee State Game Refuge is one of the few remaining true marshland areas on Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers has planned to use a portion of the Game Area for dredge spoil disposal; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources will trade a portion of Point Mouillee for these purposes, for an unequal portion of Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Park Authority land; and

WHEREAS, this transaction is not in the total best interest of the people of Michigan, nor is it sound environmental land management;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Audubon Society urge the Director of the Department of Natural Resources not to allow this transaction to take place and we strongly recommend to the Army Corps of Engineers to select a more environmentally sound site for dredge spoil disposal.

No. 2

WHEREAS, the Michigan Water Resources Commission has created the Shorelands Management Plan,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan Audubon Society recommends the adoption of this plan and commends the Michigan Water Resources Commission for development of this plan.

No. 3

WHEREAS, there is legislation proposed to legalize a Michigan hunting season on the Mourning Dove; and

WHEREAS, the reproductive rate of southern Mourning Dove populations is not an appropriate measure for northern states like Michigan, where, according to studies at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, only 2.24 young were fledged per year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed month, September, for the open season on Mourning Doves is also one of the heaviest months of fall migration of other birds that can be easily confused with the Mourning Dove; and

WHEREAS, there is evidence that some Mourning Doves nest in September;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society oppose enactment of any state legislation that would permit an open gun season on Mourning Doves.

No. 4

WHEREAS, there exists a delicate physical and chemical balance in the upper atmosphere of the earth; and

WHEREAS, adequate aircraft noise levels have not been established;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society recommend to the President of the United States and the Chairman of the Federal Aviation Administration that no supersonic transport aircraft be permitted to use the United States airport facilities, nor air space over land areas.

No. 5

WHEREAS, present and past economic policies concerning energy are a paramount cause of the problem of energy supply and demand; and

WHEREAS, new economic policies could bring about a more realistic and less environmentally destructive development and use of energy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society support those economic policies which would correct our energy problems. These policies include the abolishment of fuel import quota systems, abolishment of economic subsidies to energy industries,

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restructuring of price rates so as to better reflect the full cost of energy, reducing energy demands, and establishing federal, state, and local policies which would promote more efficient energy use and better conservation of energy resources.

No. 6

WHEREAS, there exists a coyote bounty system in the state of Michigan; and
WHEREAS, the coyote bounty policy is economically and environmentally unsound;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society urge the state legislature to remove the bounty on coyotes.

No. 7

WHEREAS, birds of prey including hawks and owls are being removed from their natural habitat to be used for falconry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society reaffirm its stand against the use of hawks and owls for falconry and against the taking of birds for such purposes in the state of Michigan.

No. 8

WHEREAS, the United States Office of Endangered Species, the United Forest Service, the Michigan Department of Forestry, and the Department of Natural Resources have been active in behalf of endangered species, and in particular the Kirtland's Warbler,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society commend these agencies for their activities.

No. 9

WHEREAS, weather modification was in use in Gratiot, Isabella, and Montcalm counties last summer (1972); and

WHEREAS, areas east of these counties received excessive rainfall at the time the rain-makers were operating, causing crop damage in many cases;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society urge the Michigan legislature to act to impose regulations on all forms of weather control, especially cloud seeding and rain-making until further research indicates more clearly the far reaching effects of these activities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such activities, when undertaken, be limited to areas experiencing severe conditions which make them absolutely necessary.

No. 10

WHERE, Lighthouse Park, Leelanau Twp, Leelanau County, is an extremely important focal point for bird migration (see Scharf, 1971, Critical Nesting and Migration Areas, Great Lakes Basin Survey-Framework Study.); and

WHEREAS, the area is presently in nearly native vegetation, scarred only by the overuse of campers in recent years, and it is presently being vacated by the township;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society urges the DNR to preserve the area through protective ownership as part of the Leelanau State Park, and prevent further development of this priceless, irreplaceable natural area.

No. 11

WHEREAS, the Boardman River is one of the few free flowing rivers in lower Michigan which should be studied and given consideration for dedication as a wild or scenic river under Michigan law (area recommended would be from the headwaters to the Brown Bridge Pond in Section 14, T26N, R10N, Grand Traverse County, with both the North Branch and South Branch being considered, as both have features placing them in this category);

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon approve of action necessary to have the DNR study the river for such state classification.

No. 12

WHEREAS, Tahquamenon Falls State Park consists of nearly 20,000 acres of mostly swamp and bog land with stands of virgin timber, supporting a large and varied wildlife population; and

WHEREAS, the DNR is presently developing the Master Plan of the park; and

WHEREAS, the Betsy Lake Natural Area on the northern side of the park, presently under the aegis of the Forestry Department, is suffering damage from considerable motor vehicle invasion; and

WHEREAS, within the boundary of the park there is land that is privately owned and, although some of it has been for sale, the state has not seemed interested in it; and

WHEREAS, there is no zoning law to control private development in the park,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society urge the DNR to preserve the wilderness character of Tahquamenon Falls State Park as follows:

1. give the park a classification of wilderness status
2. add to the park the Betsy Lake Natural Area
3. acquire also the private land within the park as it becomes available
4. establish a zoning law which will reduce commercial development by private parties within the park

No. 13

WHEREAS, two sections of a township in Calhoun County may be opened to building sites and construction to wit; 17 mile road, section 23 and 26 of township 1, south range, six W; and

WHEREAS, this has been as area of unusual natural beauty and small wildlife and bird resources, and nearby residents believe that these areas are already declining in that part of the country;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society go on record as recommending retention of this area as a natural beauty road, not subject to improvement or development.

No. 14

WHEREAS, the Michigan Audubon Society has been ably served by dedicated officers during the past year,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members record their appreciation of such service to: President, Harold Mahan; Vice-president, Robert Bradburn; Secretary, Jean Hoelzle; Treasurer, Robert van Blaricom; and the chairmen and members of all the committees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Audubon Society expresses its sincere appreciation to members of the Audubon Society of Kalamazoo for hosting the 69th Annual Meeting in Kalamazoo and providing members with a stimulating and enjoyable opportunity to get together; and also to Dr. Lawrence Ryel for an excellent program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of these resolutions be sent to all specifically named individuals plus the following: William G. Milliken, Governor of Michigan; Clerks of both houses of the Michigan Legislature; Presidents of the Michigan Natural Resources Council, Michigan Association of Conservation Ecologists; Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation; U.S. Department of the Interior and to AP and UPI wire services.