

Further Notes on the Occurrence of the Whistling Swan (*Cygnus columbianus L.*) in Delaware County, Indiana

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Since the report of October, 1962, to the Zoology Section of the Indiana Academy of Science was made a committee appointed by the Muncie Park Board has carried out plans for establishing a Delaware County Wildlife Refuge. This committee was promised that protection would be given up until May 15, 1963, for the north-east wing of the Prairie Creek Reservoir on which the twenty whistling swans lived for three weeks during March of 1962. Protection is again to be given from September 15, 1963, until May 15, 1964. It was not known at that time what this planning would result in so far as the migrating swans was concerned. The committee, consisting of a number of interested men and women in Delaware County, put up five signs—the upper part giving the name of the area to be permanent and the lower part giving the restrictions for the area to be removed during the summer season—May 15 to September 15. Recommended seeds and plants were purchased for the refuge but could not be used because of regulations set up by the Water Company, owner of the reservoir.

After the signs began going up, it was learned that there was energetic opposition concerning the fact that boats would not be allowed on the east arm of the large reservoir from September 15 to May 15, fishing would not be permitted at that time and persons would not be allowed to tie boats to the shore line.

Some science workers and others watched the reservoir closely during the month of March, 1963. On Monday, March 18, ten swans had landed in almost the identical spot where the twenty swans were located last year. Five were immature and five were adults. The weather was very severe and the wind was high. The swans seemed to enjoy it and were observed feeding and flapping their wings into the cold, strong wind. On Wednesday, March 20, the ten swans were gone and no others came during the Spring of 1963.

It was learned rather authentically that certain persons took a boat into the area and that noises were made in order to frighten the swans away. A few of the land owners and promoters have been disturbed about the area being a reserve, and some members of the committee were informed that procedures had been used to see that the swans did not stay in the area. During the summer of 1963 special privileges were granted a few parties to tie up at locations on the banks of the east wing. It is hoped that this condition will be corrected.

Letters were secured from Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University and from other scientific authorities in order to give reliable publicity and encouragement for maintaining this area where the whistling swans seem to want to stop and feed. The natural food supply and other natural ecological conditions seem to be very suitable for the swans in migration.