

FIFTY YEARS

WITH THE

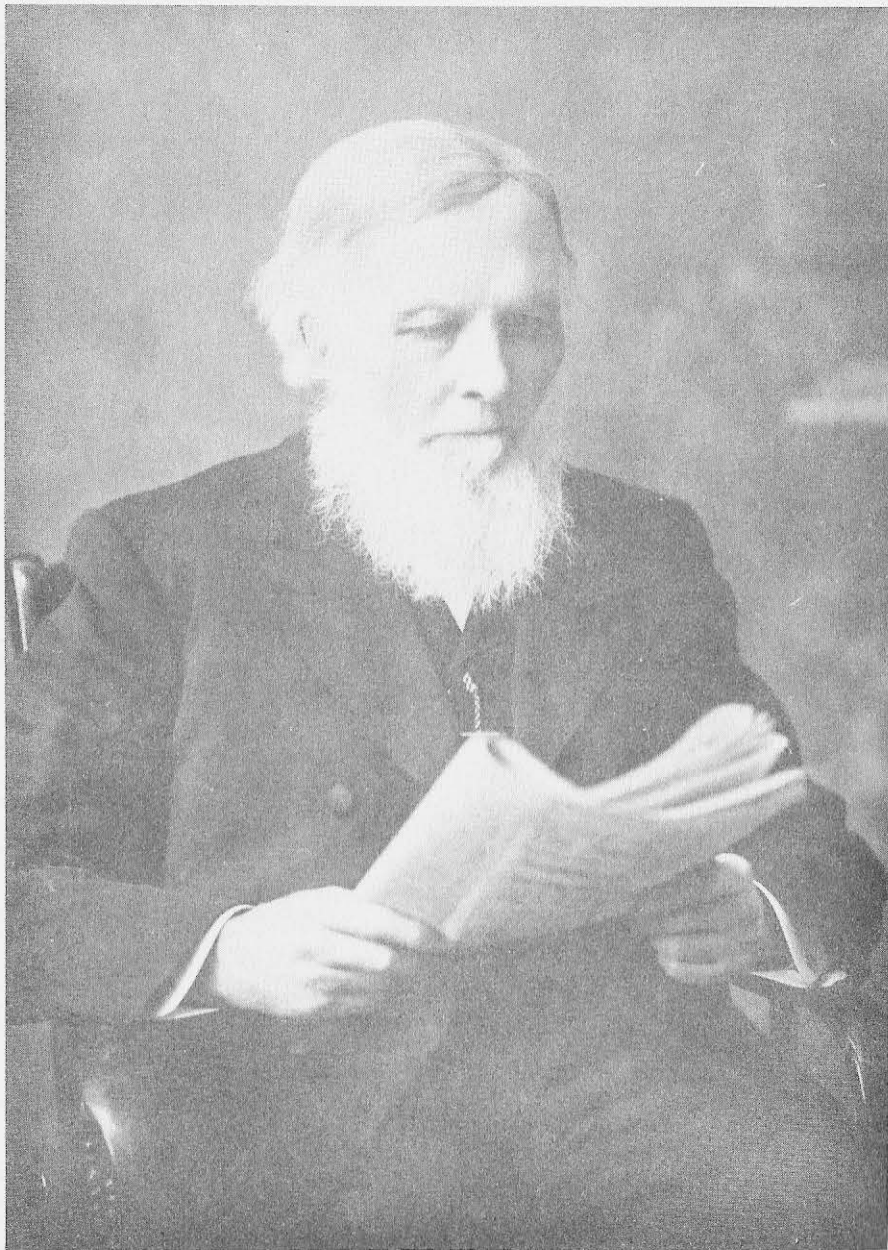
Stanton Bird Club

1919 - 1969



Anniversary Booklet

---



(Prof. Stanton (portrait))

Jonathan Young Stanton — “Uncle Johnny” — 1834-1918. Bowdoin A. B. 1856; A. M. 1859; Litt. D. 1894. Bates College Librarian 1865-1895; Professor Greek and Latin 1863-1903; Professor Greek 1903-1906; Emeritus 1906-1918.

## STANTON BIRD CLUB

Incorporated

LEWISTON - AUBURN, MAINE



“**T**HE OBJECT of this corporation shall be the increase and protection of wild birds, the stimulation of interest in bird life and the establishment of a model bird sanctuary and to foster and encourage research work in all branches of natural sciences and in general to inculcate the love of nature and science, seeking to preserve God’s Out of Doors and the wildlife therein for the present and future happiness of all our citizens and to perpetuate the memory of Professor Jonathan Y. Stanton.”

From the Club’s Charter written by  
our first president

Albert L. Kavanagh (1919 - 1933)

Organized February 3, 1919

Incorporated November 5, 1921

## Acknowledgments

---

Eleanor Stone

Elizabeth Anthony Dexter

Lewiston Sun-Journal

Portland Sunday Telegram

Bates College

Dr. Karl S. Woodcock

Elizabeth Webber Norden

John H. Hoy

Lewiston Engraving — Donald R. Litchfield

Central Maine Vocational Technical Institute —  
Staff and Students

Tufts Bros., Printers, — Guy A. Hartnett

DOROTHY P. WEBBER  
SHIRLEY CLIFFORD HOY  
— Editors

To  
All members of the Stanton Bird Club — past, present and future.

## CONTENTS

---

Acknowledgments

Foreword

The President's Message

The Fifty Year History of the Stanton Bird Club

Sanctuaries

Birdwalks

Program Highlights

Reflections

Bits and Pieces

## FOREWORD

This booklet is published to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Stanton Bird Club with the hope that past history may serve as an inspiration to the present members of the club and the new members yet to come as well as an inspiration to any bird and nature lover who may happen upon it. It is also hoped that this booklet in some way may further the cause of conservation and the preservation of our natural heritage.

— The Editors

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Stanton Bird Club, in its fifty-first year, occupies a unique place in the life of the community and its opportunity for service. Specifically, it is a "bird" club, much of its activity devoted to searching out birds in their various haunts, observing them, recording their presence, feeding them, and preserving their habitat. But if you will read further in the statement of its purposes, you will find that it seeks "to preserve God's Out of Doors and the wild life therein for the present and future happiness of all our citizens." That purpose is a paramount end in the practices of all conservationists and a small measure of fulfillment is offered by the property rights of the Club.

Through the donations of a private citizen, Dr. Anthony, and the outright acquisition of additional property, the Club owns or controls an area of two hundred acres on the outskirts, and soon to be, built-up portions, of the City of Lewiston. These acres remain in an undeveloped and somewhat wilderness state of woods and fields, where, from some spots, one may have a distant view, and in others see the sunlight filtering through the leaves of a forest, where children may roam in a sylvan setting or their elders sit amid unartificial surroundings. To preserve these woods and fields, even to enlarge them, for the present and future generations, is the unusual privilege and duty of this Club.

ELTON H. FALES

**THE FIFTY YEAR HISTORY**

of the

**STANTON BIRD CLUB**

from

the writings and presentation

of

**EDITH LABBIE**



Albert L. Kavanagh

Albert L. Kavanagh, one of the founders, and first president of the Stanton Bird Club, served from 1919 until his death in May, 1933. A prominent Lewiston attorney, realtor, and one of the city's most civic-minded citizens, Mr. Kavanagh also held high office in the Knights of Columbus. He served as Grand Knight of the local Council and as an overseas secretary for the Supreme Council during the first World War.

## THE FIFTY YEAR HISTORY

In our 50th anniversary year, we have decided to enjoy the sweet pleasure of reminiscing. There have been high points and low points, sad partings, hilarious tomfoolery and hours and hours of dedicated labor and service. Those are the ingredients that have put the special flavor into the Stanton Bird Club.

It all began fifty years ago in a Chautauqua tent in Auburn, Maine, when Mr. Ernest Harold Baynes, a well known naturalist and author, presented a stirring bird lecture Sept. 2, 1918. As was his custom, at the end of his lecture he called for the formation of a local bird club.

Mr. Charles S. Allen, editor of the Auburn Free Press was chosen president; Mr. Ruel W. Smith, the treasurer and Reverend George E. Kinney of the Sixth Street Congregational Church, the secretary. They sent out a general call for interested persons to meet on Jan. 21, 1919, in the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. They named themselves the Auburn Bird Club. Mr. Allen, Mrs. C. E. Norton and Mrs. Ella Neal were named to a committee to draw up a constitution and find twelve directors. Within two weeks the incubation period was over and the Stanton Bird Club came into existence. Like all nestlings, the newly formed organization required almost constant attention at first. Such a whirlwind of activities were undertaken those first few years!

Since the very beginning there has been a close connection between the Stanton Bird Club and Bates College. The club name commemorates the memory of Uncle Johnny, known in his classroom at Bates College as Prof. Jonathan Y. Stanton, professor of Latin and Greek from 1863 to 1903 and professor emeritus until 1918. He had the longest continuous relation with the college of anyone in any capacity. He was a perceptive, kind and gentle man and ushered every freshman class into the joys of bird watching. Although noble thoughts absorbed him, he had an irrepressible spirit of sportiveness. When Prof. Fred Pomeroy's son was named for the beloved professor, Uncle Johnny leaned over the bassinet and said "I hope I never do anything to make this little fellow ashamed he bears my name." His greatest passions in life were nature and children.

The Stanton Bird Club is pledged to preserve his memory by upholding the ideals and interests he fostered. Any child under eighteen years may become a member upon payment of the annual dues for junior membership.

The charter states that club objects are to increase the protection of wild birds, stimulate interest in bird life and establish a model bird sanctuary,



to foster and encourage research work in all branches of natural science, to inculcate the love of nature and science, and to perpetuate the memory of Prof. Jonathan Y. Stanton.

At first, meetings were held alternately in Lewiston and Auburn. This turned out to be confusing and for many years the regular sessions were held in Prof. Pomeroy's classroom at Bates College. Within two months, membership rose from an original thirty-five to eighty-five. This original burst of enthusiasm was sustained by the lively leadership of the officers. Attorney A. L. Kavanagh was the first Stanton Bird Club president which office he held for fourteen years until his death in 1933. He did much to establish the friendly informality that has been the hallmark of this society. At the meetings he was always springing surprises. Perhaps he would lead a roll call of the ferns at Thorncrag or ask some nature conundrums. He donated nature books to be given to the person bringing in the most new members and sponsored contests for school children. He put zest into the meetings. His valuable legal advice when the club members became property owners was very helpful.

Miss Carrie E. Miller, a disciple of Uncle Johnny and author of "Birds of Lewiston-Auburn and Vicinity" was the first treasurer and her tenure of office, twenty-three years, was ample testimony of her ability. She managed the financial affairs with efficiency gained from years of experience in the banking business. She died in 1942.

Mrs. Daisy Dill Norton's record as an office holder is unsurpassed. She was secretary almost from the very beginning when Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn kept the records for a few months. For forty years D. D. N., as she was affectionately known by her many friends, never wavered in her enthusiasm and her optimistic confidence was reflected in the records over the years.

When the club was three years old the certificate of incorporation was filed. This paved the way for the club's first major gift, forty-five acres of woodland on Thorne Mountain. It was the first of many gifts from Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Anthony and his sister, Miss Kate J. Anthony. In subsequent years they gave two more lots of land in the area and Miss Mabel Wood presented the club with a connecting strip known as the Plateau atop the hill, making a final total of more than two hundred acres. This land became, and still is, an outdoor laboratory for area nature students.

Some of the early history of the region was published when the land was first acquired. One of the club's early members, Miss Sarah Perkins, remembered visiting the story and a half red farm house on the hill where Elder Benjamin Thorne lived. He was about eighty years old at the time and Miss Perkins recalled that when she entered the house the elderly gentle-

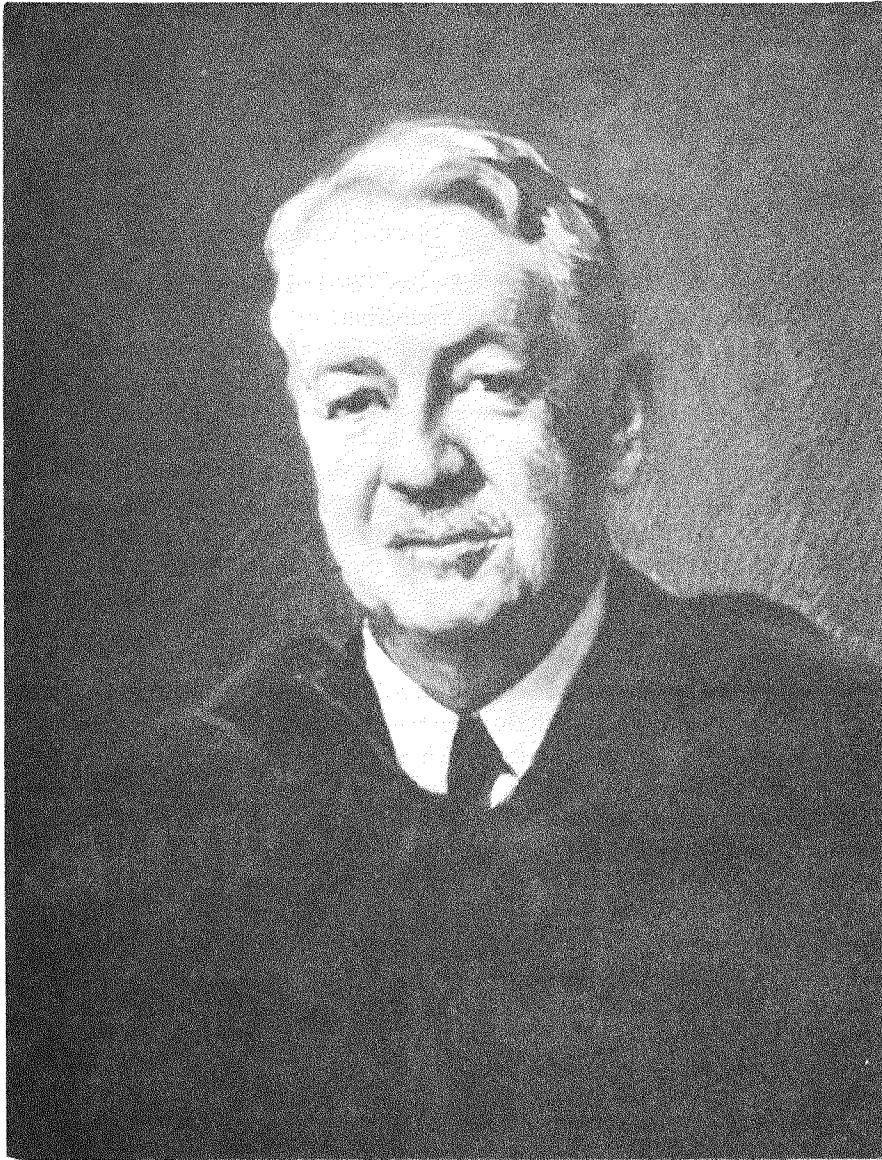
men was sitting by the fire translating a book of the Bible. Her father, Deacon Gideon Perkins, was justly proud of his daughter who was one of the first students of the Maine State Seminary, now known as Bates College and told Elder Thorne that she was studying three languages. The old scholar smiled and blessed her. In later years the house was moved to Wood street and by the time the Stantonians acquired the land, a sizeable pine was growing in the cellar hole. Elder Thorne owned many acres of land in that area that is still known as Thorne's Corner.

The next owner of the slightly hill was Dr. Frank Blish Carpenter of New York who put up some cottages and cabins on the crest which were used as an anti-tuberculosis sanatorium for a few years. For a while the Androscoggin Anti-TB Association owned some land on the back side of the hill, but they never developed it.

Dr. Anthony came to Bates College in 1908 as professor of Christian Literature and Ethics. He had more than a little interest in the Twin Cities for his wife was the daughter of Mr. Scott Libbey, part owner of the Libbey-Dingley Mill and donor of the Libbey Forum on the Bates campus. He enjoyed horseback riding and when he found it increasingly difficult to locate suitable routes for this purpose, he purchased about forty acres on Thorne Mountain where he had bridle trails cleared for the use of his family. This land became the nucleus of the Stanton Bird Club's Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary. Dr. Anthony once stated that he transferred the property to make possible a service to the community which would include everybody. Both the Thorncrag and Deacon Davis Sanctuaries have always been intended for public enjoyment and enlightenment. Everyone, even a non-member, is welcome to all the privileges of the property and services of the club.

As early as 1922, the SBC members were concerned about the danger of sterilizing the soil with arsenic spray. In an address by Dr. George M. Twitchell of Monmouth, he pre-dated Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" message by forty years. One May day, a corps of club members waged a mighty battle against hoards of tent caterpillars. They formed brigades and armed with swabs of kerosene-soaked rags atop long poles, burned out caterpillar nests in the Mountain Avenue, Campus Avenue and Russell Street area.

A long standing tradition was established in 1922 when a mountain ash tree was planted by local school children on the college campus on Arbor Day. It was dedicated to the memory of Uncle Johnny Stanton. More than one hundred perennials were also planted about Hathorn Hall. These annual ceremonies were usually presented by the school children. After a double row of peonies were planted on both sides of the walk to the Bates Chapel, people used to come from miles around to see their blossoms. Later,



Dr. Alfred W. Anthony

Dr. Alfred W. Anthony, the donor of Thorncrag, from a painting by Ernest Ipsen about 1932.

Stanton Bird Club members set out flowering Japanese crab trees among the peonies. As the years went by, the peonies became puny and it was found that elm tree roots were strangling them. They were transplanted to another place on the campus.

The fifth anniversary of the Stanton Bird Club was celebrated by putting a display in the windows of its birthplace, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce. Crowds of people studied the exhibit where children's drawings, home made bird baths and feeders, stuffed specimens and bird charts held their interest. Dr. Anthony predicted that with the use of the college resources, the cooperation of the city libraries and officials, plus the enthusiasm of the members, the SBC should become a beneficial influence in the community. His prediction came true.

Many of the papers presented for the programs of the SBC were particularly interesting because they often dealt with local topics. Prof. Ramsdell once gave a fine talk about the life of the bees; Prof. W. H. Sawyer wrote a key to the trees found in the Thorncrag area; Mabel Merrill produced a Birds' Masque. An important part of the monthly meeting has always been the bird roll call. This enabled everyone to relate any item of interest about nature that had been noted since the last meeting as well as to contribute to the list of birds identified. In fact, Mr. Kavanagh once fined every member fifty cents who did not make a remark. At one time the "School of the Woods" programs were very popular. Displays of various natural objects were numbered and the members strolled about, writing down the names of as many as they could identify. The scores were then tabulated and the person who had the most correct identifications was announced the winner.

By 1926 the fame of the Stanton Bird Club was spreading far and near. The club affiliated with the National Audubon Society, the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the New England Federation of Bird Clubs. It was the largest such group in Maine. Magazine articles were written about the sanctuaries and there was some radio coverage. The programs were varied and interesting. There were guest nights, children's nights, Thorncrag nights, Girl and Boy Scout nights and vacation report programs. Sometimes impromptu five minute symposiums on nature topics enlivened the meetings.

One of the high points of 1927 was the Thornton W. Burgess lecture. He stressed the immediate urgency of protecting the eagles. At that time there was a bounty on them in Alaska and more than 40,000 eggs had been destroyed in a single year! He visited several local gardens with the Stan-

tonians and promised to return for a visit to Thorncrag. In 1929 Mr. Burgess put the SBC on the air. Mrs. Carl Siemon of 34 Holly Street, Auburn reported the only Bohemian waxwing noted in New England that winter and he told about her good fortune on his Radio Nature League Program.

It was in 1928 that Mr. Harry Stone made the handsome sign designating Thorncrag that was erected on Sabattus Street at the entrance to the Highland Spring Road. That year Mayor McCarty of Lewiston urged the members to support a measure protecting the city's shade trees. Daisy Dill Norton was shocked to discover that plans were underway to cut some trees in City Park to provide more parking space. When the powerful voice of the SBC was raised in protest, the plans were abandoned.

Since the club is dedicated to the protection of wild birds, it readily sanctioned a bill presented before the 81st Legislature by Sen. Eugene Hale that called for licensing all cats over six months. The town treasurers were to keep fifteen cents of the one dollar and twenty-five cents which was the fee and the rest went to the general State fund. It also allowed any licensed hunter-trapper over twenty-one to humanely dispose of any cats found catching song birds. Pets were to be restrained during the bird breeding season and anyone abandoning cats would be prosecuted. The bill was never passed.

Many of the SBC members entertained the group at their summer homes. One of the jolliest times was held in 1928 when they visited Brackett Hill in Sabattus riding to the top in a hayrack with the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Tileston E. Woodside. The members enjoyed corn roasts, sunrise bird walks including the annual Waterman Bird Walk, the Warren Warbler Walk and a regular Saturday afternoon Children's Bird Walk. The route of the Waterman Bird Walk went from East Auburn over Mt. Gile and down to the Waterman home at the corner of the Turner Road and Lakeside Drive. The Warren Warbler Walk started at the corner of South Goff Street and Court Street and went out South Goff Street up into the area known as "The Franklin" where everyone's bird list was always increased.

The Woodbury Sanctuary in Monmouth on the edge of Litchfield was acquired in 1929. This one hundred eighty-five acre lot included all types of natural habitats for wild birds and animals. It was a gift from Louise S. Drew and her sister, Clara Dana as a memorial to Mary A. Davis. Included with the gift was a stipulation that the old Woodbury Cemetery on the property would receive perpetual care. A log cabin was built there in 1950 from trees cut on the premises. This cabin with its lovely fieldstone fireplace is always available for use by members.

The following year, in 1930, the three acre Deacon Davis Bird Refuge on Applesass Hill in Lewiston was added to the club's other holdings. An ornamental stone gate and fireplace were erected which unfortunately later were damaged by vandals; however, the gate still stands.

It was Arthur G. Staples, noted editor of the Lewiston Evening Journal, who once suggested that the club change its name to the Stanton Nature Club because its interests were not limited to birds. He also thought that it would be fine to have branches of the club throughout the state and to hold conferences. The idea did not go over, probably because members were already devoting most of their spare time to the club's activities.

The real unsung heroes of the Stanton Bird Club were those workers who rolled up their sleeves and toiled under all kinds of conditions to keep the sanctuaries in prime condition. Among those dedicated workers were Dr. E. C. Higgins, Mr. Samuel Stoddard, Mr. Charles Eastman, Prof. George Ramsdell, Mr. Willard Waterman and Dr. Paul R. Smith to name but a few. Much time, effort and hard work went into digging thousands of holes to plant pine seedlings and shrubs, clearing underbrush and repairing and making trails. Six pools and dams were made in Thorncrag, ornamental shrubs bearing berries for the birds to eat were set out along the trails, underbrush was cleared out as a fire prevention measure and during the years when many feeders were kept filled there, someone had to make the rounds whether the weather was good or bad.

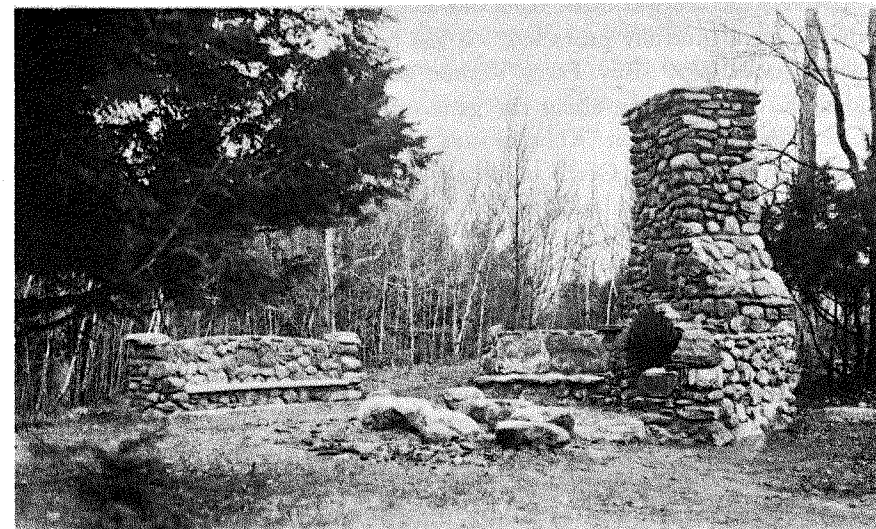
Maintenance work has always been a major project because of vandalism. Sometimes it seemed that the efforts were undone almost before the workers were out of sight! It could be considered a thankless task if it were not for the hundreds of persons who have found refreshing enjoyment at Thorncrag including many young people who were not destructive. As for the young people, this is how Daisy Dill Norton felt about them:

"Have you ever been out on a gay spring morning with a happy group of Stanton Bird Club Juniors? Have you seen them trudging along, clasping branches of plummy pine, pussy willows, or swinging brown tassels of alder, sunshine in their faces, bird song in their ears, eyes glad with glimpses of birds come alive from their school books? Something never to be forgotten finds its place in a child's soul at these moments. Perhaps after years of struggling for dollars, power and places, the vision will claim them again and they will strive to protect their natural heritage. Thorncrag is their 'lonesome' insurance. It will bring priceless returns in years to come perhaps in direct proportion to their aroused interest during their younger years."

It is important to realize that Thorncrag and the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge are just about the only places left in the two cities of Lewiston and Auburn where the public can wander at will without being called "trespassers." It is to the great credit of the Stanton Bird Club that in spite of continual damage and clutter left by a thoughtless public, it has refrained from restricting the use of the sanctuaries. Thorncrag is a pioneering effort in the field of conservation and each one of the members were missionaries pledged to spread the gospel of education in the field of natural history.

Thorncrag has had a very special connotation for Stantonians. So many dreams, so many goals have been attained there, so many wonderful times have been inscribed upon the members' memories! In the first white heat of enthusiasm eager Stantonians practically lived at Thorncrag. One winter more than a thousand pounds of bird seed were consumed in the many bird cafeterias. These feeding stations were placed in the various "name" trees. Each member could choose one special tree in the sanctuary as his very own. For a small fee, name tags were attached and the new owners often decked them out with suet bags, feeding stations and bird houses. This was a unique and wonderful plan. There was R. E. Gould's shad bush, Mrs. Wellman's apple tree, the Winthrop Packard birch, the Kinney butternuts, the Garcelon maples, Sarah Perkins' red spruce, Prof. Chase's maple and Sarah Story chose the hawthorn because her father was a friend of Nathaniel Hawthorne. This program also included the SBC Juniors. Children pondered seriously about whether to chose a maple with its sweet sap, an apple tree or perhaps a pine that would shelter the birds in winter. After each severe storm, worried tree keepers hastened to Thorncrag to inspect his own personal sanctuary.

One of the most interesting projects at Thorncrag was an attempt made in 1930 to stock the sanctuary with pheasants. After considerable correspondence with State game authorities, the members decided to hatch two clutches of pheasant eggs. The ever cooperative Willard Waterman volunteered to serve as "midwife." With the assistance of two white rock hens named "Moses" and "Tillestonetta," thirty eggs were put into incubation. Hatching day was circled on the calendar, but when that day arrived nothing had happened. The biddies continued their "sit upon." A week later, there were still no results! When nothing had happened a fortnight later, an investigating committee was named and they were bombed, literally, for when one of the eggs was moved it exploded. The committee made a few comments on air pollution and retreated. Eventually a flock of about twenty pheasants was released at Thorncrag. They went clucking away happily into the underbrush, but except for one sighting the following winter, that was the end.



Anthony Fireplace

The Anthony Fireplace at Thorncrag. This was taken in 1931 before completion.

The Stanton Bird Club returned the favor of State assistance on the pheasant project by making notes about the prevalence of the birch leaf miners among Thorncrag trees and sent the results to the State Department of Entomology.

In 1931 President Kavanagh, Prof. G. E. Ramsdell, Mr. Harry Stone and Mrs. Daisy Dill Norton were named to a committee charged with planning a fieldstone fireplace for Thorncrag. Mr. Wesley Bishop of Leeds built the handsome Anthony Fireplace which was completed in 1932. The massive structure was made from one hundred tons of fieldstone, many with their lichens carefully protected. It has been the focal point of many wonderful gatherings. Rev. Percy Vernon gave the dedicatory prayer and President Kavanagh spoke about the generosity of the Anthony family. John Oxenham's benediction "Kneel always when you light a fire, kneel reverently and thankful be for God's unfailing charity" is inscribed upon a bronze plaque on the fireplace and arouses a spirit of thankfulness and appreciation.

It was in 1931 that the Stanton Bird Club members witnessed the total eclipse of the sun from atop the Thorncrag hill on the part known as the "Plateau." Visions of spectacular sunsets from this vantage point are doubtless dear to the hearts of many. One time members witnessed the sun sink beneath a flame colored canopy of clouds while her serene majesty, the moon, sailed up from the eastern sky.

The Kavanagh Fireplace and stone seat, midway up the main trail, were erected in 1932 and in 1934 a third fireplace was placed by the stone wall on the edge of the Plateau.

Birds and gardens are inseparable because bird lovers plant shrubs to attract their feathered friends while gardeners appreciate the insect control program provided by the birds. The SBC Gardeners was another one of Mrs. Norton's ideas. This was not a separate organization, but a "branching out." Meetings were held at the Lewiston Public Library between the regular monthly sessions of the Bird Club. Topical speakers, an exchange of garden stock for the beautification of the community were their program features. Mr. Samuel Stoddard led this group as chairman during its existence and the May meeting is still dedicated to the club's garden minded members.

One cannot read Daisy Dill Norton's accounts of the Stanton Bird Club's activities without absorbing a great amount of interesting nature lore. The bird roll call was called the backbone of the meetings. Little nuggets of information were shared by the members at each meeting. A few of these experiences follow: Mrs. Mary Warren was surprised one

winter's evening to see a spark of light blinking in her dish garden. Upon investigating, she found that a firefly had decided that it was summer. John Hooper reported that one bitter cold morning he watched some starlings take frozen mountain ash berries and carry them to a nearby chimney top to thaw before eating them. On a certain spring day, Harold White counted forty-eight greater snow geese eating clover in his pasture. In 1938 Jerry Murphy and Carl Sieman fed scraps to the gulls. In those days, inland sea gulls were a novelty and people were worried about their surviving through the winter. After a severe winter storm one year, SBC members went through their neighborhoods ringing door bells asking people to feed the birds. It was observed that one horticulturalist said that a toad in a garden was worth twenty dollars worth of insecticides. Willard Waterman sighted a whistling swan in Lake Auburn. A bittern that had lost its leg in a trap was released at Thorncrag. One day, Mr. Kavanagh caught some boys who had just shot an arctic three toed woodpecker at Thorncrag and brought court action against them. The strangest bird ever sighted was the "African Junco." It was seen at Taylor Pond where Harold White was entertaining the club. It stood on a peninsular and appeared to have the legs and neck of a heron, made a noise like a woodpecker and moved with convulsive motions. Dozens of binoculars were trained upon it and excitement ran high. Then it was discovered that it was a robot bird rigged up by a Bates College professor who had used a bird skin over a frame and controlled his creation by hidden wires. This weird bird's last name was spelled "Junk-Ho!"

Members have helped fight forest fires at Thorncrag, climbed mountains, given programs for other organizations, distributed reams of nature literature and hiked many a mile with binoculars on the ready.

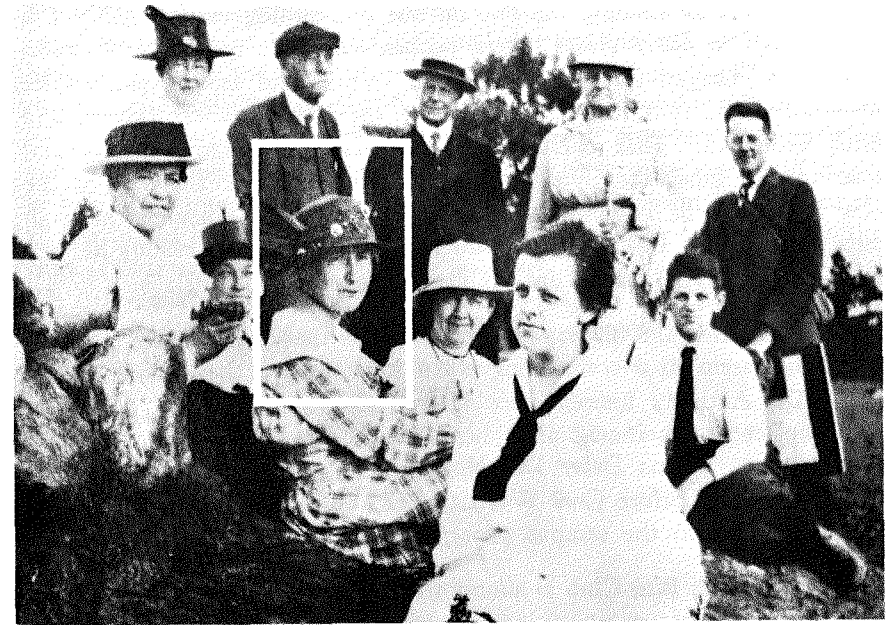
One such hike resulted in big black newspaper headlines that read, "Extra! Extra! Police Called To Arrest SBC!" It seemed that a nervous resident in the Riverside Drive area spotted the birders on one of their spring walks and called the police saying that a band of gypsies were invading the city. When the policemen discovered their target for the day was a bird club group they were somewhat chagrined and offered to give any of the Stantonians a ride home in the patrol wagon. The members later regretted that they had not accepted the offer as it would have made wonderful grist for the gossip mills.

Now, after all these years, only one charter member remains. She is Mrs. Mary Hathorne Warren, R.N., leader for many years of the bird walk which bears her name. She is and always has been one of the most ardent supporters of the club and an active director.

The fine relationship between the Stanton Bird Club and the public has been a two way one. There is no possible way of estimating the number of people who have enjoyed the pleasures to be found in any of the three sanctuaries. The programs have been entertaining and educational. The public has responded, in turn, to the club's hospitality. Over the years an impressive number of all kinds of gifts have been listed. Of course, the benevolence of Dr. Anthony heads the list with not only his real estate donations, but also with sizable contributions of money that enabled the young club to withstand the rigors of establishment. The Woodbury Sanctuary and the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge added more dimensions of enjoyment and stature to the SBC. Perhaps the most meaningful gifts of all, however, were those provided by individuals and children's groups who wished to share what they had with the birds in their community. A bushel of sunflower seeds was grown by pupils at the Dingley School. A thousand stale ice cream cones from a local dairy were crushed and strewn about Thorncrag to the delight of the winter birds. Some members provided suet for the sanctuary, others gave valuable and interesting nature books to a library and about two hundred volumes were collected. Members who were artistically inclined turned out signs, posters and charts. Mr. Winthrop Packard, a noted naturalist, gave one thousand pounds of bird seed. The children at Wallace School where an enthusiastic member, Miss Grace Teague, was principal donated their pennies to help buy seeds for the birds. A local nursery gave many seedlings and valuable plants for the plantings in the sanctuaries. Others gave mounted birds, bird eggs and nests as well as shells which enriched the knowledge of any who wished to study them. These gifts speak eloquently of the special place in the heart of the community which the Stanton Bird Club is privileged to enjoy.

Now, what lies ahead? Ever so gradually the bubbling enthusiasm of the first two decades has subsided. Dignity and decorum seem to have replaced the mischievous and witty flavor of the early meetings. In the early days thirty bird walks a year were scheduled and were well attended and now there are only three bird walks on the program and very few people attend. Special programs such as the sunrise breakfast on Mount David at Easter and the planting of a shrub or tree on Arbor Day did much to arouse children's and grownups' interest in nature. We especially need children and young people for they are the ones who put zest into our lives.

The most precious of all the organization's tenets should be a concept of itself as an organization as "wide as all outdoors!" A description aptly expressed by Daisy Dill Norton. She once described the warm feeling



Daisy Dill Norton

Daisy Dill Norton, beloved member and club secretary for forty years, 1919-1959.

she had when on a bird walk and a rosy cheeked little girl slipped her hand into hers and said, "My mother said that she used to go on these bird walks when she was a little girl like me."

Many young people are actively involved in social service. This is very praiseworthy, but being constantly concerned about the heartaches of humanity takes a toll upon the individual. Then it is that such places as Thorncrag and the calm assurances of the cycles of nature can help restore weary minds and hearts.

The work of holding the line on our diminishing natural habitats is invaluable. So many places where people were able to take bird walks have been changed forever. A shopping center and asphalt parking lot have sealed the spot formerly known as "the Logan" where flowers and birds abounded. That paradise for warblers and indigo buntings and rose-breasted grosbeaks, The Franklin in Auburn, has changed since the new Edward Little High School was built. Home developments have almost engulfed the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge area. It can readily be seen how increasingly important are the sanctuaries.

Granted that the blight of vandalism dims the clubs' dreams, perhaps it will not seem so overwhelming when it is realized that it was always thus. Dr. Anthony himself once offered to pay for tearing down the big fireplace at Thorncrag after hoodlums had scarred the commemorative plaques. It was Daisy Dill Norton who persuaded him against it. Way back, even before Civil War days, Dr. Cheney, Bates College's first president wrote in the campus paper, "Boys, don't kill the birds."

The Stanton Bird Club is almost the only representative that Mother Nature has in the community and because it is a nature club, it has an obligation to the future; an obligation especially to the children, who as future custodians, must be taught about the natural wonders of creation. Natural wonders which are slowly being lost because of the thoughtlessness and slovenly ways of mankind. Never in the history of our community, state and country has there been such a dire need for organizations like the SBC. Our rivers are putrid, thermal and air pollutants threaten our future existence. Fertile land is being sealed beneath acres of asphalt. Our wet lands are being drained and vital links in the chain of life are weakened. Increased consumption of water and erosion of our water shed areas combine to threaten the water supply of future generations. The work is there; there is no time to lose; it is later than we realize! Somehow, the Stanton Bird Club must foster the natural curiosity and wonder of childhood, must help children to appreciate their natural heritage and help

them prepare to be good custodians and as Uncle Johnny Stanton, who scorned the comfortable rut, urged his students, we must urge the children to have "Reverence for what is above us, kindness for that which is around us, tenderness and humanity for what is beneath us."

Ideally, the Stanton Bird Club should mean as much to every member as it meant to Daisy Dill Norton whose enthusiasm and loving spirit were expressed in a letter to Dr. Anthony in which she wrote: "If you knew how dear this Stanton Bird Club is to my heart; if you knew all that I dream and hope and work for in it; if you knew how for years I've longed for something, something, something without any fences, any padlocked gates; something as wide as God's out-of-doors and yet as friendly and heart-warming as the blaze of one's own fireplace; then you'd know what this Stanton Bird Club stands for for me. What possibilities I can see for its growth and future helpfulness! If you knew, too, how it feels when you're at a glowing heat of enthusiasm yourself, to meet cold indifference or luke warm interest, you would know how much it meant to hear you say all the things I could not say. The good Lord willing, we will make this club as near an ideal as is humanly possible. Sometimes I wonder if I'm not daffy over the Stanton Bird Club. Perhaps I am, but it's the thing I've dreamed of for these two cities and I like to make a dream come true, don't you?"



## **SANCTUARIES**



## IMPROVEMENTS AT THORNCRAG

From the days when Willard Waterman and others planted many ornamental shrubs and berry-bearing plants for birds, especially along the entrance to Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary, improvements have been added during the years.

Sam Stoddard and his helpers maintained 13½ miles of marked trails for many years. Some are still in evidence. Bates students, particularly the Outing Club, assisted annually in clean-ups along the entrance trails, around the three fireplaces, and on the heights.

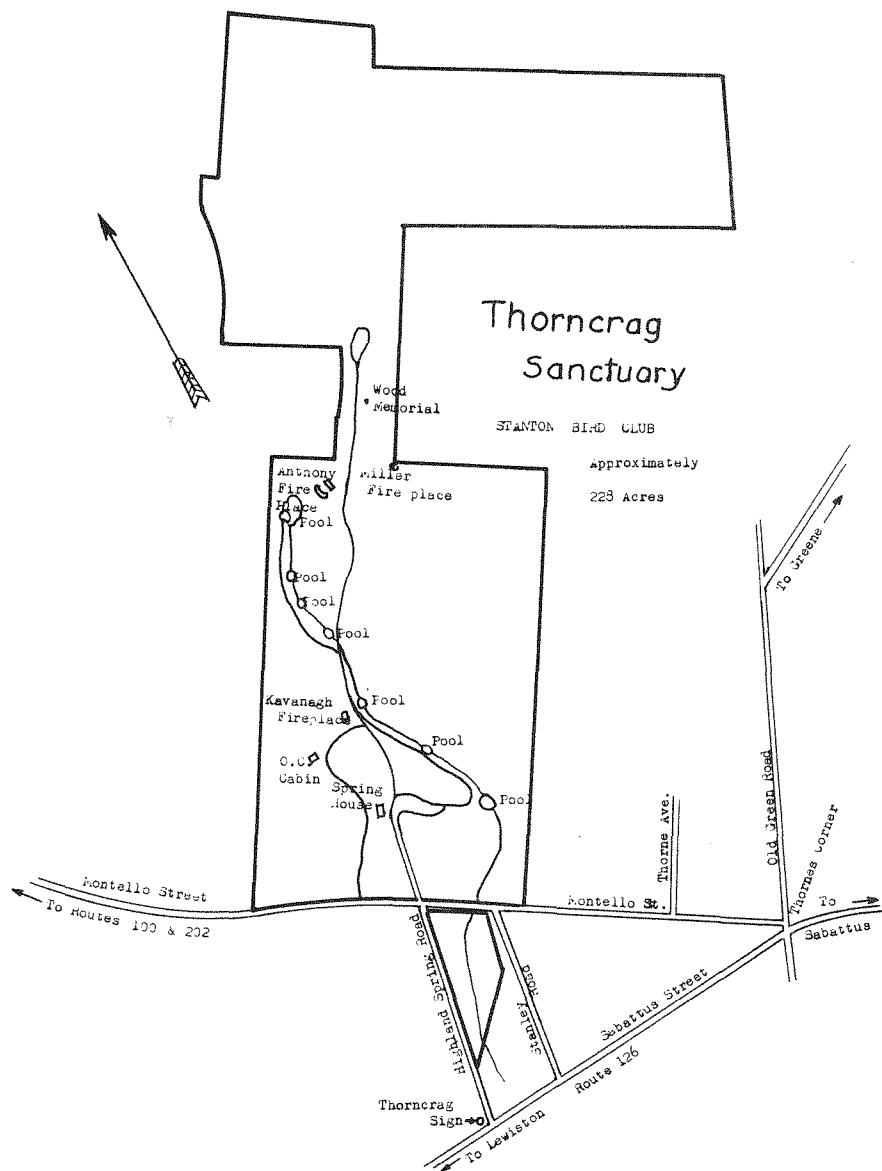
Ossie and Mabel Wood donated a wide strip of land connecting Thorncrag to the later additions on the East.

Dr. Everett Higgins, beloved by all, was chairman for many years of Thorncrag. It was one of his "hobbies" and he was most active in promoting improvements. He and others instigated the pool and pond idea for fire protection, the improvement of the trail to the top, so autos could carry elderly folk to the top, especially to the great Anthony Fireplace for picnics, and for a view of the White Mountains at the top. Some new roads were built, others improved, also a woodlot improvement plan to weed out poor trees and open the woods to more birdlife was proposed and carried out. The late Professor George Ramsdell always insisted most birds need flyways in the woods.

Some money was realized from the sale of timber and pulp. This was invested in bulldozer work on pools and roads as well as gravel, and some hired labor to build cribwork for the upper and lower ponds. A road was opened to the woodlot on the back side of the property to the East with a loop to return by. The hill top strip given by the Woods was bulldozed clear of brush to open the view to the White Mountains. A monument was erected to Ossie and Mabel Wood which later was damaged by vandals and then repaired. Twenty-two hundred bird-attracting shrubs and pine seedlings were planted here and around the pools and other open spots.

The Lewiston Fire Department under Deputy Chief Verderber and other volunteers cleared and burned the brush from lumbering to reduce the fire hazard.

Littering and vandalism have always been a serious problem. Retired police officer Dan Crowley was hired to patrol the Sanctuary one summer but funds did not allow doing this permanently.



Map of Thorncrag Sanctuary

One day after a vandal problem was investigated by police, Lieutenant Lucien Longtin, now Chief of Police, said to Charles Eastman, a director and on Dr. Higgins' committee for the park, "I know of a group of boys who may be of help. They have already started to clean up the park."

Here is what a Lewiston newspaper said on June 18, 1963:

"With a whole summer ahead of them, and a desire to do something different this year, seven Lewiston boys have decided to undertake a clean-up campaign to end all clean-up campaigns. The boys, all residents of the Thorne's Corner section of the city, received the idea from Lewiston police lieutenant Lucien Longtin, when they approached him for suggestions some three weeks ago.

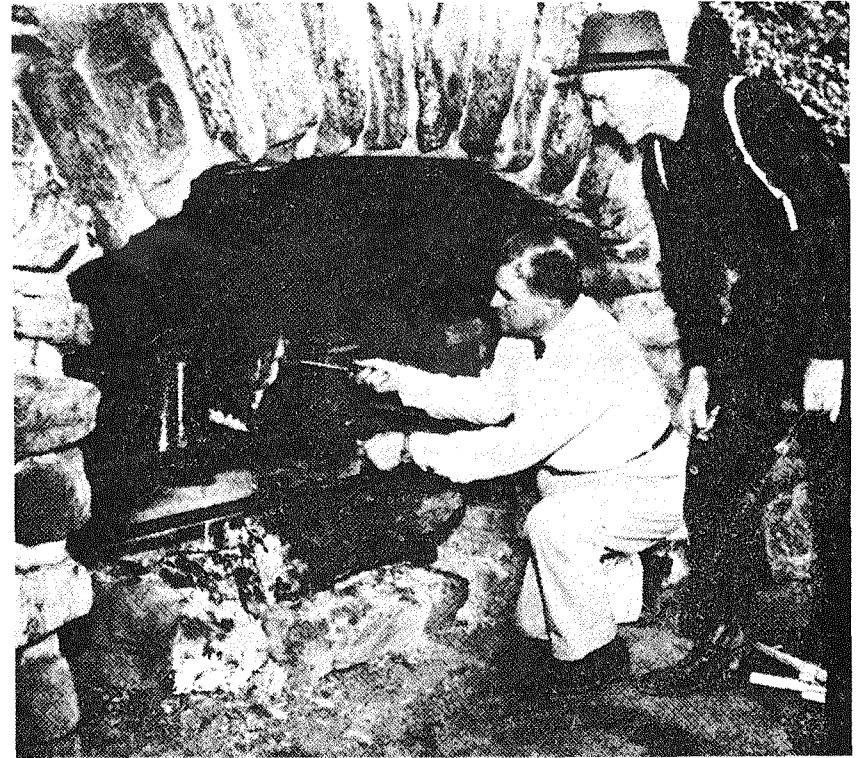
The Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary, which comprises some 200 acres of land could easily be considered a huge clean-up project, so the boys decided that this was the job they wanted. Calling themselves "Forest Rangers," the group first went to see Charles Eastman, Twin County Agricultural Agent, who is also a director of the Stanton Bird Club. Eastman approved the idea whole heartedly and even furnished the boys with the necessary tools including a set of walkie-talkies.

Supervising themselves throughout the entire job, which, incidentally is expected to keep the boys busy all summer long, they have so far erected a total of thirty-two new signs, which included some furnished by the State Department of Fish and Game, and cleared out walking paths and cut overhanging branches from the roadways to allow vehicles to move more freely. The boys are now taking the job of cleaning out several small ponds located within the confines of the sanctuary. Lieutenant Longtin said that the boys have gathered so much litter that it would take over two truck loads to get it out of there. And a truck it will be, for Eastman is supposed to send up such a vehicle to do the work."

The next year, on June 27, 1964 the following story appeared:

"Contrary to what seems to be public opinion, many of the younger generation today do try to conserve rather than destroy. This point is well illustrated by the fact that a group of eleven local teenagers for the second consecutive year have volunteered their services to the Stanton Bird Club of Lewiston, and a few days ago commenced the task of 'cleanup' at the Thorncrag Bird Sanctuary on the Highland Spring Road, Lewiston.

According to Lieutenant Lucien Longtin who has taken a special interest in the boys, 'they have proved that they can be of service to the community.' Longtin pointed out that the summer-long project consists of 'picking up everything that doesn't grow or isn't cemented down,' and added that 'most of the trash consists of empty beer cans.'



Eastman and Higgins at fireplace—

Charles L. Eastman and Dr. E. C. Higgins at the Anthony Fireplace, Thorncrag Sanctuary from the Portland Sunday Telegram, June, 1960. Mr. Eastman is traditionally the coffee maker. He also cooks the steak on picnics enjoyed by the Stanton Bird Club members. Here, he turns a juicy dinner under the watchful eye of Dr. Higgins, picnic co-chairman.

It was also noted that the boys plan and execute the project themselves. The boys report for duty early in the morning 'each and every day' and remain until late in the evening, sometimes camping over night. The police lieutenant added that last year through the cooperation of the youngsters, a man destroying property at the sanctuary was apprehended. Longtin expressed his appreciation to the boys saying, 'I have always liked the outdoors and it is gratifying to see these boys going out to try to conserve rather than destroy.' "

These boys had an astonishing record of service, but as the group grew the need of full time adult supervision became evident. Would that the Bird Club had had such a person. Doubtless the Forest Rangers of Thorncrag would still be a flourishing, very helpful outfit. But due to the need of full time adult leadership, the group finally disbanded.

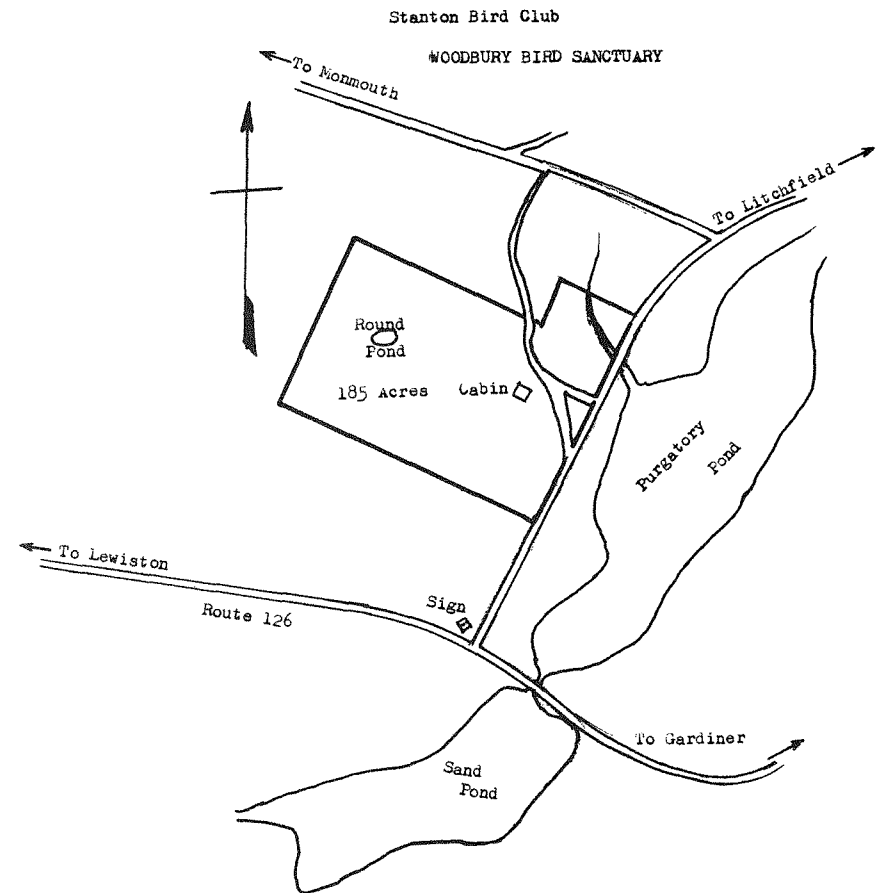
Initially the "Forest Rangers" were led by Normand Deschaine who was referred to as a "natural leader of men" and later became a corporal in the United States Marine Corps. He was wounded in action in Viet Nam in the service of his country and died June 7, 1968.

Countless hundreds of boys, girls, adults,—yes, even thousands,—over the years have visited and enjoyed Thorncrag,—picnicked, watched wildlife, not only birds and flying squirrels, but even deer and other wild animals.

Littering is the biggest problem. A lot of stones, cans, wood, and other debris have been thrown in the ponds. Small pools have filled with leaves and debris. Small dams have been torn out by some who should know better. It is difficult to keep them cleaned out when so much is thrown in.

However, Thorncrag continues in its wild state, though littered. More would be undertaken in improvements if vandalism and littering were less. In spite of all this, hundreds every year continue to visit and enjoy the two hundred twenty-three acre park. It should be understood it is not a public municipal park but open to the public by permission of the Stanton Bird Club. Be careful of fire, "Keep Maine Green," and carry away your litter or use the dump across the road from the great fireplace.

— CHARLES L. EASTMAN



Cabin at Woodbury Sanctuary—

Cabin at the Woodbury Sanctuary in Monmouth

## A LETTER FROM DR. PAUL R. SMITH

Dear Members and Friends of the Stanton Bird Club:

Because I served a couple of years as president of the Stanton Bird Club, I have been asked to write a few words about it and its two sanctuaries.

First, let me say that in 1911 when I entered Bates College, I availed myself of the opportunity to attend some of the last lectures on ornithology given by the beloved Professor Jonathan Y. Stanton whom everyone liked. The lectures were given in classrooms in Hawthorn Hall and it was there that my interest in ornithology and zoology, etc. took root because "Uncle Johnnie" was an inspiring old gentleman.

While I was in dental school or in the Navy, the Stanton Bird Club was formed and under the guidance of Albert Kavanagh and Prof. Fred Pomeroy it grew to excellent proportions and afforded many years of fine and instructive lectures to the area and its people.

Gifts of land were given to the club so that three bird sanctuaries are in its possession. The two larger ones, namely Thorncrag in Lewiston and Woodbury in Monmouth, each consists of about two hundred acres of wooded land. Each has some high ground and some small ponds or marshes, affording different habitats for different types of birds. Each sanctuary has trails which can be followed, but I would point out that the two larger sanctuaries differ much because of their location.

At Thorncrag while one is on a trail, he hears the noises of the nearby city, but beside that he has the added interest of meeting hurrying young people perhaps carrying their lunch and "coke" for a picnic, or perhaps will be passed by a car going up to the big fireplace.

At Woodbury conditions are entirely different, the area is more in the country and more secluded, more restful. While going up the old wood road, one may hear or see the scarlet tanager or perhaps meet a deer, but very rarely will one meet a human being.

When Woodbury first was presented to the club, a picnic for its members was held there in May. Pine planks nailed to pine trees served as seats around the spring and there was an old woodsman's shack nearby. I was told at the time that it was to be torn down and that they hoped to build a suitable cabin in the open area above the spring. Later such a building



Cabin at Woodbury Sanctuary—

Cabin at the Woodbury Sanctuary in Monmouth

## THE DEACON DAVIS BIRD REFUGE

was built in rustic style of logs sawed on three sides. These logs when stacked on each other made a very solid wall with peeled rounding faces and the cracks are caulked with oakum. It stands firm and true after quite a few years which is remarkable for a building on posts in our climate.

The cabin is well designed. It has a large room with an excellent fireplace, a large screened porch, a kitchen with electric stove and refrigerator. There are two chemical toilets and out back there is a woodshed with plenty of dry wood. Mr. William Robbins had much to do with designing and getting the cabin built and he was helped a lot by another member of our club, namely, Willard G. McLain, who with Ira Safford owned a lumber mill in Monmouth Village. The timber was sawed out there.

My special interest in Woodbury has come about in three ways. One was because of Mr. Robbins who was my next door neighbor here in Lewiston and who was instrumental in helping us locate a camp for ourselves on Cochnewagen Lake in Monmouth. This camp on the east shore we have now had for twenty-five years and it has been wonderful. Another reason is because of the part Mr. McLain had in building the cabin for he was a close and special friend and one of my fisherman friends. Another reason is because when Mr. Samuel Stoddard was president of the club he asked me, because I lived in Monmouth all summer, to sort of keep an eye on it inasmuch as the caretaker we had had become unable to attend to it. I have done what I could, but I have my own camp to attend to, so find it a little difficult to do everything that is needed.

One day this fall, Mr. Charles Eastman and I went out there and built a new bridge to the cemetery and Mr. Eastman furnished all the lumber and hauled it out there on his car.

Regarding Woodbury, I hope that more people will make use of it. In these times when every foot of shore at both sea and lake is being bought up and when more and more woodland and farms are being posted against trespassing, it would seem to me the time may come when more use will be made of Woodbury which is available to all members and friends. I hope so.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

PAUL R. SMITH

Smallest sanctuary of the three owned by the Stanton Bird Club, this three acre area is located on the side of "Applesass Hill" in Lewiston with its gate on the crest of the hill facing Pleasant Street. There are huge pine oak and maple trees standing on the slope and the descent is steep with outcroppings of ledge.

Mr. Fred A. Davis and his brother Rodney both of Chicago and their sister, Emma Davis Scribner of Auburn, who was an ardent member of the Stanton Bird Club, gave the land from the old pasture on the Deacon Davis farm in 1930.

In the early days, the Refuge was in the "country," but now it is almost entirely surrounded by homes and is a place where the children of the neighborhood are found at play among the tall trees. It is easily reached from Pleasant Street which runs from East Avenue to Lisbon Street and is located about half-way between. There is a stone and concrete gateway topped with a sign at the entrance on Pleasant Street. Glimpses of a fine view are to be had from the edges of the sanctuary.

**BIRD WALKS**

## BIRD WALKS OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Bird walks in the Lewiston-Auburn area were first instituted many years ago by Prof. Jonathan Y. Stanton of Bates College long before the Stanton Bird Club was founded.

In the early years of the Stanton Bird Club there were a great many special outdoor events such as picnics and bird walks. Thorncrag and the Stanton Lodge were the most used areas, but regular meeting places for bird walks were designated in the printed program for many years as: "a. Main and Riverside Streets; b. College Street and Campus Avenue; and c. Whitney and Center Streets in Auburn." The "a" walk took the group into the Riverside Cemetery area and along the Androscoggin River bank; the "b" walk explored the Bates College campus and Davis Mountain; and the "c" walk followed the North River Road in Auburn.

The Warren Warbler Walk is listed in the very earliest printed program as 6:15 A.M. May 25, 1921, the meeting place being the corner of Court and Goff Streets. This walk has occurred every year with Mrs. Mary Hathorne Warren as leader and it is still on the program for 1969-1970.

Another bird walk which has been held continuously (since 1928) is the visit to Applesass Hill. This was later called the Deacon Davis Sanctuary and since 1952 the group has met at the John Huston residence on East Avenue at 7:00 A.M. on the second Wednesday of May. Mrs. Huston continues as one of the leaders of this walk until the present time. This is the only remaining remnant of the breakfast walks as Mrs. Huston invites the group in for coffee and doughnuts and many birds are then observed through the windows feeding at her well stocked trays, but in recent years the group has not walked as far as the top of Applesass Hill.

There was also, as early as 1925, an annual event for twenty-five years until June 5, 1950 the walk over Mount Gile and ending with supper at the Willard Watermans' in East Auburn.

For many years the reservoir areas in Lewiston and Auburn were locations of bird walks; and what is now Pettengill Park and the Field Woods area were often explored for birds. The meeting place for these groups was at the corner of Dennison and Goff Streets or Dennison and Summer Streets with Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Kinsley as leaders. The Kinney Vesper Walk on Prospect Hill was also on the program for many years, the meeting place being the 6:00 P.M. trolley car to the end of the line and members brought their lunches.

The Woodbury Sanctuary has been visited annually since 1930. This outing is a noon picnic on a Sunday in the warm months. In recent years the picnic is held in May and those taking a bird walk up the "Sweet Fern Trail" are usually rewarded by seeing scarlet tanagers as well as other species.



## THE WEDNESDAY MORNING WALK

In these modern days when we have only three scheduled bird walks, the Wednesday Morning Walk, Deacon Davis Sanctuary, starts the bird-watching season off on the Wednesday morning nearest the fifteenth of May. At this time of year it is still quite cold and the grass is always very wet.

In the old days the meeting place for this walk used to be the corner of Pleasant Street and Webber Avenue as many of the members arrived on the 6:45 A.M. trolley car and walked to the top of Pleasant Street hill to the Deacon Davis Sanctuary. For a number of years, during the 1930's and 1940's there was also a vesper walk in July to this bird refuge, and the members brought their suppers.

During most of those years Mr. and Mrs. John L. Huston were leaders of these walks, and in the year 1952 the meeting place was changed to their home at 121 East Ave., the intention being to walk through the Huston orchard into the Bosse Heights area and over the high ridge by the Lewiston reservoir to Applesass Hill and the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge. The passing years have brought many changes, however, particularly in the Bosse Heights area where all the trees and undergrowth have been cut away and streets and houses have been built. One high sand bank used to be alive with cliff swallows; and in another gravelly, weedy spot we always found a nesting killdeer. The Baltimore oriole and rose breasted grosbeak were most always seen in the orchard area on this Wednesday Morning Walk.

But late years the watchers see more birds right in Mrs. Huston's dooryard where she has many trees and shrubs and well stocked feeders. In fact this Wednesday Morning Walk is the last remaining remnant of the once popular breakfast walks, as Mrs. Huston invites the group in for coffee and doughnuts, (and wonderful hot coffee cake!) The colorful activity at the feeders of evening grosbeaks, purple finches, Baltimore orioles and many other species are observed at close range through the windows. Needless to say, the group no longer walks all the way to the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge on Applesass Hill.

— DOROTHY P. WEBBER

## JUNIOR BIRD WALK

Friday, during the third week of May, generally, is the date of the Junior Bird Walk led by Mr. John Buckley, biology teacher at Lewiston High School.

The participants of the bird walk are mostly high school students, although occasionally there are some adults, who meet at the corner of Main and Riverside Streets in Lewiston at 4:00 p.m.

The walk proceeds down Riverside Street to the Androscoggin River, around the Riverside Cemetery and return. The number of species of birds recorded varies from approximately fifteen to thirty depending on the season. Some years the warbler migration is at its height which helps to boost the number of birds seen.

— JOHN J. BUCKLEY

Editors' Note: This is one of the most important walks each season because it has a special appeal for the youth of the area. It draws from a large group of biology students alone who in 1969 numbered over 400 in Lewiston High School. At times more than one of these walks are held.





## THE WARREN WARBLER WALK

In the early days of the Stanton Bird Club there were sometimes as many as thirty bird walks scheduled in the spring starting at the beginning of April and continuing into the first of June. Now only three walks are scheduled and these are all in May—the “Wednesday Morning Bird Walk,” the “Junior Bird Walk” and the “Warren Warbler Walk.”

A charming walk is the “Warren Warbler” and one easily negotiated in spite of the hill which is a gentle ascent. On an early morning in the middle of May, hopefully at the height of the warbler migration, it is a rewarding and satisfying experience to leisurely stroll through “The Franklin” which is the wooded area partially surrounding Edward Little High School in Auburn. The walk starts at the corner of Court and South Goff Streets and proceeds out South Goff Street past the shops and up an unused road, crossing the asphalt path leading to the high school and on up past the backyards of half-hidden residences to the top of the hill, where, on the left, is the old abandoned Keene orchard. It is in this orchard that one is especially on the alert, hoping to see an indigo bunting.

The young tree growth all through the Franklin is indescribably lovely on a fair May morning with the tiny leaves just beginning to unfold. If it were not for the drone of traffic in the distance, one would feel as though he were far away from the work-a-day world. Many varieties of birds are found in this tiny woodland where different kinds of hardwood trees are to be found. There are also innumerable species of wildflowers and flowering shrubs.

The music of the wood thrush and the purple finch and the robust song of the rose breasted grosbeak and many other bird voices all blend to make a delightful chorus that rings out in joy for all to hear who will listen.

Over the years the birds listed have numbered from twenty to thirty varieties or more. On this walk birds are counted from the time a participant leaves home until he returns and it might be noted that according to the custom of the National Audubon Society, the practice of identifying birds by their songs or calls is accepted as well as visual identification.

It is interesting to compare the following lists compiled from this walk; one that was made in 1928 and the other in 1969.

1928	1969
Chebec	Blackbird, Red-winged
Chickadee	Bluejay
Cowbird	Bobolink
Crow	Bunting, Indigo
Finch, Purple	Catbird
Flicker	Chickadee
Grackle, Bronze	Crow
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Finch, Purple
Meadowlark	Flicker
Oriole	Flycatcher, Least (Chebec)
Oven Bird	Goldfinch
Redstart	Grackle
Robin	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
Sparrow, Chipping	Gull, Herring
Sparrow, White crowned	Humming Bird, Ruby-throated
Starling	Kingbird
Swallow, Tree	Nuthatch, White Breasted
Swift, Chimney	Oriole, Baltimore
Thrasher, Brown	Oven Bird
Thrush, Water	Redstart
Thrush, Wilson	Robin
Vireo, Blue-headed	Sparrow, Song
Vireo, Red-eyed	Sparrow, White-throated
Warbler, Black-throated Green	Starling
Warbler, Black & White Creeping	Swallow, Tree
Warbler, Chestnut-sided	Swift, Chimney
Warbler, Myrtle	Thrasher, Brown
Warbler, Pine	Thrush, Wood
Whippoorwill	Towhee, Eastern
Woodpecker, Downy	Warbler, Magnolia
	Warbler, Yellow
	Warbler, Yellow-throated
	Whippoorwill
	Wren, House
Total: 30 species	Total: 34 species

SCHEDULE OF BIRD WALKS — 1921

STANTON BIRD CLUB

April 6th to June 6th, 1921	Time:	April 6:30 A.M.
		May 6:15 A.M.
Saturdays, also Patriots Day and Memorial Day		7:00 A.M.

PLACE (a) Main and Riverside Streets — Lewiston  
(b) College and Campus Avenue — Lewiston  
(c) Whitney and Center Streets — Auburn

LEADERS	START FROM	DATE
Mrs. Yeaton	c	April 6 W
A. L. Kavanagh	b Bird Day	" 8 F
Miss Miller	a	" 13 W
Miss Teague	a	" 16 S
A. C. Kinsley	Dennison & Winter Sts., Aub. 3-10 P.M.	" 17 S
Dr. C. E. Norton	b Patriots Day	" 19 T
B. A. Chase	c	" 21 T
Miss Miller	b	" 23 S
Dr. A. N. Leonard	a	" 27 W
Mrs. Norton	a	" 30 S
C. D. Farrar	Pine & Webster Sts., Lew. 3-10 P.M.	May 1 S
B. A. Chase	c	" 3 T
E. M. Lowell	b	" 5 T
Miss Teague	a	" 7 S
Prof. F. E. Pomeroy	a	" 9 M
Mrs. Kinsley	Taylor & Oliver Sts., Aub.	" 11 W
Miss Miller	b	" 14 S
Dr. E. W. Bickford	b	" 17 T
Dr. H. H. Britan	a	" 19 T
Mrs. Yeaton	c	" 21 S
W. H. Waterman	3:05 Lake Grove Car	" 22 S
Prof. G. E. Ramsdell	b	" 23 M
Mrs. Warren	Court & Goff Sts., Aub.	" 25 W
Mrs. Norton	a	" 28 S
Mrs. Wellman	a Memorial Day	" 30 M
Mrs. Neal	b	June 1 W
A. L. Kavanagh	b	" 4 S
Dr. H. S. Sleeper	3:45 car to Fair Grounds	" 5 S

The Saturday morning walks are for the Juniors. Seniors are welcome on these walks.

Editors' Note: The word "car" refers to the trolley car. "Lake Grove" is an area on the shore of Lake Auburn and, "Fair Grounds" refers to the area of that name in Lewiston.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

## AN EVENING WITH HERBERT K. JOB

The Stanton Bird Club has heard many famous lecturers and photographers during its fifty years, among them being Mr. Herbert K. Job who in 1921 was head of the department of Applied Ornithology in the National Audubon Society and the director of the game farm and bird sanctuary in Amston, Connecticut. It was in that year that he spoke at Chase Hall, Bates College before a capacity audience which in Mr. Job's own words filled the hall "from turret to foundation stone." It was recorded that there were "over four hundred folks, with the front seats back a dozen rows filled with wide awake youngsters, very much alive to the occasion!" Also that "he has a rare personal charm, an individuality all his own, and knows as much about birds as any man living. He has a delightful intimate way of talking, weaving so cleverly fact and fancy that children are delighted to listen. No policeman was necessary Thursday evening to keep the boys in the front row in order. They were as still as a growing boy CAN be—and live. They not only gave their undivided attention, but were eager to answer the occasional questions put to them by the speaker."

He spoke of the increasing interest in birds over the years and mentioned that out of a population of 105,000 in Hamilton, Ontario there were 16,000 members of the Junior Audubon Society and that out of every eight persons in the city, at least one was a member of the National Society. The interest in Mr. Job and his work was shown in the large audiences present on his second trip to Maine of which this evening was a part. He spoke before 1,800 children in Portland in five different sessions and later spoke at Bowdoin and Colby Colleges and the Bangor Opera House where 800 late comers had to be turned away.

The bird films that were shown by Mr. Job, who proved to be a real artist photographer, portrayed many birds including snowy egrets in the Florida Everglades to gulls and terns at Matinicus Island off the coast of Maine.

## A MEETING OF THE STANTON BIRD CLUB AND THE MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY

It was in 1960 that the Maine Audubon Society, with headquarters in Portland, included its annual meeting within a two-day session held jointly with the Stanton Bird Club on Saturday and Sunday, May 21st and 22nd at Bates College in Lewiston, the Elm Street Universalist Church in Auburn and Woodbury Sanctuary near Tacoma Lakes.

One of the speakers was Roger Tory Peterson, world renowned author, ornithologist, photographer and lecturer who showed a film made by him and gave a talk on "Flamingoes of the World." Mr. Carl W. Bucheister of New York City, president of the National Audubon Society gave an illustrated talk on "Texas Sanctuaries of the National Audubon Society." Other speakers included Prof. James Moulton and Prof. Clarence Rylander of Bowdoin College and Mr. Allen I. Morgan, executive vice president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. A dinner meeting was one of the events and it was held at the Elm Street Universalist Church.

Sunday morning, the Stanton Bird Club, under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Paul R. Smith, was the host at the Woodbury Sanctuary where Dr. Olin Sewall Pettengill, Jr., president of the Maine Audubon Society and a director of the National Audubon Society at that time was in charge of the program which commenced at nine o'clock. The seventy-five persons (some remained at the cabin) who participated in the bird walks were divided into groups with an experienced leader for each group and separate walks were taken on which fifty different bird species were recorded.

Individuals were asked to bring a picnic lunch which was enjoyed together with coffee furnished by the host at the log cabin in the sanctuary.

It was a rewarding two days for all who attended.

— • —

Editors' Note: The reader will realize that it would be impossible to give a summary of all the highlights of the Club's programs and your editors picked at random the foregoing—one from the early days and one of more recent times to give samples, knowing well that the favorite program of each member could not be covered. It is further acknowledged that many really good and important programs not mentioned in this booklet have been enjoyed over the years.

## REFLECTIONS

## MARY WARREN LOOKS BACK

I was brought up in the country, but when I came to Auburn to live, I could count all the birds I knew on one hand. Our telephone was near a window and it seemed that every time I went to use it there were blue birds on the wire outside and I was pleased because I had heard the saying "Blue-birds for Happiness" and I believe it is true for I was very happy there in the little house on Park Hill Avenue where I lived so many years.

Then I began to see so many varieties of birds around that I wanted to know more about them. Because of my zeal in birdwatching, my friends would say "Don't mind her, she has 'bats in her belfry'."

When I heard there was going to be a meeting to organize a bird club, I wanted to go, but as I did not think I knew anyone who would be there, I wondered if I really wanted to get involved in such a venture. I fussed about in my indecision until I almost missed the trolley car that would take me into town in time for the meeting. Upon my arrival, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the people I met there were from all walks of life. There were college professors, bankers, teachers, lawyers, housewives and others all with the same interest in their love of birds.

One teacher, I remember well, Miss Grace Teague who later joined the club, was very interested and interested her pupils by having them report all the birds they saw and these reports were given at our meetings. She was instrumental in making many young people aware of the natural world around them always fostering in them an appreciation of nature.

The bird walks were fun. Mrs. Norton named the walk in Auburn, the "Warren Warbler Walk." It is held about the middle of May near the height of the warbler migration. The first year it stormed and there was no walk. The second year it was wet, having rained, but I put on my rubber boots and went. Bernard Chase was the only other one that came, but we walked up to the top of the hill and the only bird I remember seeing was a scarlet tanager—our prize that morning.

At that time, scarlet tanagers in this area were almost unheard of and it was difficult for some to believe that we had really seen one, but a few years later five or six people saw one so it proved that they did come into our territory. We had breakfast walks and about the time we got to the top of the hill, we would begin lunching and then it always seemed that just when our hands were busy with food, the birds would appear. It was fun to see someone with a doughnut in one hand and binoculars in the other peering into the bushes to locate a bird.



Mary Warren and Judge Fales—

Mrs. Mary Hathorne Warren, R.N. and Judge Elton H. Fales. This was taken at the 50th Birthday Anniversary meeting, February 3, 1969. Mrs. Warren is the only remaining charter member and Judge Fales is the current president.

When evening grosbeaks first came to these cities, the first I saw were in a tree in Lewiston. There were three of them as I recall. I do not remember when they first came to our feeding station at home. They would come early while it was still almost dark, alight in the top of a tree and my husband and I would hear them "talking." About eight o'clock they would come down to eat at our feeder. We had friends come out from the city on the eight o'clock trolley to see them. The birds always left before noon and only once did I see one about four in the afternoon.

We had good numbers on our bird walks. One Patriots' Day our walk was up around Bates College and there were fifty-two of us including quite a few young folks.

In the time I lived on Park Hill Avenue, I identified sixty-two different kinds of birds on our land, all within one hundred fifty feet or so of our home — a lot of varieties for such a small area.

One of my memories that amuses me is of the time that I was getting breakfast one morning and I heard a different bird call. I dropped everything, grabbed my sweater, bird book, field glasses and was putting on my rubbers when I heard my husband call me to tell me about the new bird sound. My father was sitting in the kitchen waiting for his breakfast and he replied to my husband "She has heard it and gone crazy!" For anyone to leave such an important task as getting breakfast to chase after an elusive bird was far beyond his comprehension.

Birding has brought great joy to my life and the decision I made on that long ago evening of January 20, 1919 was one of the most important and rewarding of my lifetime.

— MARY HATHORNE WARREN

Editors' Note: Mary Hathorne Warren, R.N., widow of Merton W. Warren, is a resident of the Odd Fellows Home in Auburn and was 91 years of age on October 18, 1969.

## SAM REFLECTS

Fred E. Pomeroy was president of the Stanton Bird Club for twenty-two years. His term of office was much longer than any other president. He was also the head of the department of Biology at Bates College, therefore was well qualified for his office with the Stanton Bird Club.

Professor Pomeroy was greatly interested in the life and study of birds, and it was his desire that members of the club should learn more about them. He thought that members should take an active part in some of the meetings; therefore he assigned lectures to various members, on subjects such as "Birds of Spring," "Shore Birds," "Hawks," "Insect Eating Birds" etc. He provided books on the subject, and the member selected would study and write a lecture which he (or she) would present at a stated meeting. Almost every year he would ask a member to give a lecture on "Our Winter Birds," and he would provide mounted specimens from the museum. Also a spring lecture on "Spring Arrivals," and a special lecture on "Warblers" with mounted specimens.

In the identification of birds he pointed out important features to look for, such as the yellow spot on the rump of the myrtle warbler, the flesh colored bill of the field sparrow, the tail wagging of the phoebe, and the white spot on the rump of the marsh hawk.

He was much interested in the roll call of birds. He wanted each member to make a list of birds they had seen and report at the meetings where a record was kept by the secretary.

Professor Pomeroy devoted some of the meetings to the study of plant life, and other forms of animal life in addition to birds. For many years he arranged work days at Thorncrag and Woodbury sanctuaries, having the Bates Outing Club working with members of the Stanton Bird Club, trimming out trails, painting spots on the trees, cleaning around the fireplaces and the ponds, and in the earlier days putting up bird houses.

Early meetings of the Stanton Bird Club were held in Professor Pomeroy's classroom in the science building at Bates College; later, as the membership increased it was necessary to move to larger accommodations. Professor Pomeroy hoped that eventually the Stanton Bird Club would have its own home, with office, classroom, kitchen and museum.

— SAMUEL STODDARD

**BITS and PIECES**



### PRESIDENTS OF THE STANTON BIRD CLUB

Albert S. Kavanagh	Feb. 3, 1919 until his death in 1933
Dr. Alfred W. Anthony	1934 - 1936
Prof. Fred E. Pomeroy	1936 - 1958
Samuel Stoddard	1958 - 1963
Dr. Otis B. Tibbetts	1963 - 1965
Dr. Paul R. Smith	1965 - 1967
Judge Elton H. Fales	1967 -

### MEETINGS AND MEETING PLACES

From the very beginning since 1919 the regular meetings of the Stanton Bird Club have been held on the first Monday of every month from November through June with bird walks, picnics, breakfasts and any other events held at odd times in between the regular meetings, even through the summer months as the occasion warranted. Records show that the early meetings were held in the Auburn Chamber of Commerce rooms, the Business and Professional Women's Club rooms and Professor Pomeroy's classroom in the Carnegie Science Building on the Bates College campus.

After 1948 the regular meetings were held in the Y.M.C.A. hall in Auburn until the season 1966-1967 when a search was made for a meeting place with better parking facilities and no stairs to climb. The Fairview School on Minot Avenue was decided upon and all meetings except the Guest Night meeting were held there that one season. After that, beginning with the November meeting in 1967, all meetings except Guest Night were held at the High Street Congregational Church in Auburn.

Over the years a sort of pattern has emerged which is now more or less standard. Of the regular meetings there are three which are "special," namely, the Annual Meeting, the Birthday Anniversary and Guest Night.

The first meeting of the season in November is the Annual Meeting when officers are elected and reports are read. This is a supper meeting which brings out a good majority of the members and not only requires a hall of large capacity, but must have kitchen facilities as well. The supper is followed by a lecture and pictures given by some outstanding paid speaker. Beginning in November, 1925, these large gatherings were held at the East Auburn Grange Hall and from 1925 until 1948, twenty-three years, the ladies of the Grange served the supper downstairs in the dining room and then the members moved upstairs to the hall for the lecture. In November, 1948, the annual meeting and supper was held in the Y.M.C.A. hall in Auburn with a caterer serving the meal, but the next year this meeting was held at the Elm Street Universalist Church in Auburn and for twelve years thereafter, through November, 1960, the ladies of the Elm Street church served the meal. The place for the Annual Meeting and dinner was changed to the High Street Congregational Church in November, 1961 and has continued there until the present time with the exception of the one season at the Fairview School.

The second "special" regular meeting is the anniversary night in February, although when this started being "special" in 1922 it was not called an anniversary, but was designated as a "Social Evening;" and the next year

was called "Guest Night" and was held in Chase Hall, Bates College while the regular meetings were held in Professor Pomeroy's classroom. In February, 1933 the meeting was designated as "Anniversary Night" and was held in the regular meeting place until 1942 when it was celebrated at the regular meeting place at the Y.M.C.A. with a special program after which refreshments and a social hour were enjoyed and this is the way in which the club has observed its birthday ever since.

The Guest Night was not forgotten, however, and was held in April, 1933 at Chase Hall and continued to be held there for thirty-two years until April, 1965 when it was held at the Bates College Little Theatre. It is a pleasant change from the regular meeting place to go to the Little Theatre for Guest Night where members and their guests can relax in the charming, comfortable and modern theater to hear outstanding lecturers.



### THE BLESSING OF THE TREE

God bless thee when the shadows fall,  
And in gray dusk when robins call,  
And in the night when stars sweep by  
Above thee in the far-off sky.  
God bless thee in the sun and dew,  
And year by year thy growth renew.  
And so, in blessing, make of thee  
A blessing to humanity.

(Written by Miss Agnes Peabody for a Stanton Bird Club tree planting. Miss Peabody at that time was a teacher in the Wallace School. It has been used ever since for Club tree plantings. It is always given by a boy.

## STANTON BIRD CLUB GARDENERS

Because Stanton Bird Club members were interested in all nature subjects, it was not surprising to find many who were interested in gardens and more particularly in gardens of flowers. Beginning with the 1934-1935 season, programs were given which were of special interest to garden enthusiasts. Led by Mr. Samuel Stoddard, the "gardeners" met at the Lewiston Public Library on a Monday evening in the middle of the spring months of March, April and May. These meetings were in addition to the regular SBC monthly meeting. They exchanged roots and bulbs as well as notes and it was through their efforts that a lovely border of perennials was planted at the Library where they met. Part of the garden is still to be found today in the northwest corner of the lot.

Many a garden spot in the community owes to Daisy Dill Norton's love of beauty and of sharing with others its rarest bush or perennial and it was due to her enthusiasm along with others that much was accomplished in beautifying the area.

The SBC Gardeners met for twenty-two years through 1957.



Stanton Bird Club Officers, etc., 1967—

Stanton Bird Club officers and directors for the season 1967-1968, from the Lewiston Daily Sun, Nov. 14, 1967. Left to right, seated; Stanley W. Robbins, treasurer; Judge Elton H. Fales, president; Edwin W. Adams, second vice president; Dr. William H. Sawyer, first vice president and Prof. Robert B. Wait, secretary. Standing: Dr. Paul R. Smith, Miss Dorothy P. Webber, Mrs. Merton W. Warren, Mrs. George E. Ramsdell, John J. Buckley, John W. White, Samuel Stoddard and Charles L. Eastman, directors. This same board served for 1968-1969, the anniversary year, with the exception of Dr. Sawyer who died and was replaced by Robert G. Wade. Not present when the picture was taken were George T. Bain and Dr. Otis B. Tibbetts.

Fifty years have brought about many changes in the customs and habits of all of us, take the trolley cars, for instance. When the Stanton Bird Club was young the majority of people depended on the electric cars for transportation, only a few had automobiles. The Prospect Hill car took the bird watchers to the end of the line for the Kinney Vesper Walk. The Sabattus car took them to Thorncrag, and the Figure Eight took them to the walks in the Field woods and "the gully" (now Pettengill Park.) The picnic supper every summer at the Waterman's, near the shore of Lake Auburn, combined with the walk over Mt. Gile, and the annual meetings at the East Auburn Grange hall in November depended on the Lake Grove car to bring the members the three or four miles out of the city. Then there was the Webber Avenue car that dropped its passengers off at the corner of Pleasant Street at 6:45 A.M. for the walk to the Deacon Davis Bird Refuge. Those who came by automobile would wait at the corner until the arrival of the electric, and all would walk up the hill together.

In the early days the trolley fare was five cents, and later increased to ten cents. In those days the supper at the Grange hall cost thirty-five cents. Later, when supper cost one dollar and then a dollar fifty they called it dinner. Membership dues were fifty cents until 1964.



In the forties and early fifties there were several years when the Stanton Bird Club had 500 members or more. In the fiftieth anniversary year of 1969 there are 225 members.



At one time as many as thirty people including children gathered for the Warren Warbler Walk. In 1969 only three adults attended, one of them being Mrs. Mary H. Warren.



Lest we forget, the Stanton Lodge was a familiar landmark at Thorncrag for about forty years. It was a log cabin with a porch and one large room with fireplace. It stood a little uphill westerly from the Highland Spring bottling plant. The Bates College Outing Club under the supervision of Prof. Will Sawyer built the cabin and owned it. When it deteriorated to the point of no return it was torn down. This was about 1965.

For about twenty years, through the 30's and 40's this was the scene of an annual October gathering of the SBC designated on the printed program as "Fireside Meeting and Vacation Experiences at Stanton Lodge. 6:30 P.M. Picnic Supper."



This booklet could never have been compiled without the organizing and sorting job that Harriett Ramsdell did when Daisy Norton's house was vacated. Mrs. Norton had accumulated stacks of clippings, reports and papers which had to be carefully scrutinized and put in order. This, Harriett Ramsdell undertook.

So the history of the Stanton Bird Club is now all bundled up in one large cardboard carton. Besides the secretary's reports over the years, there are clippings stuck into scrap books and large envelopes full of papers. Most precious of all perhaps, are the program folders that were printed each year. We have the folders for every season since the beginning, except two, the 1943-1944 and 1967-1968 seasons. Surely somebody will find these two missing numbers and complete our files.



Prof. Stanton (in his study)—

Prof. Jonathan Y. Stanton in the study at his home at 410 Main St., Lewiston. This is the house at the corner of Main and Elm Sts. and the beautiful copper beach tree in the yard there was undoubtedly planted by Prof. Stanton.

#### CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE STANTON BIRD CLUB

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Miss Abbie P. Curtis      | Mrs. Herbert Wills           |
| Miss Sadie E. Curtis      | Mr. Clarence D. Farrer       |
| Mrs. Nellie H. Smith      | Mrs. Virginia Provost        |
| Miss Carrie Ella Miller   | Miss Elizabeth C. Crocket    |
| Mrs. Mary Hathorne Warren | Miss Marie Jeanette Germaine |
| Mr. Charles S. Allen      | L'Heureux                    |
| Mrs. Ella F. Neal         | Mrs. George E. Kinney        |
| Mr. Albert L. Kavanagh    | Mr. James Elms               |
| Mr. W. A. Noyes           | Prof. L. R. Grose            |
| Mr. Ruel W. Smith         | Mr. John L. Hooper           |
| Rev. George Kinney        | Mr. Bernard A. Chase         |
| Miss Grace Ingersoll      | Dr. C. E. Norton             |
| Mrs. C. E. Norton         | Mrs. Mary Neal               |
| Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn      | Dr. A. J. Salley             |
| Miss Matilda L. Alexander | Mr. E. M. Lowell             |
| Mrs. F. D. Tubbs          | Dr. F. D. Tubbs              |
| Mrs. Fred Watson          | Dr. W. H. Hartshorn          |
| Mrs. A. A. Garcelon       | Mr. Willard Waterman         |

INITIAL OFFICERS OF THE STANTON BIRD CLUB

FEBRUARY 3, 1919

A. L. Kavanagh ..... President  
Dr. Frank D. Tubbs ..... 1st Vice President  
John L. Hooper ..... 2nd Vice President  
Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn ..... Secretary  
Bernard A. Chase ..... Treasurer



INITIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
STANTON BIRD CLUB — FEBRUARY 3, 1919

Ruel W. Smith  
Miss Grace Ingersoll  
Charles S. Allen  
Miss Carrie E. Miller  
Mrs. Ella F. Neal  
Mrs. F. D. Tubbs  
John L. Hooper  
Mrs. Mary H. Warren  
George E. Kinney  
A. L. Kavanagh  
Mrs. C. E. Norton  
C. D. Farrer

