



WILDLIFE AT STAGE'S POND

Don't Destroy Our Heritage

By W. W. HIGGINS
An Editorial

A few months ago most of us had never heard of Stage's Pond. Now, many of us have invested in its future.

Stage's Pond is a one time thing. It's the last of its kind in this area. Had someone asked a year ago, "What is a kettle-hole?" most of us could not have answered. Now some of us know that it is a steep hollow, without surface drainage, which lies in a deposit of glacial "drift".

The archaeologists think that such a "kettle-hole" was formed when a large chunk of ice broke loose from the glacier and was buried under the "drift" (that is, the rocks and soil carried beneath the moving glacier). When the glacier withdrew, about 14,000 years ago, the chunk of ice melted, leaving a great crater in the "drift".

I know there are skeptics. Someone said to me, "Why try to save a swamp?" Well, for one thing, it's more than a swamp. There are from 30 to 40 acres of pond with a fair depth of

water. In addition, there are plants, animals and birds in such quantity and variety as would be difficult to find anywhere else in this area.

Hérons, ducks and killdeers find refuge in the area. In the neighboring woods the mockingbird, the bluebird and the flicker find a home. This is not only the last large kettle pond in this area, it is the last stand for some of the wildlife in this part of the country.

We have an obligation to preserve at least the best of our own heritage for our children. We need animals and birds to preserve the balance of nature. We need open space if we expect to go on breathing. Stage's Pond is a small thing, but, once it is gone, part of the beauty, part of the reality of nature will be gone with it.

Do we have to wait another 14,000 years for the next glacier to do it all over again? Don't let apathy destroy your birthright. Send your contribution to Miss Miriam Weaver, General Chairman, Stage's Pond Fund Drive, c-o The Second National Bank of Circleville, Drawer 230, Circleville.