

Inventory of the

Kishwaukee Audubon Society
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 107

INTRODUCTION

Linda K. Southern, President, donated the Kishwaukee Audubon Society Records to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on September 29, 1980. Elaine Rast, as well as other members of the Society donated additional records at a later date.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space. 2.25
Number of Containers: 4
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 107

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Kishwaukee Audubon Society Collection documents the establishment and history of a local environmental organization from 1960-1989. The society minutes (1960-1974) comprise a major series of the collection detailing business concerns such as treasurer's reports, membership data, publicity strategy, and plans for nature projects and field trips. The minutes also describe the club's educational presentations designed to familiarize members with environmental and conservation topics. Financial reports, membership lists, and committee reports supplement the data contained in the minutes. Club correspondence (1961-1974) contains additional information on meeting programs and the issues of conservation and pollution in DeKalb County.

A second major series of the collection is a nearly complete set of monthly newsletters (1961-1989) comprehensively describing society projects including field trips, wildlife film series, environmental preservation programs, and nature lectures. A separate file of program announcements contains more detailed portrayals of society activities, particularly the seasonal wildlife film series. Researchers should note that by-laws and brief society histories, along with the photographs, provide helpful background data on the organization's origins and goals. The collection also includes general ecological education information supplied by local and state organizations as well as national public and private environmental agencies.

The Kishwaukee Audubon Society Records provide a comprehensive illustration of a group of local people not only dedicated to learning more about nature, but also intensely concerned with preserving their surrounding natural environment.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thirty-six members organized the Kishwaukee Audubon Society of DeKalb County on March 18, 1960 at Northern Illinois University. The group elected Mrs. Merle Minor, Mrs. William Southern, and Mrs. Verna Gogley as president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively. At its next meeting on April 4, 1960 the members adopted the society's by-laws declaring the goals as protection of wildlife, preservation of natural resources, and environmental education for both members and public. The society became a branch organization in 1966 allowing members to belong to the National Audubon Society as well as the Kishwaukee Society.

During its history, the Kishwaukee Audubon Society pursued its goals by sponsoring various conservation and educational programs. In 1963, the group leased ninety acres of land north of DeKalb as a bird sanctuary. Until it was sold in 1972, the organization used the wildlife reserve for field trips and migration studies of more than sixty species of birds. A second major program was the seasonal wildlife film series featuring prominent guest speakers in conjunction with National Audubon Society nature films. This educational series, given twice a year, acted as a fund-raiser for the society. The Audubon group also provided a vital service to the surrounding agricultural community with its annual bird counts. The yearly bird tallies not only benefited members but also helped farmers recognize those predators controlling the rodent population on their farms.

Since its organization, the Kishwaukee Audubon Society dealt with various environmental issues such as air and water pollution, recycling used materials, waste disposal, the use of DDT in local agriculture, and the energy crisis. Although interest in ecology and nature dwindled in the mid-1970's, the Kishwaukee Audubon Society still promotes interest in conservation and environmental control in DeKalb County.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Audubon Society
Birds, DeKalb County
Kishwaukee Audubon Society
Wildlife Conservation

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Charter, 1966-1968
	2	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Constitution and By-laws, 1960-1964
	3	Society Histories, 1960-1978
	4	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Historical Material, 1915-1973
	5-6	Membership Lists, 1969-1982
	7	Minute Book, 1960-1964
	8-9	Minutes, 1964-1974
	10	Correspondence, 1961-1981
	11	Correspondence from other Conservation Groups, 1979-1982
	12	Financial Reports, 1964-1970
	13	Local Affairs, 1965-1980
	14	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Agenda, 1960-1981
	15	Program Announcements, 1960-1978
	16	Programs-Past, 1974-1980
	17	Programs-Pending, 1979
	18	Education
	19	Film Series, 1962-1968
	20	Committee Reports, 1965-1974
	21-23	Newsletters, 1961-1983
	24	Wayne Short Lecture Management, 1965
	25	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Nature Trail, 1982
	26	Afton Forest Preserve Project, 1979
	27	Shabbona Lake Projects, 1979
	28	Bluebird Trail
	29	Sanctuary, 1963-1969
	30	Christmas Bird Count, 1960-1976
	31	Kingfisher Report, 1966-1968
	32	Survey, 1968
	33	Questionnaire, 1980
	34	Photographs, n.d. (11)
	35	Kishwaukee Audubon Society Space Requisition Forms, 1963-1964
	36	Dart, 1982
	37	Directory of DeKalb Organizations, 1969, 1973
	38	Rockford Public Library 16mm film catalog
	39	Audubon Council of Illinois, 1973-1983
	40	Illinois Audubon Newsletter, 1964-1979

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
1	41	Illinois Department of Conservation Newsletter, 1979	
	42	Illinois Environmental Council News, 1979-1983	
	43	Illinois Environmental Information, 1970's	
	44	Audubon Society, 1964, 1967	
	45	National Audubon Society, 1973-1981	
2	1	Branch Manual National Audubon Society, 1966	
	2	National Audubon Society, Regional Office, 1977-1979	
	3	National Audubon Society, 1982, 1983	
	4	Audubon Camps, 1977, 1982	
	5	Audubon Clean Air, 1981, 1982	
	6-9	<u>Audubon Leader</u> , 1973-1983	
	10	<u>Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide</u> , 1961-1968	
	11	National Audubon Society - Guidelines for Chapter Education Committee, 1977	
3	1	National Audubon Society - Guidelines for Chapter Education Committee, 1977	
	2	<u>Conservation Foundation Letter</u> , 1979	
	3	National Wildlife Federation <u>Conservation Report</u> , 1979	
	4	Open Lands Newsletter, 1965-1967	
	5	Internal Revenue Service - Lobbying Records, 1977-1979	
	6	National Environmental Information, 1950-1974	
	7	Land Use Policies, 1973	
	8	Natural Roadsides Projects, 1977	
	9	Nature Conservancy, 1976-1978	
	10	Nature Conservancy - Natural Resource Council, 1965-1967	
	11	Outdoor Highlights, 1979-1980	
	12	Wildlife Poisoning and other abuses, 1981-1982	
	13	Photographs, 1963 (12)	

ADDENDUM - FEBRUARY 15, 1985

	Kishwaukee Audubon Society:
14	Correspondence, memos, announcements, 1968-1984
15	Member lists, 1982-1984
16	Bank statements, 1983-1984
17	National Audubon Society, 1979-1984

ADDENDUM - OCTOBER 1, 1993

		Kishwaukee Audubon Society:
4	1	Correspondence, newsletter, research, memos, 1985-1989
	2	Annual membership lists, 1987-1988
	3	Membership questionnaire, n.d.
	4	Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, 1988
	5	Audubon Council of Illinois, 1986-1989
	6	National Audubon Society, 1987-1989
	7	National Audubon Society News Media Source Book, n.d.

ADDENDUM - APRIL 16, 1996

	8	Articles of Incorporation, May 27, 1963
	9	Annual Reports, Officer Reports, Correspondence, and Clippings, 1963-1983
	10	Membership Lists, 1982-1984
	11	Newsletters, February 1984-June 1989