

Photo by Fred G. Bard.

Colony of pelicans and cormorants at Old Wives Lake, 1960.

pelican is too unique a feature of the summer landscape to be allowed to disappear.

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PROTECTION URGED FOR COLONIAL BIRDS ON REDBERRY LAKE

At a meeting of the Saskatoon Natural History Society on January 18, 1962 a resolution was drafted urging protection of colonial birds on Redberry Lake. Learning of plans to turn Redberry Lake into a resort, the Society was particularly concerned lest nesting sites of pelicans, cormorants, gulls and terns on the islands in the lake be destroyed. Even though the lake is a wildlife sanctuary, holidayers are likely to visit the islands during the nesting season, unaware that even a short visit sometimes results in the deaths of hundreds of young birds. The pelican in particular has been deprived of most of its former nesting sites in settled Saskatchewan.

The following resolution was submitted to the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources and the Canadian Wildlife Service:

Because pelicans, cormorants, gulls and terns are birds of very limited habitat, with specific nesting requiremnets, be it resolved that the islands of Redberry Lake and the waters within half a mile of the islands be preserved unmolested as a wildlife sanctuary.

In reply, the Honourable A. G. Kuziak, Minister of Natural Resources, told the Society that his department plans no recreation development for Redberry Lake in the immediate future. Should such development take place at a later date, Mr. Kiuziak assured the Society, may be certain that my department will be most concerned that the faunal life of the lake be safeguarded against disturbance and destruction of habitat."

While encouraged to learn that the Recreation Branch will not initiate development without considering the needs of colonial birds, the Society is still concerned about private plans for development of the lake.