

In summary, the Sierra Club supports the establishment of the Great Swamp, Monomoy, Edmunds, and Birch Island Wildernesses, and suggests that section 3 of these and other Interior Department wilderness proposals be deleted and that section 2 be amended to conform more closely to the language and intent of the Wilderness Act itself.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to state our views on these wilderness proposals.

Senator METCALF. Thank you very much for a very fine statement. I appreciate especially, Mr. Soucie, and I know the committee does, your recommendations of specific language as an amendment to carry out your suggestion as to Maine.

As you have gathered from the discussion that has already taken place by various members of the committee this morning, there is great concern about the very thing on which you have expressed the concern of the Sierra Club.

Mr. SOUCIE. That is right. That is why we suggested deletion of section 3. We think there is just enough difference between section 3 and the wording of the kindred sections of the Wilderness Act to cause the confusion we have heard in this hearing.

Senator METCALF. You have made a most persuasive statement. Thank you, sir.

Our next witness will be Mr. James Baird, director of national history services of the Audubon Society of Massachusetts. We are delighted to have you here, Mr. Baird.

STATEMENT OF JAMES BAIRD, AUDUBON SOCIETY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. BAIRD. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

My name is James Baird and I represent the Massachusetts Society, a wildlife conservation organization with headquarters in Lincoln, Mass.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society so firmly favors a wilderness status for Monomoy Island that Mr. Allen H. Morgan, executive vice president, would have come here today to present its testimony had not illness prevented his making the trip.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society owns historic Monomoy Light, the southern end of Monomoy, and 2 acres surrounding the lighthouse. The society also operates in the summer months natural history beach buggy tours, with experienced guides who over the years have explained the ecology and wildlife of this wild area to thousands of summer visitors from all over the United States.

If the society were a commercial organization, the effect of declaring a wilderness status for Monomoy Island could be described in terms of "adversely affecting" the society since it is the only land user whose operations on the island might be termed significant.

Nevertheless, the society recognizes the tremendous value of wildness to the human spirit and feels that this fragile quality can best be preserved through declaring the island a wilderness area. The society also wishes to point out that Monomoy Island exists as a major feeding area for thousands of shore birds and waterfowl that either visit it in migration or winter on its surrounding waters.