

wilderness islands is one that is almost unique along the Great Lakes. The Islands provide a secure nesting place for many sea gulls which are an essential part of the Great Lakes biota, serving to scavenge waste and to keep both land and water sparkling as it is at present. The bald eagle, an endangered species, nests on the Islands. Its need for clear fishing water of low pesticide content is satisfied here, and if the eagle persists nowhere else, it might still outlive man on the Huron Islands. The Huron Islands also are one of the few places where cormorants continue to nest around the Great Lakes.

For the same reasons that diving and fishing birds persist around the Islands, skin divers find that the underwater wilderness surrounding the Islands is a great challenge for the adventurous. Merely reaching the Islands and landing on the worn rocks is an experience which should remain as a challenge and reminder to future generations of conditions experienced by the early voyagers who navigated the Lake Superior shores.

SENEY REFUGE

The Seney Refuge is a major objective of thousands of visitors to upper Michigan. It is one of those few places where one can count on seeing a variety of uncommon wildlife in abundance, including nesting sandhill cranes and Canada geese, beaver, deer, bald eagles, and other members of the northwoods fauna that has intrigued readers of adventure for so many years. The expanses of marshes and swamps of this proposed wilderness put soils of inferior quality to the best possible use. They serve as important stabilizers of water flow for the trout streams of the Upper Peninsula.

It is indeed fortunate that the Seney area is available for dedication. The casual visitor can see refuge wildlife from dikes and roads, while retention of the wilderness character of the interior parts of the refuge will provide protection from disturbance so necessary for the reproduction of species such as the cranes, rare warblers, and uncommon marshbirds. In times to come this wilderness could make it possible for extirpated species such as the lynx and moose to repopulate the area, and for the Sharp-tailed grouse to regain its former status. The refuge would seem to offer one of the few opportunities for allowing every agent of nature including natural fires to hold sway.

Senator METCALF. Without any further discussion, I think we have rather thoroughly covered some of the more difficult points and are in complete agreement with most of the matters raised here this morning, and so with the permission to Mr. Waldrop to submit a statement, if he chooses, I am going to adjourn this meeting subject to call of the Chair.

(Whereupon, at 1:05 p.m. the committee was recessed, subject to call of the Chair.)