



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FAVORITE LAKE FOR BIRDS
SAVED TO MINNESOTA

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Swan Lake, a valuable and unusual body of water about 10,500 acres in area, located in Nicollet County, Minn., has been saved to the State through the efforts of the State Game and Fish Commissioners, the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture and landowners and local conservationists of the region. A movement to lower the level of the lake four feet, eventually draining it entirely, was successfully opposed and defeated at two hearings after an examination of the wild fowl and food plant value of the lake had been made by three representatives of the Biological Survey.

In deciding this case the District Court in Minnesota laid emphasis on the great importance to the public welfare of such bodies of water as Swan Lake. Its favorable location, its relatively shallow fresh water, and its abundant growth of vegetation suitable for cover, nesting sites, and food have made it an attractive resort for many kinds of waterfowl. Its margins and wooded islands are a valuable asset in the conservation not only of game birds but also of insectivorous birds useful to farmers. Among the water birds that breed on the lake are several species of ducks, including mallards, blue-winged teal, redheads, lesser scaup, and ruddy ducks; sora rails, Florida gallinules, American coots, four species of grebes, black terns, and black-crowned night-herons are also common.

At least 50 kinds of plants valuable as food for water birds grow in this lake, including practically all the best duck food plants of the United States. There is also an abundance of fresh-water snails of several species liked by water birds. Lowering the level of this lake materially would eventually cause the disappearance of its present kind of vegetation and gradually destroy its value as a waterfowl resort.

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