A Quiet Island
by CHARLES LAPPEN,
Chairman, Sanctuary Committee

As the world rushes on, the need becomes all the more vital that
patches of land become preserved and protected so that wildlife, plant
life, and yes, man himself can find sanctuary.

Wildlife, in all its forms, needs the opportunity to develop in its
predestined manner.

Man, from time to time, needs the opportunity to find some seclusion
and to re-establish himself with the world about him.

For an organization such as the Illinois Audubon Society, a sanctu­
ary gives living witness to some of its ideals and objectives.

The Board of Directors adopted the following Statement of Policy
when it established guidelines for property acquisition: “The acquisition
of wildlife sanctuaries is one of the highest objectives of the Illinois
Audubon Society. No other activity that we engage in will so directly
affect the preservation of birds and other wildlife, and no other endeavor
will so strongly influence the growth of our Society in membership and
influence.”

For us, ownership of land certainly cannot become an end in itself,
but must be directly related to our formal purposes, as stated in Article
One of our By-Laws:

“To encourage the study, preservation and appreciation of the
wildlife of the State, especially the birdlife.

To promote the conservation and protection of all natural re­
sources.

To develop and implement a broad education program in the
interpretation, appreciation, enjoyment, and preservation of
our natural heritage.”

The Sanctuary Committee, under the leadership of our Executive
Director, Warren Dewalt, who made a detailed study of sanctuary
programs of other Audubon groups, has established guidelines for prop­
erty acquisition.

It is not the essence of this article to list or review these guidelines
but rather to bring to the attention of our members that we seek land
appropriate for sanctuaries and funds to maintain them properly.

From a financial viewpoint, the donor can gain some important tax
advantages.

From a personal viewpoint, the donor can perpetuate a living tribute
in his name, or in the name of his loved ones, the grandeur of a sanctuary.