

A Soul That Sings

By J. W. Galbreath

THE SOUL THAT sings of beauty expresses itself in poetry, art, and song. The desire for aesthetic appreciation and expression must be implanted in the child early if he is to develop a soul that will sing throughout his life. For this indoctrination there is no better teacher than nature. The child must have the opportunity to commune with wilderness, to see the beauty of a wild flower, to hear the melancholy cooing of the Mourning Dove, to smell the deep, dank aroma of decaying leaves, to thrill at the colorful ceremony of dancing feet and the booming love-call of the Prairie Chicken.

Although man with his science and technology may soon be able to reach the moon, he will never be able to bring back the Passenger Pigeon. In the past 25 years the encroachment of man upon wildlife habitat has hastened the process of extermination. Will our great-grandchildren condemn us because we were too busy or too selfish to save the precious wildlife heritage we enjoy today?

It is our obligation as stewards of our God-given natural resources to pass them on to posterity in their unspoiled state, untouched by modern civilization. The beauty, the feel, the sound and smell of the out-of-doors—all that is good, wholesome, and inspiring—we must strive to protect and preserve for our children. Then our sons and daughters will not have to ask, "Daddy, what is a wilderness?" or, "What is a Prairie Chicken?" Then the generations to come will still be able to nurture and encourage the souls that sing.

We have raised almost \$14,000 toward paying for the 77-acre Ralph E. Yeatter Prairie Chicken Sanctuary near Newton, Illinois. We still owe \$5,500 to the Nature Conservancy and have an obligation to complete payment of the above debt by March 1, 1963. We also hope to take an early option on Sanctuary No. 2.

You have been most loyal and generous in meeting the need. All posterity will be grateful for your support. The job is not complete! Please set aside a substantial contribution to the Prairie Chicken Foundation of Illinois so that the work now under way can continue. Mail a Christmas gift with a future TODAY to: Mr. George Fell, Treasurer, 819 North Main Street, Rockford, Illinois.

9405 Richfield Road, East St. Louis, Ill.

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NEW LIFE MEMBER

WE ARE PLEASED to announce that **Lorena Clarke**, of Chicago, Illinois, has just become a life member of the Illinois Audubon Society. She enrolled as a contributing member a number of years ago. According to our count, we now have ten life members in the I.A.S., and 29 who have permanent memberships of one kind or another.

Apparently not many members realize that you can take out the \$100.00 life membership on the installment plan, as shown on the back cover of the **Audubon Bulletin**. Several members are now working their way up to life memberships in \$25.00 steps. You can also give any membership as a Christmas or birthday gift.