

# **Audubon Unit Votes For Funds to Back Conservation Suits**

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTIC CITY, Oct. 1—

The National Audubon Society tonight voted to endorse plans for an "environmental defense fund" to finance conservation battles in courts.

At the same time it voted to oppose the use of DDT in the natural environment, on the ground that "adequate substitutes" exist.

The fund would be used whenever "natural resources were in danger of serious, permanent, irreparable damage in the opinion of responsible ecologists," according to its proponent, Victor J. Yannacone Jr. of Patchogue, L.I.

He said such a defense fund "would be to conservation what the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been to civil rights or the American Civil Liberties Union to civil liberties."

The fund, he said, would be financed by contributions from individuals and from other conservation organizations and foundations. He said he believed that by setting up a separate conservation organization for legal matters, conservationists could participate in activities which, if undertaken by such organizations as the National Audubon Society, might cause them to lose their tax-exempt status.

Mr. Yannacone, who last year won a temporary injunction against DDT spraying by Suffolk County, suggested the fund yesterday at the society's 63d national convention here.

Frank M. Potter, a lawyer reporting on the Scenic Hudson Preservation conference's fight to block construction of the Consolidated Edison power plant at Storm King Mountain on the Hudson River, said the case had shown that "it is possible to stop a large, well-financed organization dead in its tracks."

**The New York Times**

Published: October 2, 1967

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