

THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
March, 1959

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some Rambling Thoughts

Did you ever stop to think what a vast number of occupations are represented in our membership of over 1500 people? Yet it matters not whether we are engineers, doctors, lawyers, ministers, school teachers, office workers, housekeepers, or whatever, we enjoy getting together because we have at least one interest in common. But even this interest is enjoyed for different reasons. Some come only to the lectures, others want to go only on field trips, some are interested in photographing, others want to learn all the scientific names and facts, etc. Regardless, it is still our love of Nature and all of it's beauties and interesting facets which brings us together in our Audubon Society.

I have sometimes wondered if the heads of government would go on a bird hike together, if they wouldn't find their interest in Nature helpful in resolving other problems! Oh well, I can dream, can't I?

Edna M. Kirsten, President

SPRING CAMPOUT AT HIGGINS LAKE

May 22-23-24 are the dates of the Spring Campout at Higgins Lake Training School. A varied program is being planned by the Michigan Conservation Dept. and the Outdoor Activities Committee.

If enough people are interested, a bus will be chartered to leave Detroit either late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning (or perhaps both times). The round trip cost will be approximately \$8.00.

It will be appreciated if those tentatively interested in the bus trip will inform Helen Sinclair by note or phone. Her address is 112 Glendale, Highland Park 3, Phone TO. 8-3764.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS INTERESTED IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

The Scholarship Committee is making available to some member of the organization a two-week stay at the National Audubon Camp of Wisconsin during July or August. The camp is located in the Hunt Hill Sanctuary at Sarona, Wisconsin, seventy-three miles southeast of Lake Superior.

It offers the opportunity to learn more about plants, birds, animals, rocks, etc. under the leadership of expert naturalists. All this and a fine two-week vacation are available to some member who is willing to share this experience with others upon his return.

The Society will pay the two-week camp fee. The person who is awarded this scholarship must provide his or her own transportation to and from the camp.

Who is eligible to apply? Any member of the Detroit Audubon Society, 18 years of age or older. Persons interested should write to the Scholarship Committee, giving the reasons why they should be awarded this scholarship including in the letter "what use they would make of it".

All letters should be in by April 4. The decision of the committee will be final based on the "why" and "what" of the letters received. Forward all letters to:

John F. Sieger, Scholarship Committee Chairman

re.

Detroit 35, Michigan

32,000 BIRD' NESTS

For 14 years a large group of people in the Detroit region has been spying on the domestic lives of the birds of the area, braving mosquito-infested bogs and thorny thickets in the interest of science. The results, though not yet complete, furnish an overall picture of distribution and relative breeding abundance of the birds in

five Michigan and three Ontario counties. The Bird Survey Committee now has on file detailed information on 32,189 nests representing 144 species, including such facts as number of eggs and young, parasitism by cowbirds, dates, location of nests and height from ground. In 1958 alone there were 3,283 nest records added by 25 observers. Extensive field work in Essex County added 21 new breeding records for this county in the last two seasons.

In view of the rapidly developing urban area, this information will become a valuable basis of reference and comparison as the habitats are changed and destroyed. The great amount of data is also useful for the research student working on a single species or group of birds.

The nesting summary for the 1958 season was published in February, a few copies of which are still available from the chairman of the Bird Survey Committee. This committee will welcome additional contributions of nesting records for the coming season; cards are on hand for reporting nests. Field work is particularly needed in Monroe and St. Clair counties as well as in the Canadian counties (Essex, Kent, and Lambton).

Neil T. Kelley, Ch. Bird Survey Com.

AUDUBON EXHIBIT AT BELLE ISLE NATURE MUSEUM

The mural painted by Art Sinclair for the Audubon exhibit at the recent Flower Show, "St. Frances Preaching to the Birds" will be on exhibit at the Nature Museum in the White House at Belle Isle for some time, after which it will become a permanent part of the bird exhibit in the Science Museum in the Old City Hall.

At Belle Isle it will be the background for an Audubon exhibit as part of the Nature Museum. This Museum along with one at Rouge Park is operated by the Dept. of Parks & Recreation. Each museum has a nature trail, the combination of the two presenting an excellent nature program particularly for Scouts and other youth groups. There are nature trails also at Balduck Park, Palmer Park and the Pembroke-Sunderland area.

Naturalist service is available for tours at both museums and all nature trails by calling Lo. 7-3911 Extension 22. Nature lectures or talks are given to school, Scout or other groups by appointment and nature movies are being shown at the Belle Isle Nature Museum at 1:30 and 3:15 p.m. Saturday and Sundays and at Rouge Park Museum 1:30 and 3:15 p.m. Saturdays.

Walter Nickell reports in the March issue of the CRANBROOK NEWSLETTER that of the 202 nesting species of birds of the entire state of Michigan, 63 have been found nesting on the Cranbrook campus.

A recent victory in preserving the Porcupine Mountains State Park area is a lesson in what can be accomplished by united action of both national and local conservation groups. All who participated can be justly proud of the result.

If you haven't visited the Nankin Mills Nature Center do so as early as possible. It is housed in historic Nankin Mills, built during the Civil War to serve as a grist mill. The building was remodeled by Henry Ford in the 1920's and used as a factory. Today, housing a natural history museum, its flowing mill race, hand-hewn beams and turbine will remind visitors of its long and useful past. It is located in Middle Rouge Parkway near Ann Arbor Trail and Farmington Road. Mary Catherine Ellsworth is in charge.

Now Nature pauses "before spring". Skunk cabbage is already blooming in the frozen marshes. Tree buds are swelling. Soon the migrating song birds will be with us once more.

With all good wishes for your spring trips afield,
Your editor, Lydia K. Frehse