

THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

November, 1955

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"DINOSAUR PARK TO BE FLOODED!" "BOMBING RANGE PLANNED NEAR WHOOPING CRANE REFUGE!" "LUMBERING INTERESTS THREATEN OLYMPIC FOREST!" In recent years we have seen many such headlines, and have heard many appeals to "write to your congressman" in the defense of wildlife and natural areas of our land. Your Board of Directors, as well as many individuals in our Society, have diligently followed up these appeals, lending our weight to that of similar groups all over the country. In many cases these concerted efforts have "paid off" in changed attitudes and reconsidered decisions.

In our concern for national beauty spots threatened with despoilment, we may overlook the fact that our own state of Michigan has areas which also need study and preservation. Fortunately a diligent and dedicated group, the Michigan Natural Areas Council, has "carried the ball" in investigating prospective areas for preservation and in making the necessary contacts for getting such areas set aside.

Currently a tract of virgin timber on Bois Blanc Island at the east end of the Straits of Mackinaw--an area whose many attractions include a magnificent stand of 250-year-old pines, beautiful lakeshore scenery, pileated woodpeckers and many ruffed grouse--is in danger of destruction by the U.S. Forest Service. The Natural Areas Council has secured a "stay of execution" while enlisting aid from many sources. The Detroit Audubon Society, through its Board of Directors, is throwing its influence behind this and other natural area preservation projects, firmly believing, in the words of the Michigan Natural Areas Council itself, "in the preservation of areas of outstanding scenic beauty and scientific values which are representative of the full variety of Michigan's natural wealth."

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VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

Your Board of Directors is very grateful for the membership's overwhelming support of the revisions to the Constitution of the Society. The number of votes cast was the highest ever cast in a Detroit Audubon Society election. The returns were approximately 30 to 1 in favor of the revisions. The Board of Directors feels that this revised constitution will better enable them to carry on the program of the Society.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at the WWJ Auditorium on Tuesday, November 29 at 8:00 p.m. At this time the results of the election of new members to the Board of Directors will be announced. The program for the evening will be announced by card later.

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Change of time on hike schedule! Hike No. 20--the hike appearing on your 1955 Outdoor Activities Program, November 20 (Sun.) KENSINGTON PARK 9:00 to 12:00 will be held at the same place from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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FREE CHILDREN'S MATINEE

Homer Roberts will present "Adventures with Nature" on Saturday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. in Rackham Auditorium, on a program that is free to all children of school age and the adults who bring them. Scouts, Campfire Girls, church groups and any other childrens organizations are urged to come as a group. Please pass the word on.

"Adventures With Nature" is an all-new color film chock-full of intimate, close-up experiences with creatures of the swamps, forests and fields. Mother Robin holds up scientific progress while she raises her brood in the weather station; the Blue-birds flash their azure hues as they dart in and out of their fence-post home; Mrs. Green Snake's secret in the old stump is discovered by a little "charmer" named Sue.

A group of make-believe Indians, in their honest-to-goodness Indian birch bark canoe, explore the swamp, cook food on the lakeshore, and seek the secret behind "The Legend of the Rainbow".

A mischievous baby raccoon, pokey old porcupine, inquisitive chipmunks, spotted fawn, frogs, toads, puff adder, turtles, blue-tailed skink, kingbirds, hawks, mourning doves, goldfinches--a veritable host of friendly and familiar wildlife friends are waiting for you in "Adventures With Nature".

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#### CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

Watch for details for the Christmas Bird Census. Verna Lenz (Mrs. Laurence Lenz) is the general chairman. Members of the Survey Committee will assist her.

The date is January 2 (a legal holiday this year).

The place is Cranbrook Institute of Science.

The time is 7 A.M. to 3 P.M.

The Survey Committee conducts the Census in cooperation with Audubon groups all over America.

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#### NEED A NATURE PROGRAM?

The Lecture Service Committee has compiled a list of Detroit Audubon members who are available for lectures on various nature subjects. There are movies, colored slides, sound recordings, or talks suitable for either adult or children's groups for afternoon or evening programs. Some of the topics are our National Parks, nature trails in Michigan, birds in the garden, autumn color, conservation and songs of nature.

The Lecture Service Committee has also compiled a series of colored slides of birds and many other nature subjects. The bird slides are accompanied with detailed information about each one. These slides are available to groups desiring to present their own nature program. A projector and screen can be furnished if needed.

Anyone interested in the list of lecturers or the slides and projection equipment may obtain full details by contacting Lecture Service Chairman, Mrs. Forbes Miller, 16607

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#### AUDUBON YOUTH ANNOUNCES PLANS

Audubon Youth of Detroit elected the following officers for 1955-56 at their June 5 family picnic at Palmer Park:

President - J. Robert Graham  
First vice-president - Roger Eriksson  
Second vice-president - David French  
Secretary - Ann McMillan  
Treasurer - Virginia Thompson

Audubon Youth received third prize in the clubs division for their scrapbook entry in the Percy Hoffmaster Memorial Award competition for youth groups in the state last spring. The group awarded a scholarship to the Audubon Camp of Maine to Mrs. E. M. Cutler. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cutler attended the camp July 1-14. (No Audubon Youth members were currently old enough to attend the camp).

The following schedule of events is planned in addition to field trips already scheduled by the Audubon Society.

Nov. 13 - business meeting and program at Virginia Thompson's  
Dec. 3-4 Campout  
Dec. 10 - Belle Isle field trip  
Dec. 28 - Christmas Party at Brooke Treglawn's

Members of the Detroit Audubon Society between the ages of 13 and 21 are invited to join us. Our president will be glad to talk to you at the Rackham meetings or on the phone, WE 3-8542.

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## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

As the year's scheduled program for outdoor activities draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the committee which was responsible for the planning and first printing of the Outdoor Activities Program brochure. The committee was composed of:

President Homer Roberts  
Elsie Townsend  
Mathilde Henkel  
Alice and Neil Kelley

Verna and Laurence Lenz  
Ralph O'Reilly  
Virginia Olmsted, Chairman

Not only did these people plan the program, but they were materially responsible for furnishing the leadership for the trips. Others who shared in the leadership for the activities are:

Clarence Messner  
Cass Kierblewski  
Victor Knowles  
Doris and John McMillan  
Mr. Hopkins (Park naturalist  
at Kensington Park)  
Merrill Petoskey (Pte. Mouille)  
Leo Pospichal (Pte. Mouille)  
Bob Johnson (Pte. Mouille)  
Douglas Middleton  
Bette Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. B. Lee Diamond  
Bob Rogers  
Keith Kreag

Ed and Ann Boyes (evening program at  
Walden Woods)

Louise Lockeman  
Ann Vanderheide  
Betty Sowell  
Harriet Woolfendon  
Harold Mahan  
Robert Merriam  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Sinclair  
Mrs. Lydia Frehse  
George Thomson  
Millie Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Wehlann  
Robert Whiting (Jackson)  
Harold Wing (Jackson)

Because of the enthusiasm and generous contribution of time on the part of these leaders, many people have enjoyed new areas and varied experiences in the field. At times when birds were scarce, there was always something else of interest; wild-flowers were plentiful at Proud Lake and Pontiac Lake; at Rondeau Park, it was a real thrill to see virgin tulip, oak, maple and beech trees in fall color, and in the very silence of this truly magnificent forest to come upon the tiny Winter Wren bobbing on an old stump; other people thrilled to see their first hawk migration with dozens of Broad Wings soaring in their field of vision; there were the sandhill cranes at Waterloo, the fine spring campout at Walden Woods, the grand-stand views of marsh wrens and warblers at Bradley's Marsh, the demonstrations of bird and butterfly banding, the discovery of the simple beauty of a sassafras or tulip tree leaf, or perhaps just the sharing of a beautiful day with kindred Audubonites.

Whatever the interest and the personal gain to the members, the work has been very gratifying to the committee. Again I wish to thank the committee and all those who contributed in any way to the success of this program.

Virginia Olmsted

Chairman of Outdoor Activities Committee

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## BRING A FRIEND

Educational memberships for the 1955-56 lecture series have been coming in very well, due to the exceptionally fine list of speakers on this year's program. Walter Breckenridge and Laurel Reynolds were most enthusiastically received and we still have to look forward to such top-talent as Allen Cruickshank, Roger Tory Peterson, Hal Harrison, Francis Line, Cleve Grant, Sam Campbell and Dr. O.S. Pettingill.

With a schedule of this caliber, not a seat should be left vacant. If you have friends who would enjoy Nature photographed in brilliant natural color, presented by the top ranking field naturalists, invite them to join. Give their names to the secretary, Ann Boyes.