

THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 1953

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two years ago I was honored by being elected by you to serve as your President. I assure you it has been a privilege and a pleasure. The many new friends Mildred and I have made, as a result of the various duties, has made it most profitable and enjoyable for us. I hope my service has been of equal value to the Society.

The Board of Directors has been most cooperative, as well as others not on the Board, who have been called upon, or volunteered their services. Only with such a spirit of friendly unselfish service can the Society maintain its high standards, and to them belongs the credit of our accomplishments.

We are all sad because of the loss of one of our members this summer. Truman Shippen was always on hand at the doors at the Rackham programs, and whenever any work was to be done he was one of the first to give his time. We will not soon forget him. We extend to Mrs. Shippen our deepest sympathy.

I am sure the next President will find the same friendly, cooperative assistance, and our Society will continue its progress in conservation and education in its many forms and achieve bigger and better goals.

Ray Bacheller, President

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IMPORTANT !!!!!

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Because of the unprecedented demand for educational memberships this year, the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society with the cooperation of the Univ. of Michigan Extension Service, have decided to repeat the wildlife lectures at Rackham Auditorium, to make it possible for more people to enjoy these excellent programs, which, over the years, have become a part of the culture of Detroit.

Starting Oct. 24, there will be two showings on the same night, one to begin at 7:00 and the other at 9:00 p.m. It is felt and hoped that the audience will divide itself evenly between the two programs so there will be no conflict.

The average length of a program is 1 hr. and 30 min. which would allow 30 minutes in which to change audience. This, we feel, can be accomplished easily if the early audience will cooperate by leaving the auditorium promptly.

Members will make their own choice of programs which must start promptly at 7:00 and 9:00.

Many of our members have requested that checks be sent in at once so that the care of these requests and it is suggested that checks be sent in at once so that the membership card, which must be presented at the door for admission, can be sent back in time for the Oct. 24 program. However, memberships can also be obtained in the lobby of Rackham before the programs. Make checks payable to the Detroit Audubon Society and send to _____.

Will those members who asked to buy additional cards so they can bring a friend please see the secretary in the lobby.

Now that sufficient seats are available, please pass the word along to friends who may be interested, or give their names to Mrs. Helen Sinclair, membership chairman, or to the secretary.

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DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY HOST TO MICHIGAN AUDUBON ANNUAL MEETING

This year we are hosts for the annual meeting of the Michigan Audubon Society On January 29-30 at Wayne University.

The program includes a reception on Friday night with papers on special studies by members and guests for Saturday morning and afternoon. Six of our own members are contributing to these sessions.

A banquet and evening program make the finale for the two day convention.

Ed and Ann Boyes have kindly volunteered to help with publicity presenting features on radio and television.

Elsie Townsend, Local Chairman

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS IN WWJ AUDITORIUM FOR 1953-54

Attendance at the WWJ Auditorium programs is increasing with each meeting. Paul Corrado, a youthful budding naturalist gave the September program showing colored motion pictures of a canoe trip down the AuSable River and an Audubon trip in the Everglades of Florida. If Paul expects to make photography and lecturing on Nature subjects his career, he is well on his way. His pictures were good and his youthful approach to the subject of Nature was indeed refreshing.

George W. Harding, President of the Harding Manufacturing Co. attracted a good crowd to his colored motion picture of marine life off the Florida Keys and the islands of the Bahamas. The picture was exceptionally fine, coloring superb and the action thrilling through the entire picture.

Programs for the balance of the series are as follows:

- Nov. 10, Our President, Ray (and Mildred) Bacheller. Colored motion pictures of Isle Royale and the Copper Country taken on summer vacation, 1953.
- Dec. 1, Dr. Miles D. Pirnie of Michigan State College. A program devoted to hawks and owls. This is especially of interest to Audubonites at this time since important legislation on these birds is to be considered soon after New Year. This program is planned in collaboration with Ralph O'Reilly, our own expert on this subject.
- Jan. 5, 1954, Through the courtesy of Dodge Division, Chrysler Corporation and our member, Ward James, the fine color-picture, "Mystery of the Incas" and possibly "Wheels over the Andes." Guana Islands with hundreds of thousands of birds are one big feature.
- Feb. 23, Annual Youth Group Program. This will be entirely planned and carried out by members of this ambitious group with pictures by their own members, the Maine camp predominating.
- Mar. 23, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Force. A circle tour of Michigan in gorgeous color slides. No matter how many photographers "shoot" our own beautiful state, each one sees it in a different and special way. This program shows some different and beautiful views of some of the spots familiar to us and many others as well.
- April 20, Mac and Gladys Cutler. Board Members. "South in April" wildflowers of Alabama and Georgia--two-day Audubon Tour through the Everglades and Florida Bay--Louisiana herons and purple gallinules--Key West.

AUDUBON YOUTH SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

A great deal of pleasure and satisfaction may be secured not only by recommending new teen-age members to the Audubon Youth of Detroit, but by actively joining in their activities yourself. Saturday and Sunday field trips, work on the Mussnig farm cabin, overnight hikes and camp-outs with these splendid boys and girls will help you pass away some of your time and will pay large dividends in health and pleasure.

Too, the young people always have a serious problem in providing themselves with transportation, and occasionally regular sponsors or chaperones are not available. If you feel that you can donate as much as one day a month or as little as one day a year to these youthful naturalists and conservationists, please communicate with Audubon Youth Pres. Frank Damm, 17174 S

MUCC APPROVES PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR PROTECTION OF HAWKS AND OWLS

The Michigan United Conservation Clubs, at their annual meeting in Cadillac, approved the proposed Hawk and Owl legislation for the state of Michigan by a large majority. The MUCC Non Game Bird Committee was largely responsible for winning the approval of the delegates. This committee is composed largely of Michigan and Detroit Audubon members, chairman Ray Gauthier of the MUCC. The following comprise the committee: Ray Gauthier, chairman, Ralph A.O'Reilly, Victor C. Knowles, E.G. Boyes, Edward M. Brigham of Battle Creek, Walter P. Nickell, Homer D. Roberts, Dr. George J.

Wallace, Lansing and Dr. Mason F. McGuirk of Bad Axe.

The next step will be to introduce the proposed bill at the coming legislative session, and to win the approval of the majority of state legislators. This means contacting, influencing and educating all the people, but especially those who have influence in the legislature at Lansing.

Victor C. Knowles, Conservation Chairman

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AUDUBON JUNIOR CLUB NEWS

Something new and beautiful has been added to Junior Club materials this year. Along with an 86-page Nature Program Guide, (which is packed full of projects, games, and activities) the Membership Leaflet, Junior Member's Button, and the Audubon Junior News Bulletin, you will receive a 21x28 Bird Chart, containing 25 postcard size prints of well known land and marsh birds, in full color. These prints are taken from the paintings of Allan Brookes, the nationally known bird painter. This chart and the Nature Program Guide should be in the library of every science teacher, group leader, and every one who is interested in teaching nature to children.

Junior Clubs are so easy to include in your classes or groups as they in no way interfere with the program already scheduled, but add many new and useful ideas by which Nature learning can be made easier and greater fun.

To start an Audubon Junior Club, all you need is ten or more children. The cost is unusually small, being 15 cents per member, plus \$1.00 group registration. The Junior Club program is geared to the school year, so the greatest benefit can be had by starting your group early in the school year.

The Audubon Junior Club program has been endorsed by the National Council of Girl Scouts and the National Council of Camp Fire Girls and many other organized groups.

Millie Reynolds, Chairman, Junior Division

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BIRD SURVEY 1952 READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

The 1952 edition of the Bird Survey is now available. It contains a complete summary of over 25,000 records of birds observed in this region during 1952. Plans call for selling this edition at the Rackham Meeting on Oct. 24. It can also be had by mail. To obtain a copy by mail send 25¢ to R.A.O'Reilly, Jr., Davisburg, Mich.

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NATURE TRAINING THROUGH COOPERATION

For the past four years the Detroit Audubon Society has been largely responsible for the success of the Nature Course put on each spring for Boy Scout leaders. This course lasts seven weeks and has proven to be very effective in helping Boy Scout leaders to do a better job in getting across to the Scouts the Nature part of their program.

The men taking the course are organized into patrols. Each is given points according to how effectively they carry out in their troops the Nature they learn in the course. The Boy Scouts of America offer twelve merit badges having to do with various phases of Nature.

The following Detroit Audubon members have helped during the past years to make the course effective:

Homer Roberts has given illustrated talks and demonstrations on Reptiles and Amphibians.

Walter Nickell has given illustrated talks on Birds, Flowers, and Geology and answered questions by the hundreds.

Art Sinclair, who has charge of the Boy Scout Nature work at Camp Howell, gives his inspiring chalk talk on trees.

Paul Thompson was "carried away" by a group of live Scouters at the field trip at Camp Howell. "He sure knows his stuff", so they say!

In working up materials for the course some of Millie Reynold's fine course

leaflets on Nature were used.

We find that the wives of the men taking the course use the ideas and materials in the Girl Scout and Camp Fire Nature work quite as much as the men do.

It's wonderful what can be done when various organizations like the Audubon and Boy Scouts can work together.

Victor C. Knowles

FEEDING STATION TIME by Walter Nickell Reprinted from Cranbrook Newsletter

October is the time for placing feeding stations to attract species of birds to be found here during the winter months. Included in the list of birds which may be expected to visit most feeding stations are the blue jay, cardinal, black-capped chickadee, downy woodpecker, slate-colored junco, tree sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, pheasant and of course, the every-present starling and English sparrow. Less frequently one is favored with visits from the tufted titmouse, flicker, hairy woodpecker, goldfinch, song sparrow and bob-white. During some years an occasional vagrant such as the purple finch, Hudsonian chickadee, brown creeper, red-breasted nuthatch, pine and evening grosbeaks, pine siskin, white-winged and red crossbills, and cedar waxwing may come to accept your feeding station bounty. A few of the summer nesting birds which have failed to migrate with others of their species, may be seen at or near feeding stations. Such are the robin, bronzed grackle, brown thrasher, hermit thrush, catbird, redwing and mourning dove.

Once started, a feeding station should be kept stocked with food until spring as its visitants come to depend upon its bounty and may suffer severely or perish at an empty feeder during periods of heavy snow or when wild food is covered with ice. Foods which have proved to be especially popular with most birds are suet, sunflower seeds, crushed raw peanuts, and the baby chick scratch mixture obtainable at any feed store for a reasonable price. Good designs for home-made feeding stations are available in a small booklet published by the Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Compensations to a station operator are many if he or she is interested in seeing unfamiliar species, in studying bird behaviour, in bird photography, in conserving native wildlife, or in merely adding to the winter attractiveness of the area in the vicinity of his home.

BUS FIELD TRIPS HUGE SUCCESS

Such has been the success of the bus field trips that it has been decided to make them a regular feature of the spring and fall migration field trips. Originally started to accommodate those who do not have transportation, it now includes those who do not care to drive themselves and enjoy the contact with others who share their interest in the out-of-doors.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Sinclair, plan and lead the bus trips. Competent leaders are provided for each bus and arrangements are made for meals, either lunch or dinner. The trip to Pte. Pelee to see the hawks was well attended and although the hawks were not present in any great numbers, there were egrets, horned grebes, ducks, herons and a great many warblers, and everyone had a most enjoyable time.

The color tour to Haven Hill and vicinity started out with one bus and ended with two and 81 having dinner at Devon Gables. The weather was perfect, color gorgeous, leadership excellent and everyone had a wonderful time.

Our president, Ray Bacheller, is in the Florence Crittenden Hospital recovering from an operation. Mrs. Bacheller reports he is doing very nicely.
