

THE DETROIT AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

September, 1948

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back everybody. We hope that each and every one of you had a healthful and happy summer.

Haven't you often thought of what a marvelous state Michigan is--especially so for nature minded folks such as we Audubon people?

Our State motto "If you would find a beautiful Peninsula, look about you" might well be supplemented with "and listen to the song of the wilderness". Where in this whole country would you find such a great abundance of everything we love in Nature?

We may not have the biggest trees or the tallest mountains or the longest rivers or more of any one pattern of Nature, but do you realize we have an abundance of all of them surrounded by the greatest reservoir of fresh water in all the world!

With the nature movement growing throughout the land and with our State a leader, where could there be a better place for a Nature Center where any or all of us from all over the land could come and learn to better understand and enjoy the natural wonders of the world we live in!

For the past few years your officers and directors have been working toward the establishment of such a Center. It is a big project and will require much in thought and work and in land and buildings. It is beginning to look hopeful and we will work harder than ever to realize this goal--a Nature Center for Michigan--and the rest of the land--for those who care to come.

Edwin G. Boyes, President

ECOLOGY INSTITUTE A SUCCESS

According to the report of the Ecology Institute committee made to the Board of Directors at their recent meeting, this first attempt at such a venture was highly successful in spite of such handicaps as inclement weather and inadequate facilities. The Institute was sponsored by the Southeastern Chapter, Michigan Association for Native Plant Protection and the Detroit Audubon Society and was held June 19 to 27 at Dodge Park #10 near Highland, Michigan. Nearly 100 people registered. Much credit and the thanks of both organizations goes to Hazel Messner, who as chairman, assumed complete responsibility for this new and untried undertaking. She credits her able committee and many others who gave of their time and ability to conduct classes and lead hikes.

AUDUBON NATURE CABIN AT ZOO OPEN TO OCTOBER 1.

By request of many teachers who wished to bring their biology classes, the Audubon Nature Cabin at the Detroit Zoological Park will remain open until October 1st and possibly longer. Arrangements have been made with the Board of Education to have students attend in buses with their teachers and make use of the facilities the cabin offers. If reservations are made, Wilbur Bull, Supervisor of the Cabin will conduct tours and lecture on the exhibits. Call the Zoo, Jordan 4-6427.

Up to the present time there have been about a million people through the cabin coming from all but four States, all the provinces of Canada and about 15 foreign countries. The gratitude of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society, Frank McInnis, Director of the Zoo and Mr. Bull goes to the following who have given generously of their time and effort: Mrs. Carl Schwenkmeyer & Kristin, Lydia Frehse, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Van Euskirk, Martha Purdy, Millie Reynolds, Mr. & Mrs. Homer Knight & Bill, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Sanderson & Dick, Sparkie Mahan, Ray Bacheller and Bruce and Howard, Mrs. H. Neville Geake & Bob, Mrs. C. C. Cleverdon, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Andrews, Mrs. Walter Nickell & Rima, Lydia Elzey, Esther Rodger, Bob Burns, Alice Canfield, Ann Vanderheide, Paul Thompson, Mrs. Arthur Singleton, Jewel Atkins, Lydia Chekalinsky, Evelyn, Kelly, Cynthia Boyes, Bill Simpson, Mrs. Maurice Fox and Keith Kreag.

While the Nature Cabin may close Oct. 1, the Zoo will remain open until Nov. 7.

AUDUBON YOUNG PEOPLE TO START THEIR OWN UNIT

A meeting of the young people of the Detroit Audubon Society has been planned for the near future for the purpose of organizing a Young People's Chapter to include all between the ages of 14 and 20. Mabel Clare Ladd has been chosen senior advisor to get the organization started. Officers will be elected and preparations made for these young people to plan their own programs and activities. The chapter will have representation on the Board of Directors. Anyone interested may contact Miss Ladd at 5705 Woodward Ave., Detroit 2.

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SOCIETY TO CO-SPONSOR PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

The Detroit Audubon Society will co-sponsor with the Cranbrook Institute of Science, and the Michigan Association for Native Plant Protection, the 3rd Michigan International Exhibition of Nature Photography to take place in conjunction with the Detroit Flower Show next March. It is planned to offer a prize for the best entry in the field of ornithology.

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Verne Dockham, Conservation officer at Mio, Michigan, self-appointed guard of the Kirtland Warbler was a guest at the Dr. Arthur Allen lecture at Rackham. He and Mrs. Dockham attended with Fred and Ruth Starck.

Mr. Dockham has spent many years studying the Kirtland Warbler and has been of great assistance to Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne in his study of the warbler.

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While visiting the Audubon Nature Cabin at the Zoo recently, Dr. Ronald E. Clark was so impressed with the exhibits he left \$10 with Wilbur Bull to help defray expenses.

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Charles C. Holmes contributed two birdhouses to the collection at the Nature Cabin. This gift is very much appreciated by the Society.

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This being the first opportunity to report the results of the Auction at Walden Woods to the membership at large, it is gratifying to state that \$142.85 was realized on the Auction. About 70 articles were contributed, from birdhouses to a layer cake, and with Ray Bacheller as auctioneer it was a lively affair. Of the amount raised, \$75 went for the Maine Camp scholarship which was won by Edith Marie MacLennan. Edith reports that she gained much from her experience which can be applied to any type of nature activity in outdoor work as well as in classroom teaching.

The Walden Woods scholarships, money for which came out of the Junior Audubon budget, went to Aileen Bonatz, Margie Pickett, John Teeter, Ed. Schroeder and James Kochensparger.

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Just as this newsletter was being prepared, a letter arrived from Grace Sharritt who is now Mrs. Almer Nelson and lives in Jackson, Wyoming. Her husband is in charge of the Elk Refuge there. They live in a comfortable cabin with plenty of picture windows overlooking the mountains in a veritable nature paradise. A fitting setting for Grace. She speaks of the family of Swans, born and raised at her back door and "yellowheaded blackbirds all over the lawn these days with the Redwings and beavers and Pine Siskins are everywhere among the weed tops."

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Betty Beard, a former member of the Board of Directors is now a Biological Aid at the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Germfask, in the Upper Peninsula.