

Western



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THE AUDUBON NATURE CAMP OF CALIFORNIA

By M. Gertrude Woods

The basic knowledge brought back from the Nature Camp at Norden is the inexorable inter-relationship of all life, or, as one camper aptly put it, "the oneness of things." As one book of life after another was opened for us, this dependency of each upon all else became more evident. From weather, soil and water to support plant life, - to insects' and birds' dependence on plants as well as upon each other, - to vertebrates and mammals dependent in some way on all of these, - right to Man himself whose very existence and whose future are determined by this same correlation of living things, we came step by step to the knowledge that Nature's balance cannot always withstand man's thoughtless intervention. Seeing this in the field was far more impressive than reading or hearing about it. Every camper became a working conservationist.

Two hundred forty-three campers attended the five sessions. One-third of them were from the Los Angeles area. Besides California, 16 other states and the Dominion of Canada were represented. Two-thirds of the campers were teachers. There will be, then, 160 keen, interested minds teaching our young people to observe, to become aware of the need of conserving our natural resources. All the campers will contribute substantially to conservation in some way, somewhere.

The first period was earliest spring in the Sierra. Snow banks shrank daily into rushing streams; the first plants pushed through; the first nest-builders came; the marmots came out for their first sunning. Insects rapidly became numerous and more and more interesting, especially the aquatics. The first flowers, - buttercups in the meadows, Pride of the Peaks on granite ledges, the delicate steer's head in the shade of the firs. Erosion was going on all about. Trees had been cut and snow-water rushed down, gullying the slopes. Pages of geology confronted us on all sides. The stars, so close and clear, kept us up many evenings for extra sessions.

The day-long life-zone trips twice a week were the highlights of each session. Traveling in four station-wagons from camp to historic Donner Pass, down the Truckee River Canyon to the Upper Sonoran sage-brush-juniper desert beyond Reno; stopping at alkali lakes where ducks, teal, avocets and white pelicans were nesting; up again through Transition oaks, incense cedars and ponderosa pines to Canadian firs and Jeffrey pines, to Boreal white bark pines with associated Clark's nutcrackers; down again to matchless Lake Tahoe, - through four zones, with the fifth in sight, - how better could one observe life-zone associations than by seeing how certain trees, plants, animals, birds and insects must be together to live!

Five species of fish and five of amphibians were under observation during the summer; 13 species of reptiles, 22 species of mammals, from the tiny shrew to the white-tailed deer, and the camp bird calendar showed 148 species.

To supplement work in the field, there were terrariums, an aquarium, a collection of caged reptiles, insect collections, termite colonies, a fine library and good films. But the Staff made the camp what it was. They were definitely superior.

The Camp left nothing to be desired in living accommodations. Camp life was strenuous or not, as one chose, but it was extremely absorbing. And there was lots of fun for everyone. The clearest impression of the campers is one of unity of purpose, unity in spirit. There were no strained and anxious faces, such as we see about us elsewhere. Everyone left there refreshed and inspired. It was a completely satisfying experience.

THE LOS ANGELES AUDITION SOCIETY

President Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Executive Secretary, Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 35
Telephone: WALnut 8937

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER, 1948

THURSDAY, Nov. 4. Field Trip, Playa del Rey. Take Redondo Motor Bus, via Playa del Rey, Subway Terminal, 423 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, 8:08 A.M. or 8:35 A.M. Get off at Vista del Mar and Culver Blvd. Fare, 30¢ each way. Take lunch. Bird walks start from bus stop shortly after 9. Meet at 11:30 for lunch, on bridge on the shore just south of the restaurant. Program will follow lunch.

LEADER, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty; Charleston 6-1747

THURSDAY, Nov. 11. Armistice Day. The Library will be closed. The usual Thursday evening program will not be given.

THURSDAY, Nov. 18. Helms Hostess House, 8740 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles. A luncheon benefit, all revenue going to our own treasury. Luncheon at 12:15, followed by a tour of Helms Bakery. No one can be served after 12:30. Following the tour, Thomas F. Parker will discuss "Eggs," with a word or two about nidification in general. He will show two curious weaverbird nests from India....Advance registration is essential. Purchase tickets (60¢ each) at any previous meeting of the Society, or make reservation through Miss Edith Crane, 4925½ Cimarron St., Los Angeles 37; Arminster 2-8458. From downtown Los Angeles take Venice Short Line leaving Subway Terminal, 423 S. Hill, not later than 11:34 A.M. (11:14 will be better), arriving at Helms Station 35 minutes later. From the West take Venice Short Line leaving Santa Monica at 11:36 A.M. Helms station can be reached by bus from Hollywood via Asbury System, or from Playa del Rey via Pacific Electric.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 24. Study Class, 10 to 12 Noon. Note change from the usual Thursday. Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., on Santa Monica Blvd.-West Hollywood P. E. car line. The discussion will be on "The Trees of Life." First Hour: The Animal Kingdom, especially the place the birds occupy. Second Hour: The Plant Kingdom, with emphasis on the lower groups, - seaweeds, fungi, mosses and ferns. Members are asked to study and make notes on the exhibit showing the Tree of Animal Life, at the end of the Bird Hall, Los Angeles County Museum.

LEADER, George T. Hastings; Santa Monica 5-1137

SUNDAY, Nov. 28. Field Trip. The lagoon across the highway from Balboa Island, start about 8:30 A.M. from the north end of the lagoon. From Los Angeles drive to First and Main Streets, Santa Ana, thence south on Main St. and Highway 184 (the road to Corona del Mar), to San Joaquin St. Be careful not to take Highway 55, which leads to Newport Beach. Returning via Coast Highway, the group will stop, if desired, on the Ocean side of Bolsa Chica Gun Club. Take lunch.

LEADER, C. J. Parker; Atlantic 1-2490

TUESDAY, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 4. Screen Tour: "This Curious World of Nature," by William Ferguson. See special announcement issued by Wm. K. DeFue, 6055 Fair Ave., North Hollywood

C. W. Hamilton, Warden
Maintained by the National Audubon Society, with the cooperation of its Southern California affiliated societies. Regularly scheduled field trip the second Sunday of each month, starting from the entrance at 9 A.M. Sanctuary telephone: Whittier 6-3748
Advisory Committee: Chairman, Mrs. J. H. Comby, Southern California Representative, National Audubon Socy., 200 Kratt Lane, Whittier. Telephone: Whittier 41-4236

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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Student (12-18 yrs.), 75¢; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. Joint Membership, Los Angeles and National Audubon Societies, with "Audubon Magazine," \$5.00 (minimum). Send membership applications, with the dues, to the Treasurer, at the address given above.

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY needs the strength of a greatly increased membership to be influential in saving our wildlife in the crucial period of western exploitation.

Please - tonight - send me names and addresses of five persons, or more, or even one, to whom we may send an invitation to join us and strengthen the fight for conservation of our natural resources.

ELIZABETH B. GOOLDEN, Membership Chmn.
5611 Carlton Way, Los Angeles 28

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

Miss Mary Polar
443½ Victoria Park Pl., Los Angeles 6
Mrs. Hilda W. Clay
5325 College View Ave., Los Angeles 41
Mrs. Harriet A. Decker
Route 1, Box 439, Huntington Beach
Mr. George J. Frend
P. O. Box 175, San Pedro
Miss Hazel M. Harris
5291 College View Ave., Los Angeles 41
Mrs. DeLaine Kellogg
6626 Orizaba St., Long Beach 5
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131 N. Grand Ave., San Pedro
Mrs. Lela A. Nichols
1072 S. Sycamore Ave., Los Angeles 35
Mr. C. G. Willis
417 S. Hill St., Los Angeles 13
Mr. Wendell Hoss
2535 E. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale 6
Mrs. Arthur Dolan
San Gorgonio Lodge, P.O. Forest Home
Mrs. Stella Mills
1724 N. Edgemont St., Los Angeles 27
Miss Mabel Cox
P. O. Box 672, San Jacinto
Miss Dora C. Squires
1659 W. 67th St., Los Angeles 44
Miss Inez Anne Harrison
1120 Westchester Pl., Los Angeles 6
Miss Annie H. Gould
135 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles 4
Mrs. Baybelle DeMay
504 East Oak Dr., El Segundo
Mrs. Paul J. Howey
308 Calle de Andalucia, Redondo Beach
Miss Caroline I. Martens
5427 Monroe St., Los Angeles 36

IN MEMORIAM

Our hearts are saddened by the passing of three of our members, - Mrs. George H. Crane, Mrs. O. B. Pratt and Mr. Christian L. Christianson.

Mrs. Crane died Sept. 8, in her 90's. She had long been a life member. She was secretary of the society from 1912 to 1921, and her interest in the society's welfare continued to the very last.

Mrs. Pratt passed away the night of October 13. The news of her death came as a special shock to those members who were with her at the field trip the preceding Thursday. Her membership dates back seven years. During that time she served twice as a member of the Executive Board, first as Historian, then as chairman of the Committee on Youth Leadership. She was author of the "Study Guide" published by the Society especially for its work with young people, in which activity Mrs. Pratt was eminently successful.

Mr. Christianson was a comparatively new member, having joined less than two years ago. He suffered a heart attack Oct. 18, from which he failed to recover. He will be remembered for his friendliness and his helpful cooperation.

The Society extends deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

OBSERVATIONS

Winter residents among land birds and most shorebirds are back in good numbers. All ducks will have returned by the end of October except the redhead and canvas-back, which November will bring.

DUCKS: Along the mighty Colorado River Sept. 18 were many large flocks of pintail and smaller flocks of cinnamon teal. On Los Angeles River Settling Basins Oct. 6, 40 pintail; on Hansen Dam Oct. 8, 200 pintail. (Daugherty.)

SHOREBIRDS: Playa del Rey area Oct. 7, over 40 snowy plover were nestled in little depressions in the sand within a small area on the new-made beach. It is most unusual to see so many of these little resident snowies. Black and ruddy turnstones, many black-bellied plover, willets and godwits along Ballona Creek.

KITES, HAWK, OSPREY: Sept. 20, along the Colorado River, 3 osprey found the fishing good (D). Oct. 10, in San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, Dorothy Groner noted a white-tailed kite. Gertrude Woods had observed two red-bellied hawks there for two weeks preceding.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER, our erratic winter woodpecker. Mrs. C. J. Parker saw four in San Marino Park Oct. 2 and she and Mr. Parker saw three in Sherwood Lake area Oct. 3.

OWLS: A barn owl rookery was found in two deep caverns running back in a high limestone cliff along the Colorado River Sept. 20. Numbers of the owls were seen standing in holes and niches everywhere. Several horned owls were observed in trees along the river bank, usually in twos.

WARBLERS: Justin Russell's observations in Griffith Park: Sept. 12, a second wave of golden pileolated and one Macgillivray; Sept. 19, one Townsend; Oct. 3, the first Audubon's. Along the Burbank foothills, several Audubon's Oct. 8.

SPARROWS: Wintering Gambel's are arriving in good numbers. San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary reports the first seen there Sept. 22. They were reported from South Pasadena Sept. 27 and from Alhambra Sept. 28.

WATCH NOW FOR wild ducks on city reservoirs and lakes, kinglets, American pipits, purple finch, juncos, chipping and Fox sparrows.

--CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY, Field Leader

THE NEW CLUB YEAR

At this writing, four of the seven meetings scheduled for October have taken place, starting off the new club year with real enthusiasm.

First came the field trip at Redondo Beach, with 62 members and friends attending. It was like a happy family reunion, though the weather was anything but cooperative. Because of a heavy fog, visibility was practically nil. The wonder was that the bird list of 21 was that high! But there were compensations. Our Redondo Beach members, led by Miss DeGarmo, presented an informative program on the subject of shore birds. Mrs. Goolden gave a fine talk on the origin and development of the National Audubon Society.

The Thursday evening meeting at the Library was addressed by Dr. John S. Garth, Research Associate of the Allan Hancock Foundation. With the help of beautiful motion pictures, he gave highly interesting facts about the birds of Galapagos and nearby islands, where the avifauna take on such unusual forms.

The Screen Tour, "Saguaro Land," by Karl H. Maslowski, Oct. 12 and repeated Oct. 16, was all that had been promised, - "an Arizona adventure packed with action and interest." Both audiences were enthusiastically happy over Mr. Maslowski's pictures and his narrative.

MRS. WOODS' NEW POSITION

Shortly after Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods was elected Curator-Librarian, she was appointed assistant director of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary. Her duties there, as well as the distance from our headquarters, make it impractical for her to continue as Curator and she has resigned. Mrs. O. L. Wait has been appointed to succeed her as Curator and Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon will serve as Librarian. Mrs. Woods has been appointed to serve with Mrs. C. M. Stultz as co-chairman of the Program Committee.

MR. BROWN GOES TO NEW YORK

Mr. Floyd J. Brown, director of the Nature Camp, is attending the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society. He will represent the Los Angeles Audubon Society there.