

CLUB NEWS

The Rockland Audubon Society has acquired custody, as of January first, of a 20-acre tract of the most scenic land atop the Palisades. For a three-year trial period, the society is to supervise limited public use of the area in accordance with the desire of Corliss Lamont and Austin Lamont, the owners, to have it available to more people who would enjoy it.

The acreage is the remainder of the estate of the late Thomas Lamont; much of the estate was earlier transferred to Columbia University as the site for the Lamont Geological Observatory. Corliss and Austin Lamont preserved the 20 acres for its wildness and beauty. The land is bounded on the south by the New Jersey state line, on the east by the brink of the Palisades' cliffs. It offers a variety of overlooks over the Hudson River, ranging from 150 feet to 450 feet above sealevel.

The Lamonts first approached National Audubon Society headquarters with the idea of turning the 20 acres into a sanctuary and nature laboratory. Charles Mohr, director of the Greenwich Audubon Center, inspected the property and wrote a glowing report on its value as a climax woodland with extraordinary views over the Hudson. National Audubon, however, felt that custody might better be in the hands of a local branch society, and it referred the Lamonts to Rockland Audubon Society.

One or two meetings with Rockland officers convinced Corliss Lamont that there was no clash of philosophies and that the acreage would be properly conserved by the local group. The informal agreement followed. Rockland Audubon expects to start escorting groups through the sanctuary later in the year. Visits will be permitted only under supervision.

Dr. Matthew J. Brennan of West Nyack, chairman of the Lamont Sanctuary committee, has studied the botanical character of the property. He finds a typical oak-beech-hemlock climax, with hemlocks predominating in some areas and chestnut oak dominant along the ridges. The forest floor abounds in viburnum, laurel, dogwood, and partridge berry, and several interesting ferns were found in early winter.

One of the first field trips revealed the presence of a family of flying squirrels, and pileated woodpeckers and Carolina wrens have been found in and near the sanctuary.

The Rockland Audubon Society will be happy to provide escort for any Federation groups or individual members who can give notice in advance of their arrival.

Robert F. Deed, President, 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N. Y.

CORRIGENDA

In the October issue the Editor made a mistake in the caption for the map on page 68. Instead of regional reports for spring migration it should have read summer and early fall migration.

Under officers of the Federation for 1953 on page 78 instead of Albert W. Fudge it should read Mrs. William G. Irving, Van Houten Fields, West Nyack N. Y.

Dr. P. P. Kellogg has called to my attention that my verb "raised" (line 6, page 67) may not be appropriate. He says he knows of no case where food has ever been carried to young Killdeer by their parents. How then could these birds have been raised? Hatched seems possible but not raised — sorry.