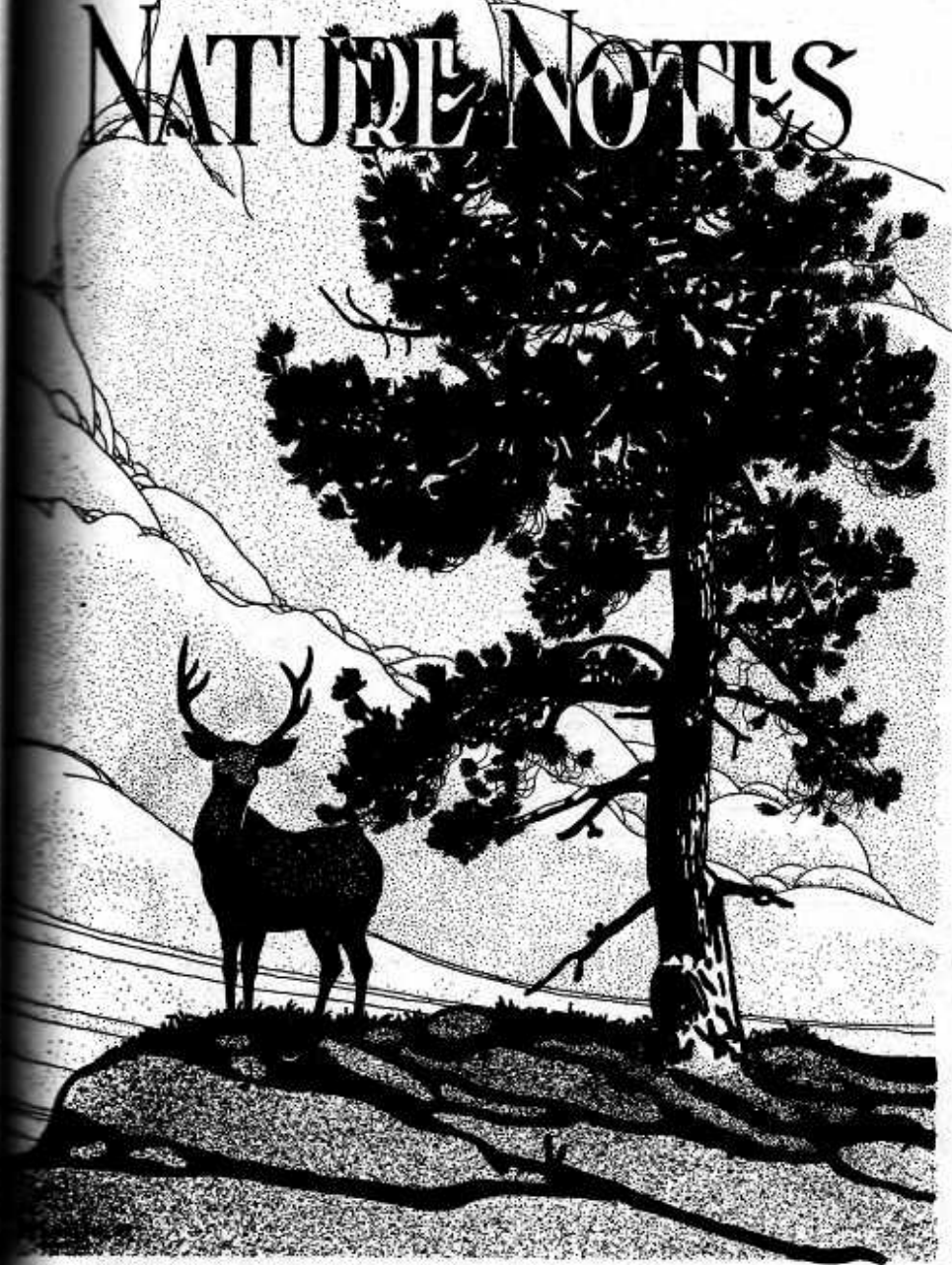


# YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES



Volume IV

July 7, 1925

Number 7

## A PERSONAL INVITATION.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK IS YOURS! WE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WANT TO HELP YOU TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH YOUR PARK AND TO UNDERSTAND IT IN ITS EVERY MOOD. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICE IS OFFERED TO YOU *free* BY YOUR GOVERNMENT:

### Visit the Yosemite Museum!

Here you will learn the full story of the Park — what tools were used by the great Sculptor in carving this mighty granite-walled gorge; who lived here before the white man came; how the Days of Gold led to Yosemite's discovery; how the pioneers prepared the way for you; and how the birds and mammals and trees and flowers live together in congenial communities waiting to make your acquaintance.

Plan your trail trips on the large scale models in the Geography Room.

The Yosemite Library in the museum provides references on all phases of Yosemite history and natural history.

Popular lectures on Yosemite geology and other branches of natural history are given by nature guides at scheduled times each day.

The nature guide on duty will be more than willing to answer your questions on any subject.

### Go Afield with a Nature Guide!

Take advantage of this free service that will help you to know your Park. A competent scientist will conduct you over Yosemite trails, and from him you may learn first hand of the native flowers, trees, birds, mammals, and geological features.

See Schedule of Nature Guide Field Trips.

### Visit Glacier Point Lookout!

From there you will obtain an unexcelled view of Yosemite's High Sierra. The binocular telescope will bring Mt. Lyell to within one third of a mile from where you stand; you can recognize friends climbing trails several miles away. The Nature Guide in attendance will help you to operate it and will explain what you see.

A small library is at your command.

You will enjoy the informal nightly campfire talks given here.

### Attend the Nature Guide Campfire Talks!

In addition to the museum lectures members of the educational staff give talks as a part of the evening program at Camp Curry and Yosemite Lodge. Non-technical explanations of how Yosemite came to be; what you may expect of Yosemite bears; how the local Indians lived; what birds you see about your camps; what trout you will catch in Yosemite waters; how you may best visit the wonderland of the summit region; and scores of similar subjects are given by the National Park Service Nature Guides.

**ALL OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.**

—TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM—



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## OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ENDORSED BY PUBLIC

W. B. Lewis  
Yosemite National Park Superintendent

Probably no one event has changed the public viewpoint on national parks to a greater extent than has the advent of the educational feature developed during the past few years through the nature guide service and the museum exhibits of local park objects.

Ten years ago interest in natural history and the sciences as exemplified in the parks was principally confined to specialists who sought to explain to their own satisfaction, and perhaps the satisfaction of other specialists, the reasons for such and such peculiarities of nature. The average visitor was not particularly interested in whether Yosemite valley was a result of water erosion or glaciation, what became of the other half of Half Dome, or why rattle snakes have rattles. Yosemite valley existed, half of Half Dome was gone, and rattle snakes had rattles, and there was the end of it.

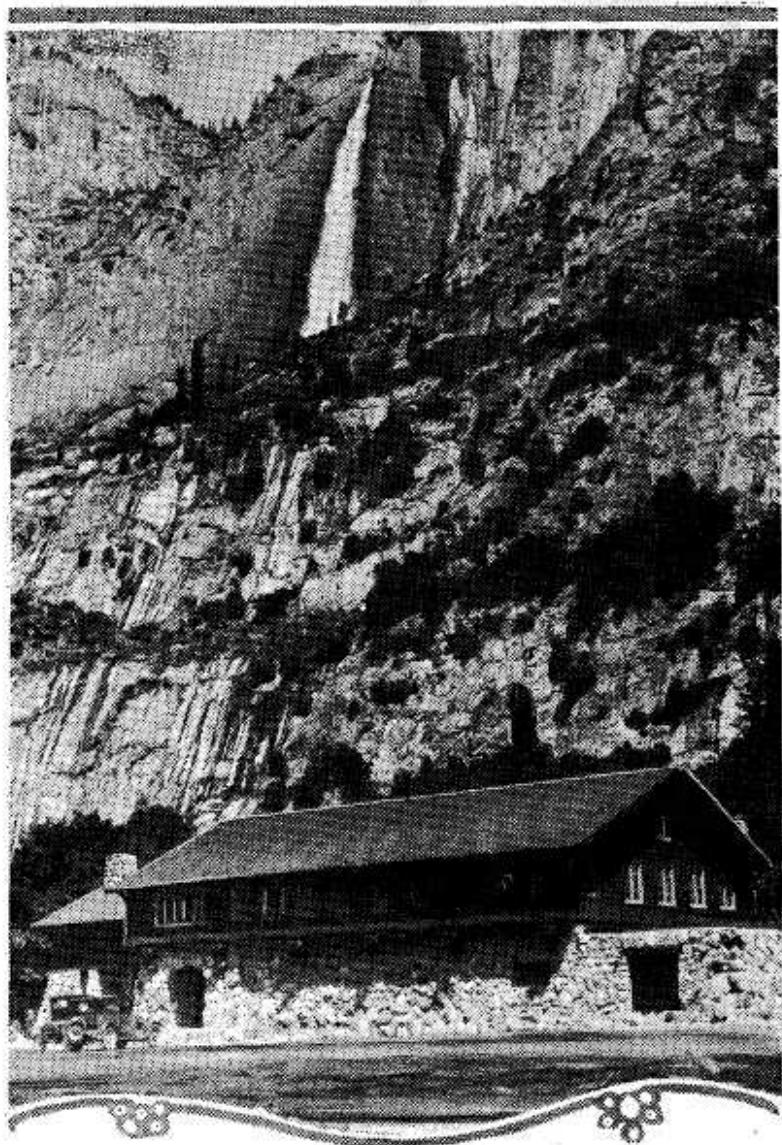
In the chief ranger's office, however there was gradually accumulated a number of native Indian baskets, a few mounted specimens of birds and the smaller animals, an occasional peculiar rock, a particularly beautiful example of the snow plant, etc., and more and more people began to spend a portion of their time in studying these exhibits and asking questions. There was a notably increasing desire expressed to know "what" and "why." A demand for knowledge of the natural resources of the park was being created, and the time came when this demand could not be ignored. An opportunity was fortunately offered through private donations and the co-operation of the California State Fish and Game Commission to in-

augurate the nature guide service, a service conducted by experts in the natural sciences and free to those who wished to avail themselves of the opportunity to learn the "what" and "why" of wild life, the flora, and the geology of the region. The museum followed shortly, and the public was enabled to make their studies both in the field and under roof.

This was in 1920. In that first year the interest was keen but limited to relatively few. That season's experience, however, demonstrated that here was a field warranting development and predicting a public appreciation. From that meagre start in 1920 the service expanded to a point where it was patronized by more than 70,000 people in 1924. In 1925 ten nature guides are engaged in the work of conducting field trips, giving camp fire talks and lectures, explaining museum exhibits; a fireproof museum is available for the display of more than \$40,000 worth of exhibits exemplifying the natural history, the geology, the history and native Indian artifacts of the park region; a well-stocked library is being developed, and a school for nature guides is being conducted.

The educational program in the national parks has been indorsed by the public. The appeal it has made has fully justified the beginning of its expansion and will unquestionably justify its nature.

The "what" and "why" of the natural phenomena of the national parks are being explained to thousands who are learning to "read the trailside" with the nature guide service.



### THE NEW YOSEMITE MUSEUM

Recently erected by the American Association of Museums with funds provided by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. Exhibits from the old museum and new exhibits being prepared will be moved into the splendid structure when new cases are delivered. The Yosemite Nature Guide Service and the Yosemite Field School of Natural History are already occupying the spacious offices, lecture room and laboratories on the upper floor. "Yosemite Nature Notes" is printed here. —James V. Lloyd Photo.—



# MUSEUM NOTES

## Yosemite Museum Library Grows

By C.P. RUSSELL

Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park

RECENTLY many valuable books have been added to the little museum library which has for a number of years given pleasure to park visitors. The reading accommodations beside the old fireplace are very modest, but nevertheless popular. The historical, ethnological and nature study volumes have provided a pathway to restful hours for many visitors and the Nature Guide staff depends upon them for ready references.

Dawson's Bookshop of Los Angeles has been very generous in donating a large number of rare first editions, such as Clarence King's "Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada," Bruce's "The Yosemite," Avery's "California Pictures," Lewis' "Our New West," Kneeland's "Wonders of Yosemite Valley," Bunnell's "Discovery of Yosemite," etc.

The American Nature Association presented five excellent volumes on trees and forestry, as well as three bound volumes of its invaluable "Nature Magazine." Upon the museum's reading tables are copies of the current numbers of this treasure-house of nature lore, and away up in the Glacier Point and Tuolumne Meadows branch museums hikers may find the same beautifully illustrated magazine waiting their pleasure.

Californians, and all others, who have not discovered that the Stockton Record's Out-o'-Door Section is a delightful record of Western outdoor activities, should examine the beautifully bound volumes recently donated by G. E. Reynolds of Stockton. This unusual section of a Saturday newspaper has been termed the "Park Service Weekly" by national park officials, but it contains up-to-the-minute news of all Western recreation and conservation activities.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, has long given the Yosemite Museum much help in many ways. Our library has just received a copy of Cooper's "Birds of California,

1870" in new condition, and a complete file of "Zoa" (1890-1908) from that institution. Both of these publications are valuable and very rare.

### REMARKABLE MOVING PICTURES DONATED

The American Nature Association has presented "Animal Life in Yosemite" in pictures to the Yosemite Nature Guide Service. These unusually interesting animal pictures were made by the noted nature photographer, William L. Finley. Never did birds and mammals behave more entertainingly than have these subjects of Mr. Finley's. His black bear cubs must have reserved their antics for weeks to have put so much vigorous fun into so short a length of film. The intimate glimpses of mountain lion kittenhood are on a par with the interesting bear cub episodes. "Teeter-tail," the Sandpiper, and "the original St. Vitus Dance" put on by the water ouzel furnish most amusing and instructive glimpses of the behavior of these Yosemite natives.

The pictures are received with great enthusiasm by the large audiences to which they are shown by the Yosemite Nature Guide Service. The generous co-operation extended by the publishers of "Nature Magazine" in making this film available to Yosemite visitors is indicative of their sincerity in furthering the nature study idea. —C. P. Russell.



## AFIELD WITH THE NATURE GUIDES

### YOSEMITE NATURE GUIDE SERVICE STARTS ITS SIXTH SEASON

For the first time in its six years of service in Yosemite, the Nature Guide Service will have a personnel sufficient to handle the crowds who seek information on the natural history of the park. Field trips are being provided twice daily at both of the main resorts with special trips for bird students on Wednesdays and all-day excursions to the rim on Saturdays. Heretofore it was possible to furnish field trips on alternate days only at the resorts. The program of lectures and camp fire talks remains the same as in former years. Many are already inquiring about the seven-day trips around the hikers' camps, which will leave Mondays, beginning July 13. These longer excursions could well be called trial schools where an intimate acquaintance with living things afield is to be gained.—H. C. Bryant.

### WHAT BECOMES OF SONG BIRDS' EGG SHELLS

At this season of the year most of the bird population of the Valley are busy with nests or nestlings. Each day finds another brood of young birds hatching in the nests which have been under observation by the nature guides.

At none of these nests are the empty egg shells ever found. Many people ask what has happened to the egg shells, since a thorough search of the ground in the vicinity of the nest does not reveal any trace of them.

While following the various trails of the valley floor, one occasionally finds a fragment of shell, but a survey of all the possible nesting sites fails to reveal the spot from whence it came.

The parent birds, as soon as the eggs hatch, take the bits of shell in their beak and fly with it to a point some distance from the nest, where they either deposit it upon the ground or at least a part of it. This serves a double purpose. It is a sanitary measure and also places the shells in a position so that the discovery of them will not disclose the nest site.

A Western Robin which nested near Camp 19 was watched and was found to carry the empty shells a distance of forty-paces from the nest, where it deposited its burden, and after pecking at it once or twice, flew back to the nestlings.—L. K. Wilson.

### CHICKAREE PERMITS OBSERVATION

Chickarees are not uncommon on the floor of the Yosemite valley.

But chickarees which allow the close approach of observers are not common anywhere. Therefore it was quite a treat for the members of the hiking party on the morning of June 3 to find one of these little animals scurrying about among the tents at Camp Curry. So gentle was this squirrel that the entire party was allowed to approach within a distance of a few feet while he busied himself in taking the nuts from the cone of a yellow pine. At no time did the animal show any fear of the party and even when approached quite closely, instead of running up into the top of one of the large pines present, it merely scampered about among the tents of the camp. Since its first discovery the chickaree has been seen almost daily in the same location and it is hoped that it will stay there.—L. K. Wilson.

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### ORPHAN ANNIE

SCENE I. BIG TREES, SANTA CRUZ. Colonel Moreton, Ordnance Department, retired, discovered a baby hummingbird caught in a spider web. The spider rushes out between struggles of the bird to free itself and wraps more webbing about it. As the struggles of the exhausted bird become fewer in number it is rescued by Mrs. Moreton. Against the suggestion that the nearly dead bird be fed to the cat it is carried in the hand to Santa Cruz to be shown to Miss Moreton. Still unable to fly, and cold and hungry, honey is secured, and after numerous feedings the bird is put to bed in cotton. At first fluffy and inactive this Orphan Annie hummingbird soon learns to eat, and before long is being carried from place to place with the Moreton family in a small cage.

SCENE II. YOSEMITE VALLEY. Annie has been adopted by the Moreton family and has grown to debutante age. Everyone admires her beauty which is enhanced by an iridescent green dress. A nature guide pays her a visit and offers fame as an actor in motion pictures, a suggestion quickly accepted by her foster parents. Enclosed in a cheesecloth cage she causes the director much worry because she is persistently more interested in catching small gnats than in playing her part. At last she poises before a flower and poises properly, but refuses to take a bath. What the future will hold for Annie cannot be foretold, but she will always be known as one of the first to work artfully before a movie camera.

## THE YOSEMITE NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION ITS PURPOSES

1. To gather and disseminate information on the wild-life of the Sierras.
2. To develop and enlarge the Yosemite Museum (in co-operation with the National Park Service) and to establish subsidiary units, such as the Glacier Point lookout and branches of similar nature.
3. To promote the educational work of the Yosemite Nature Guide Service.
4. To publish (in co-operation with the U. S. National Park Service) "Yosemite Nature Notes".
5. To study living conditions, past and present, of the Indians of the Yosemite region.
6. To maintain in Yosemite Valley a library of historical, scientific, and popular interest.
7. To further scientific investigation along lines of greatest popular interest and to publish, from time to time, bulletins of non-technical nature.
8. To strictly limit the activities of the association to purposes which shall be scientific and educational, in order that the organization shall not be operated for profit.

### MAY WE SEND YOU EACH ISSUE OF YOSEMITE NATURE NOTES?

Your check for \$2.00 sent to the Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, will help to pay the cost of its publication for one year and make you a member of the Yosemite Natural History Association for the same period.

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### FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OUT-DOOR RECREATION

Called by PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

"THAT THE CONFERENCE ENDORSE NATURE STUDY IN SCHOOLS AND THE EXTENSION OF THE NATURE STUDY IDEA TO EVERY AMERICAN SCHOOL AND FAMILY; . . . . THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSEUMS OF NATURAL HISTORY IN NATIONAL PARKS WILL INCREASE THE EDUCATIONAL RECREATIONAL VALUE OF THE PARKS".—Resolution of the Conference.



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Dan Anderson