

T H E

Western Tanager



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Dear Audubonites:

The Editor finds herself in somewhat the same position the eaglet does when the last twig has been taken from the nest -- no mother, much space -- so nothing to do but try the wings and see what happens!

It's a pretty fine world, though, so with the encouragement and cooperation which has been so generously extended, everything should be smooth sailing.

Yours on the wing,

Mrs. Maud Murphy
The New Editor.

THE INDIANS HAD A NAME FOR IT

The story is told of how the great Sachem and his mate had, during a devastating flood, climbed the tallest tree on the tallest mountain and had commanded a pair each of all the birds to take refuge in the other tall trees. After the flood had subsided, the great Sachem, and all the birds down to an uninviting world, badly water soaked. The need of fire was urgent. A beaver, in its attempt to get a burning coal from the under-reach spots where all fire had been quenched.

Then the great Sachem sent a little gray bird to the camp fires of the Great Spirits to bring one coal from the living fires. At the end of the third day the bird returned, it's a flaming red from the heat it had endured, it's beak burned and eyes coal black. But it had carried the live coal that restored the earth. So to the Indian, our Cardinal became the FIRE BIRD, to be venerated through all the ages.

VISITOR PROVES INTERESTING

Local bird lovers have been surprised and delighted by a three month's sojourn of a Cardinal, flashes of red coming to view one moment, and disappearing the next!

Although we have a list of more than eighty different species and sub-species resident and migratory, that have been noted at our place throughout a period of several years, we have never seen or heard a Cardinal until early in August, of this year, when this beautiful bird, with elevated crest, appeared in the top of a willow tree. Afterward it came on the lawn and drank out of the birds' water crock and hopped about on a low shrub close to our window. Since that time it has appeared almost daily in this neighborhood and many times its clear whistle could be heard in the distance. It would remain perched in a pear or persimmon tree near our drive-way while we passed close to it. We are glad to add the Cardinal to our list and hope it will return next season.

Daniel R. Luckham.

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The Los Angeles Audubon Society holds two regular meetings each month -- the first Thursday being Field Day, the third Thursday, a program meeting held in the State Building at Exposition Park at 2 P. M.

The annual dues are \$1.25; Life Membership \$10.00 and Patron \$100.00.

for an interesting jaunt through Woodland Park. Drive out Whittier Boulevard to Durfee Avenue, go north a short distance and then you will be guided to the Park by the Audubon signs. Meet Mrs. Eldridge at Nine o'clock sharp, Thursday morning. We should see the Cardinal, the Cuckoo, and possibly some Warblers. Any transportation problems can be solved by calling Mrs. G. L. Veatch at Parkway 6127.

Nov. 12. Regular Board meeting to be held in the library in LaFayette Park, 2820 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California, at 10 A. M.

Nov. 19. Mrs. Thomas Squires, our Educational Chairman, announces the following program for the indoor meeting to be held in the State Building, Exposition Park, at 2 P. M: Mr. John Garth, of the University of Southern California, will show three reels of "Tropical Birds," "Birth of a Seal", and the "Capture of Elephant Seals." Mrs. Naomi Smeely Brown, commonly known as the "California Mocking Bird," of Altadena, will whistle bird songs and calls. Professor C. H. Woodruff, Supervisor of Secondary Education of Long Beach Schools, will speak on "Birds of California."

A program such as the above should call out a full membership so let each good Audubonite be on hand with a friend or two as guests.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We are mailing a complimentary number of THE WESTERN TANAGER to our old friends, hoping it will awaken a desire to be with us again. Join us on Field Day and help make it a grand reunion!

REMEMBER that current dues will reinstate all former members. Our new Treasurer is Mrs. O. M. Stultz -- FITzroy 7537.

BIRD LOVERS

We find bird lovers among busy people in all walks of life. In the motion picture world, Joan Crawford, Victor McLaglen, and Cecil DeMille are only a few who have developed interesting sanctuaries for our feathered friends.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Nov. 5. Hunt out the old walking shoes and be prepared

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP PROVES INTERESTING

Through the efforts of Mrs. Eldridge and the courtesy of the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, the Los Angeles Audubon Society enjoyed a profitable day, October 1st, 1936, studying the shore birds. Fifty-eight different birds were identified. The unusual birds listed were: Caspian Tern, Yellow-headed Black Bird, Virginia Rail, California Clapper Rail, Light-footed Rail, Lesser Yellow-leg, Turnstone and White-faced Glossy Ibis.

THE SWALLOWS OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

The following note was received from Mrs. Salmon during her brief stay at San Juan Capistrano:

"Much interest has been aroused, and much publicity given to this cloud of mystery which surrounds the migratory habits of the swallows of San Juan Capistrano.

"Being anxious to view the exit of the Swallows, we went to the Mission on Wednesday, Oct. 21st. We were told that the birds had been there in large numbers and had seemed to be very restless. Going again on St. John's Day, Oct. 23rd, about 7 A. M., we learned that the large flight had passed at 4 A.M. The remaining Swallows flew to the walls of the old Mission and circled about it, then wheeled off to the South. We were told that the return flight, on St. Joseph's Day, is much more spectacular than the leave-taking, as the sky is darkened by the large number of birds in the air."

ATTENTION: THEY'LL BE HERE SOON!

Alaska Hermit Thrush is olive brown with a rufous tail, breast white, heavily marked on chest with black wedges, flits wings. Note "chuck". Do not confuse him with the thick bills of the Fox sparrows. Prefers shade and damp places-in gardens and parks.

Northern Varied Thrush breeds in Alaska but spends winter in Southern California. They may be seen in shady canyons and oakwoods in company with Robins, slate above (lighter than a Robin) deep orange below with black breast band, indistinct in female, stripe behind eye, rusty-brown. Seen in Sunland and Griffith Parks, singly or in small groups. Very shy. Will fly to large limbs and remain stationary if disturbed. Feed largely on wild berries and insects gathered from fallen leaves.

Western Robins: Yes, we have Robins! Thousands of them. They may be found in olive orchards, pepper trees, vineyards and parks. In spring, they sing their full song in mountain districts where they breed, but are usually quiet in winter except for their call notes. Under parts reddish brown, back gray, wings brown, bill yellow, coloring much brighter in nesting season.

Western Bluebird: Dark blue above, chestnut breast. Widely scattered in winter, in foot hills, lowlands and south-eastern deserts, in small flocks.

Mountain Bluebird: A gorgeous creature. Seen over open country, wheat fields and vineyards, fence posts and telephone wires. Have been seen on dry sands back of ocean, gleaning insects from dry sea-weed. The male is azure of turquoise blue, lighter underneath. Female brownish, wings and tail blue. When feeding both bluebirds "hover with rapid wing beats, tail spread and feet dangling"...Hoffman. Food, beetles, grasshoppers, and smaller insects.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet is fluttering about the oaks (humming-bird fashion) and will remain until spring. A tiny, dull-green bird with conspicuous white eye-ring. Ruby crown is worn by male and mostly concealed. Abundant in parks and gardens.

Audubon Warbler is the only winter visitor that comes in abundance and "occurs nearly everywhere below snow level"...Wyman. Small bluish gray bird streaked with black. The yellow spot just above the tail (rump) is distinctive in both adults and young. Crown-patch, throat, and patch on sides of breast are yellow. (Note: a sharp "Tsi")

Sparrows: The most numerous of two winter visitors are the Gambel and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Gambel is a sub-species of White-crowned of the East. Head broadly striped with black and white, plain gray breasts, light bills, seen everywhere in large and small flocks. The Golden-crowned keep to the foot-hill regions usually in small flocks. Back brown, dusky-streaked sides of head black, center of crown a dull yellow (much brighter in the spring), dark bill.

Grace S. Hall.

EVENING PRIMROSE AND ITS FAMILY
By - Audubonite, Mrs. O. C. Edwards

(Informal talk delivered October 1st, 1936, Field Day)

"Although warned that discussion of family attributes and connections is very apt to lead to hot discussion and arguments, the members and guests at the noon program proved to be very amicable and indulgent as we studied the high lights of the Ogragraceae.

"This family must never be confused with the Primrose Family because they are entirely distinct and we must chase the thought from our minds that because the plant belongs to the Evening-Primrose Family it must bloom in the evening. Mr. Fultz speaks of day-blooming evening primroses, which sounds rather paradoxical, but we all know time of blooming is not a basis for classification, it is mainly flower construction. If you have a flower with ovary inferior, a long calyx tube with four calyx lobes, four petals, eight stamens, and long exerted pistil with four lobed stigma you are quite safe in placing it in the Evening Primrose Family.

"Comparatively few people would step into their garden, and, picking a fuchsia say, 'This is one of the Evening Primrose Family,' until they have tested a flower of the single variety by the above characteristics.

"Among the day-bloomers we find -- the humming-bird; trumpet (*Zauschneria* *Californica*, named for Dr. Zauschner, a Bohemian botanist), the sun-cups, god sia or Farewell-to-Spring, the Clarkias and the Fireweed (*Epilobium Augustifolium*) which so quickly reclaims devastated, fire-swept forest land. It grows several feet high and last July I saw miles and miles of blackened land transformed into beautiful gardens of pink radiance by its long, steeple shaped spires of bloom.

"You notice the prevailing color of these day-bloomers is red or pinkish purple which are outstanding colors in daylight, but yellow and white are adopted by the night-bloomers because these colors stand out in the darkness. This is not accident, it is design as well as the sticky stigma extending out beyond the stamens. It is extremely interesting to study the ingenious devices adopted by plants in order to secure desired results, which, in this case is cross-pollination.

"The butterfly or moth, with pollen laden head and antennae strikes the sticky stigma first, and then picks up more pollen, as it explores the calyx tube for nectar, which in turn is carried to the next stigma.

"Among the night-bloomers we find the yellow evening primrose of the roadside, and the beautiful Desert Evening Primrose. I recall an evening in the desert when I noticed the shadows in the distance seemed to be whitening as if snow were covering it. My binoculars revealed a great expanse of the Desert Evening Primroses just opening. In about ten minutes the miracle had happened. Soon a fragrance was wafted to us that made every breath a delight. The fragrance increased as darkness deepened and naturally one thought of those oft-quoted words of a flower 'wasting its fragrance on the desert air', but the color and fragrance took on special significance as I thought that each blossom was broadcasting a message to the night flyers of the insect world."