

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

T H E

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

# Western Tanager



VOL. IV

OCTOBER 1937

No. 1

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Good-morning, friends:

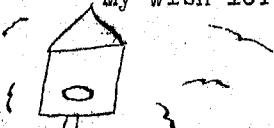
The new Audubon year is here, and if the news in the morning paper distresses you, fold it away on the shelf and come with us for a "bird walk."

Almost anything delightful can happen on a bird walk, and how many treasures we store up! The outline of our mountains, a noble tree, a bit of white cloud in the blue sky, the crickets' concert in the grass, all our lovely flowers and our beloved birds -- like our blessings, they are too many to enumerate!

Best of all, we always leave just as much beauty and joy for the next explorer.

My wish for all of you is happiness, good cheer, good health.

Mrs. O. M. Stultz



## AUDUBON ROOM

Our Los Angeles Audubon Society has suddenly found itself a home, where all of its various possessions have been placed for the use of its members.

It's like a spinster finding a place for her hope chest--for after twenty-seven years of accumulating these treasures, we now can focus our interest here in beautiful Plummer Park. When this park became County property, we secured two rooms in the old Plummer home, which is over 65 years old, and is almost the only dwelling left, representing this early pioneer period, when all of Hollywood was farming and ranch country.

Our library contains migration maps, charts, periodicals, bird nests, butterfly and wild flower specimens which are on display. These possessions have been stored for many years in attics and store rooms and have been quite useless to us.

The interest in Audubon Room has grown rapidly and we have received gifts of books, mounted birds, butterflies and wild flowers, magazines and money, which indicates that the idea is popular with our society and its friends.

Dr. Bryan, of the Los Angeles Museum, sent us 50 mounted birds to help in our study and has promised us loans of bird skins each month. Why not have classes on Bird Study once a month here?

Our regular Board meetings are to be held here, and it is hoped that our membership will come and read and observe the many birds in the Park. We expect soon to complete plans for making the Park a Bird Sanctuary. Miss Helen Pratt has placed sets of Junior and Senior leaflets (10¢ per set of six) and some bird books here for sale for the National Audubon Society.

One of the happy features of our occupying these headquarters is the warm welcome we have received from the Park Board, expressed through Mrs. Florence Scott, supervisor of the area. She has helped us in every possible way and insists that we are a great asset to the Park attractions.

Mrs. Stultz has been untiring in her help, and the Committee in preparing the room.

Mrs. Sergeant, Mrs. Wait and Mrs. Salmon hope that this year will make interesting history for our society.

Mrs. Mary B. Salmon

## THE WESTERN TANAGER

-2-

Published by the  
 Los Angeles Audubon Society  
 Free to Members. Outside Subscriptions  
 .50¢ per year

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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 Club Editor.....Mrs. Maud Murphy  
 1445 N. Los Robles Avenue-Pasadena  
 Telephone: Sterling 2866

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.

FIELD DAY-THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1937!

A-Sailing we will go - so set your alarms for an early hour, dispense with the setting up exercises, pack a hearty lunch and hie yourselves to Cabrillo Beach, where as guests of the Harbor Department we will enjoy a two-hour trip around the Harbor. It is free and as 70 can be accommodated, let's hope for a grand turn-out of members and friends. Phone Mrs. O. M. Stultz for reservations not later than Monday, October 4th.

For those not driving their own cars, the bus will leave from 544 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, at 8:15 a.m. sharp. Return trip from the beach at 2 p.m. The fare will be 70¢ round trip. Call Mrs. Stultz for reservations on the bus not later than Tuesday, October 5th.

There will be time for a bird walk following luncheon and brief meeting.

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For the many who have found it difficult managing transportation on Field Day arrangements have been made to charter a Bus (with accommodations for thirty).

May we have an expression of your opinion in this matter? Call --  
 Mrs. O. M. Stultz - Fitzroy 7557 -- Mrs. L. R. Allen - BLanchard 71839 or

Mrs. Maud Murphy (Pasadena) Sterling 2866.

## ATTENTION BIRD LOVERS

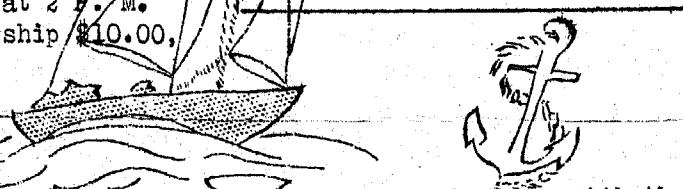
Now that the Los Angeles Audubon Society has a permanent home for its possessions in Plummer Park, books and magazines will be kept there instead of the State Bldg. in Exposition Park.

However, they can be secured by calling Mrs. Geo. L. Veatch, Parkway 6127. Upon request she will take them to the indoor meetings for distribution. Also any books that are out now may be returned at the same time. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Listen in over KEHE from 12:15 to 12:30 P. M., every Saturday, to the "Junior Audubon Bird Club of the Air" program. Whistler and Speaker.

OCTOBER						
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10	11	12	13(14)	15	16	
17	18	19	20(21)	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				31		



Board Meeting: Thursday, October 14th, 10 a.m. To be held at 1233 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale. We are to be guests of our President at Luncheon, following the meeting.

She will appreciate your telephoning her, if you can be present, not later than Tuesday, October 12th.

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Indoor Meeting: Thursday, October 21st, at 2 p.m. State Building, Exposition Park. The Naturalist, Mr. George T. Peabody, of the County Recreation Department, will be the speaker. Many will remember him when, as a guest at one of the field trips at Griffith Park, he delighted the members with interesting contributions on bird and plant life. Time permitting, there will be three-minute reports on "Summer Experiences". Let's hope for a grand representation of members and friends.

#### TREASURE UNEARTHED

Mrs. Loretta M. Smith, of Missoula, Montana, a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, shortly after her return home last spring sent a clipping from THE DAILY MISSOULIAN, of May 29, 1937. The following excerpts will be of interest to all members of bird study organizations:

"Discovery of a book containing 500 plates of copies of the works of John James Audubon, American naturalist of the nineteenth century, has been made at Montana State University..." "The book bound in morocco leather, is two and one-sixth feet in width and three and one-third feet in length. It is three inches thick. The plates show American birds and fowls in life size and natural colors."

From "available records" it was learned "that the first Audubon series, his 'Great Volume', appeared in 1827-28. It was in four volumes, was printed in London and sold at that time for \$2,700. A re-issue was printed in New York in 1840. The first Lockwood edition of 500 plates, published in New York in 1837, sold then for \$200. The next Lockwood edition, of which the University copy is representative, was published in 1860..."

"Library record cards indicate that the volume was purchased many years ago. A later entry indicates that the volume had been lost, although apparently an intensive search for it was made."

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Program Meeting of the California Audubon, October 14th, at 7:30 p.m.--Public Library, 5th & Grand Avenue, Los Angeles. Review by Mrs. Myers of "Audubon, the American Woodsman" -- illustrated.

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We are happy to hear that Mrs. Leon Griswold is improving rapidly. We are hoping to have her with us very soon.

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THE CARDINAL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

As told to Mrs. Grace Hall by Mrs. H. N. Anderson



"October 19th, 1924, I was at Puente Creek, three miles west of Whittier. Suddenly I heard a very familiar whistle. To say I was surprised is putting it mildly! Was I back in Ohio, or still in California? I stood petrified, hardly daring to breathe.

I watched closely from whence came those loud, clear notes. Out from the cottonwoods and willows and alders, nearer and nearer, came my beloved bird. Yes, it was my Cardinal. I knew it was the Eastern species, for I was thoroughly familiar with the Cardinal in Ohio five years before, but to convince Californians was something else. I watched him for some time and then went home to spread the surprising news among my bird-loving friends, sure in my mind that I had made a real find. On April 23rd, 1925, I found the nest and eggs. I climbed a near-by tree and there, in a neatly close-woven nest of twigs, rootlets and strips of bark lay four bluish-white speckled eggs!

"Mrs. F. T. Bicknell brought Luther E. Wyman, then curator of birds at the Exposition Park Museum, and several Los Angeles Audubon members, to the bird-haven where both male and female birds behaved beautifully. After a thorough study of birds, nest and eggs (without removing them) he identified them as *Cardinalis Cardinalis* (Linn.)

"Since then I have kept constant watch, and while I do not know how fast they have multiplied, I have seen as many as five males on one trip. It is quite a pleasure to add one of Ornithology's most beautiful birds to the A.O.U. check list for California."

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Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Saunders, a few chosen friends had the privilege of watching the Cardinal during nesting time. We were seated at a table surrounded by white alders (*alnus rhombifolia*), from which hung long trailing vines of the wild grape. About twenty feet above and not ten feet distant the parent birds fed their nestlings, seemingly without fear of us. The nest was hidden among the grape leaves. The birds entered from various points. As they poised on a near-by branch they were (especially the male) "like flowers against the green" - but always flew from the nest from the same location.

Progression crept into the lovely little "place of refuge."

The long streamers of wild grape and trees from which they hung, an inland haven for Cardinals, fell to the woodman's ax, also all greenery on the bank of the charming stream was cut away and a modern residence took their place.

How the birds came here is not known. Perhaps a pair escaped from some aviary or they had a lust for travel and migrated with other species to sunny California and found their favorite habitat.

G. S. H.

Song: "He is a famous singer, his song being a loud, clear whistle, into which usually enters quite frequently the sound of 'q q q' and a peculiar long-drawn out 'e-e' sometimes syllabled as 'three cheers!' He is a favorite cage bird. The female Cardinal is herself a charming singer, more pleasing to many than her mate, her music being softer in tone and otherwise different from his. The common call-note of both is a sharp, abrupt, 'tsip' easily recognized after being once heard." (Olive Thorne Miller)

Description: "In size, a little smaller than a mockingbird. Brilliant scarlet in spring. Chin and band around bill black. Beak stout and red. Crest conspicuous. In winter dress, wings washed with gray. Female: dove color above, washed with dull red shading to gray below. Sometimes breast is pale red. Crest, wings and tail, reddish.

"They are usually resident birds." (Neltje Blanchan)

(Note: The "Behavior of the Cardinal" will be continued in the November, 1937, issue of THE WESTERN TANAGER).