

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

T H E

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

# Western Tanager



VOL. V

OCTOBER 1938

No. 1

## AFTER VACATION MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:-

With the close of summer comes another Audubon year and we are all looking forward with joyful anticipation to seeing each other again and having our meetings and trips together!

All the birds have put on their new winter clothes to greet us. Their sorry helplessness at moulting time shows how much the color, warmth and buoyancy of every feather is needed to complete their beauty. So it is with our Society. Your officers and board need the help and attendance of every member to make the structure complete.

As we enjoy our meetings, so would many others who have not had attention called to them. Let us bring our friends and tell them of our happy times together!

Alma J. Stultz



## BANDING A DIPPER

Many of my Audubon and Bird Banding friends have expressed the desire to hold a Dipper and examine this interesting bird closely. I, too, have often thought what a thrill it would be to examine a live bird and band one for future study. But the chances for such an experience were far too removed for even contemplation. It probably would only be possible to band a nestling and this would not be satisfactory as they first dive into the water and swim before they fly. Thus, if they were disturbed before the time for leaving the nest, they probably would not have strength enough to survive the swift, rushing water.

However, a most unusual occurrence afforded me an opportunity to band a Dipper while on my vacation in Yosemite Valley this summer. The nest was discovered by Mr. C. A. Harwell, Park Naturalist, on May 25th, 1938, on Tenaya Creek near Iron Springs on the way to Mirror Lake. It was on a ledge about half way up the side of an immense granite boulder that protruded into the rushing water. I learned from Mr. Harwell that the Dippers had not built a nest on this rock for two years and had only built here three times since 1920.

During the period that the female was incubating, she was fed by the male about every fifteen minutes as she would not let him in the nest. Try as hard as he would, she successfully kept him out. Before the babies were hatched, he was very demure, much like any expectant father, meekly pacing back and forth. However, as soon as the young were hatched, he became the proverbial proud papa and assumed authority over his family, rushing back and forth up the swift stream, darting under the water to procure choice bits of food for four hungry babies as the female turned the care of them over to him. After the babies are turned over to the father's care, the mother sometimes will go upstream about one hundred yards and build a new nest.

Mr. Harwell had a complete record of this nest and family and told me he was interested in knowing the date the baby birds left the nest. So we detailed four Boy Scouts of Hollywood Troop No. 189, John Collyer, Ray Gray, Cyrus Wingate and Jimmie Duff, under Scoutmaster Lt. Allen J. Watson, to keep the nest under observation.

(Continued on Page -4-)



Editor.

## THE WESTERN TANAGER

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

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 Officers

President Emeritus.....Mrs. Robert Fargo  
 President.....Mrs. Alma Stultz  
 First Vice President.....Mrs. Maud Murphy  
 Second Vice President.....Mrs. Caroline Daugherty  
 Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Dan J. McCarthy  
 Corres. Secretary.....Miss Laura Greely  
 904 Kendall Avenue - South Pasadena

Telephone: Blanchard 71849  
 Treas. and Membership.....Mrs. O. L. Wait  
 8972 Dicks Street, West Hollywood  
 Telephone: Oxford 1990

Librarian.....Mrs. George L. Veatch  
 Telephone: Parkway 6127

Auditor.....Mrs. Grace S. Hall

Chairmen of Committees  
 Birds and Wild Life.....Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty  
 Wild Flowers.....Miss Charlotte A. Hamilton  
 Butterflies .....Mrs. Ella W. Hamilton  
 Trees.....Mrs. Jesse L. Morain  
 Historian.....Mrs. Roy L. Sergeant  
 Education.....Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer  
 Hospitality.....Mrs. Grace Brown  
 Press.....Mrs. Lillian R. Allen  
 Club Editor.....Mrs. Maud Murphy  
 1445 N. Los Robles Avenue - Pasadena  
 Telephone: Sycamore 7-2866

Curator.....Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon

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.

## NOTICES OF MEETINGS

FIELD MEETING - Thursday, October 6th, 1938, at 9 A. M., on the breakwater, Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro. Mrs. Daugherty, our field leader, reports many shore birds. You may expect to see the California, Ring-billed, Herring, Western, Glaucous-winged and Bonaparte Gulls; Red Breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup ducks, Brandt and Farallone Cormorants, Black Turnstones, Eared, Horned and Western Grebes, Terns and many other birds. Special treat for those going by bus, as stops will be made at the Sloughs. We will gather at Cabrillo Beach for luncheon. Let's hope for a grand turnout of members and friends. Bus leaves 544 So. Hill Street, at 8 A. M., sharp, returning about 4 P. M. Fare 85¢ round trip. Let's all have fun and travel together. Telephone Mrs. Veatch, at Parkway 6127 for reservations before October 5th.

BOARD MEETING - Thursday, October 13th, 1938, at 10 A. M. - Plummer Park. After the meeting, Mrs. James M. Brennan has invited the board to be her guests at a picnic luncheon.

PROGRAM MEETING - Thursday, October 20th, 1938, at 2 P. M., State Building, Exposition Park. Mr. C. V. Duff will be the speaker -- his topic -- "Here and There with Those of the Air." Pupils of Mrs. Milton Jeffs will be present to give us a whistling duet. Bring a friend and plan to be there in time for a good seat, as a

## NOTES

Mrs. E. E. Cobb has again consented to act as Publicity Representative for the coming year. She is to be complimented for her fine work in the past!

Mrs. Mary B. Salmon, our official observer of Plummer Park, reports blessed events in the bird colony. The orioles, titmice, grosbeaks, doves, linnets, are the proud parents. Also that the shrike, villain that he is, sings a beautiful song....

Be sure and tune in to the Bird Program over KEHE, on Saturday at 10:45 a.m. to 11 a.m., each week. You will be delighted with the whistlers and bird talks.

OCTOBER						
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	31					



capacity attendance is expected. Time permitting, there will be three-minute accounts of summer experiences, by members.

STUDY CLASS - Friday, October 28th, 1938, 10 a.m., to 12 p.m., Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, under the direction of Mr. C. V. Duff. Bring a lunch if you wish.

noon

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MAY AND JUNE NOTES

May 5th -- Eighty members and friends gathered at the Tucker Farm in Modjeska Canyon to study at close range the hundreds of hummers sipping at the syrup jars, and countless other birds flying in and out of their interestingly designed houses or feeding from the well filled trays. We are grateful for such a privilege.

May Board Meeting - Held at the Hermosa Beach home of Mrs. George Veatch. Incoming board members were asked to sit in. All were guests of Mrs. Veatch at a delightful luncheon.

May 7th - Spring Bird Census taken by the members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society under the direction of Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty. Territory - Los Angeles County -- Time: Between Sunrise and Sunset...135 species....11,526 Individuals listed.

May 19th - Indoor meeting at which Dr. Comstock gave another one of his illustrated talks on butterflies and moths, a treat long to be remembered. Our thanks also to Jimmie Mallon, for his bird imitations.

June 2nd - Full membership and friends gathered at Hancock Park to honor our beloved Grace S. Hall. To the many tributes, she responded most graciously. May she have the strength to continue in the work she so loves. Mrs. Brown and her Committee were responsible for the festive table arrangement.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Let us all extend a hearty welcome to our newest members:

Mrs. Carl P. Smith	Mrs. Fern Shelford	Mrs. Maud McKnight
Mr. Thomas R. Shearer		Mrs. Ora K. Sabin

We are also very happy to report that the following have become LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs. J. B. Barr	Mr. Richard Barnes Stith	Miss Charlotte Hamilton
Mrs. Oliver C. Edwards		(our past President)

Let's campaign for new members! We are constantly meeting people who are surprised that such an organization as the LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY exists. To them we extend an invitation to join, that they may share in our good times, as well as the fascinating study of birds, butterflies and plant life, in the field and at class!

#### THANKS TO OUR POET LAUREATE

Have you received your copy of the book entitled "Poems of the Camp, the Trail and Home", by James M. Brennan, presented, with the compliments of the author, to each member of the Los Angeles Audubon? Additional copies, \$1.00.

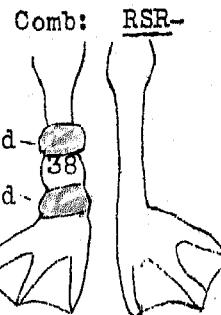
#### MORE MEETING NOTICES!

Southwest Bird Study Club meetings each Monday. Mrs. Alma W. Mason, President. Telephone: CApitol 3441. \*\*

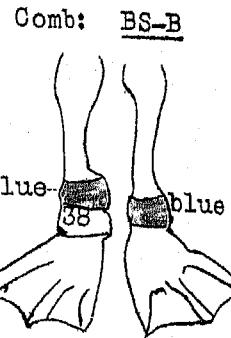
On Monday, October 24th, 1938, at 12 o'clock noon, there will be a luncheon at the American Museum of Natural History, at which delegates of Societies will be the guests of the Association. This is the 34th Annual Convention of the National Association of Audubon Societies and will be held in New York City October 21-25, inclusive. Members of the Society are cordially invited to attend the sessions and take part in the Field Trips. We would appreciate word in advance as to the delegates who plan to attend. For further information, telephone FITzroy 7537. \*\*

See THE A. LIETZ COMPANY, 913 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, for BINOCULARS. Telephone: TRinity 8542.

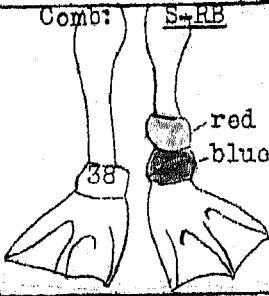
WESTERN GULLS  
 153 young gulls banded  
 July 21, 1938, N. Coronado  
 Island, Mexico (off San  
 Diego, California.)  
 report  
 observations to Mrs. M. C.  
 Sargent, Scripps Inst. La  
 Jolla, California.



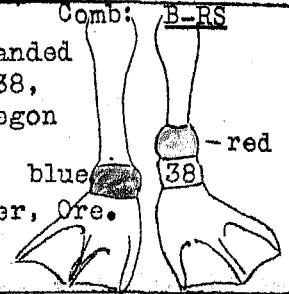
-4-  
CALIFORNIA GULLS  
 510 young gulls banded  
 July 12, 1938, by  
 Walter Nichols, Mono  
 Lake, Calif.  
 report  
 observations to  
 Mrs. M. C. Sargent  
 Scripps Inst. La Jolla,  
 California.



WESTERN GULLS  
 150 young gulls banded  
 July 6, 1938, Three Arch  
 Islands, Oregon  
 report  
 observations to Reed  
 Ferris, Beaver, Oregon



WESTERN GULLS  
 675 young gulls banded  
 July 8 and 16, 1938,  
 Haystack Rock, Oregon  
 report  
 observations to blue  
 Reed Ferris, Beaver, Ore.



The object of this banding is to find out where and how far these Gulls migrate. The Western Gulls from Coronado Islands might easily appear in the Los Angeles Area this fall. Nobody knows how far up and down the coast these immature, gray young birds wander in the supposed three years before they return to the breeding ground. How the California Gulls at Mono Lake migrate to the coast, where the California Gulls which winter near Los Angeles, nest, seems to be completely unknown-so it will be a distinct feather in the cap of the observer who can spot a color-banded bird and prove where at least one Gull went.

Banded Western Gulls from Oregon have never been reported below Santa Barbara so a Los Angeles Observation would be a record. The Glaucous-winged Gulls banded in British Columbia and Alaska will have at least one yellow band.

Items to observe are first arrivals of banded birds, approximate number of banded and unbanded young, and of young and adults, date last seen.

Working on the project ought to be a lot of fun! Will you help?

\*\*\*\*

#### BANDING A DIPPER

(Continued from Page 1)

On the afternoon of June 28th, while sitting on the gravel bar across from the nest watching the four babies lined up on the ledge outside of the nest and apparently about ready to take off into the water, a Blue Fronted Jay flew onto the smooth side of the rock just above the birds and dislodged some moss on to them. Two birds flew up stream, one down stream and one flew across the stream and landed on the gravel right by us. One of the boys quickly dropped a towel over the bird. I took him in my hand and after examining him closely, put a band on his right leg. I had read that immature Dippers were strong, but I was amazed to discover the strength this little fellow had in his wings and legs the first day out of the nest. He certainly was well equipped for the rugged life of dipping into the swift water from which he obtains his food. We saw him several days afterward around this beautiful spot, being fed by his father. I hope I may see him again next year in Yosemite!

\*\*\*

C. V. Duff

#### INSPIRATIONAL

"If we put aside pressing cares and allow the life of the universe to whisper to our hearts, living becomes pure joy. Then the heart will be detached from illusions and worldly cares be overcome. Even in the midst of the most charter scenes there will be a stillness of soul which is undisturbable."

From - Kagawa's Meditations