

Western Tanager



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SOME EXPERIENCES WITH BIRDS IN MEXICO

A series of clear liquid notes dropping down the chromatic scale came distinctly to my ears. The place was the heart of Mexico City — a great, bustling metropolis, and the time was mid-morning, yet I was perfectly sure that I had heard the triumphant voice of the Canyon Wren, heretofore unknown to me except from the depths of Grand Canyon and other wild, isolated canyons of Arizona and Utah. Thus, I received an introduction to the interesting bird life of central Mexico and soon was further delighted by actually seeing the little wren diligently prying among the intricate carvings high up on the sides of a cathedral.

Later during my first day in Mexico City, I was again amazed, this time to hear from my room in a downtown hotel the song of a cardinal, then that of a mockingbird and finally a meadowlark's clear call. Surely these birds of woods and meadow could not also be living in the heart of a big city! My curiosity grew rapidly and I started off in the direction from which the notes came. Soon the mystery was solved, for I located dozens of bird cages surrounding an open patio and in these were not only the songsters that I had heard but also many others, including the Blue Grosbeak which I had seen but once before.

As days passed, I became more or less accustomed to the sight of wild birds held captive in cages. They were everywhere, but so far as I could tell, this type of life did not dampen the ardor of the birds for singing. Upon one occasion I even saw a man driving a burro down a country road with a large, home-made bird cage fastened to each side of the animal. But the most interesting incident encountered in this connection was in the market of Puebla. Although I immediately guessed the answer, I was nevertheless amazed when I heard the beautiful notes of a Hermit Thrush coming from the very center of a congested, noisy section. Soon bird cage and bird were located in a dark haven beneath a bower of branches — the frame for a display of pottery.

One of my most interesting experiences while birding in Mexico was at the famous "floating gardens" at Xochimilco. Gliding quietly up and down the canals in a canoa one sunny morning, sometimes in busy sectors with other boats nearby with singing Mexicans and Indian girls selling flowers all about, but at others in quiet, isolated portions, we were treated to many interesting glimpses of bird life. Here in the middle of February, we found numerous species which were familiar to us in the north only during late spring and summer. Here, too, we saw together certain species such as the Black and White Warbler which a few months hence would migrate toward our eastern states, and others, as the Audubon's Warbler, which would soon find a summer home somewhere west of the Rockies.

Because of the unusually diversified conditions, possibilities for interesting bird trips in Mexico are unlimited. To encourage these, I have set forth here a few experiences which raised my enthusiasm while there and which, perhaps, will stimulate others to do likewise.

(Ed. Note: The above article refers to)
(a trip taken in the early spring of 1938.)

Edwin D. McKee
Ranger Naturalist
Grand Canyon National Park

Los Angeles Audubon Society
Free to Members. Outside Subscriptions at
.50¢ per year

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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.

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

FIELD MEETING - Thursday, November 3rd, 1938 - Whittier Park. One of our finest places to go birding. Mrs. Caroline Daugherty, field leader, will be there at 9 a.m. We should see the lovely cardinals and other birds of interest. Bring a pocket lunch as usual. Guests are always welcome. The Bus leaves 544 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, at 8 a.m. - Fare 65¢ round trip. Enjoy the ride with your friends and let the rest of the world roll by. Telephone Mrs. George L. Veatch, at Parkway 6127 for reservations, by November 2nd. Trip cancelled if it rains hard. To reach Woodland Park, drive out Whittier Boulevard to Durfee, then north to Siphon. Turn right to end of road.

BOARD MEETING - November 10th, at 10 a.m., at the home of Miss Laura Greely, 904 Kendall Avenue, South Pasadena. We are to be her guests at luncheon following the meeting. Telephone her at Blanchard 71849.

PROGRAM MEETING - Thursday, November 17th, at 2 p.m., State Building, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Beautiful motion pictures, in color, of South America and some of its strange birds will be shown. All who have been fortunate enough to see Miss Ruby Curry's travel pictures will be eager to see her latest films. Pupils of Mrs. Milton Jeffs will offer whistling numbers. Be sure to invite your friends.

STUDY CLASS - November 25th, 10 a.m., in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, for an informal study of birds under the direction of Mr. C. V. Duff. Bring a lunch if you wish. This is really worth your time!

The Christmas Bird Festival for all children will be held in Plummer Park on Saturday, Dec. 3rd. There will be prizes given for the best bird houses submitted, also interesting features and exhibits. Consult the December TANAGER or telephone Mrs. E. E. Cobb, the chairman, for complete details. Call NOrmandie 0480.

The Southwest Bird Study Club meets Monday of each week. Mrs. Alma W. Mason, President. Call CApitol 3441.

Observed by Mrs. J. E. Saunders of Whittier, California: Two pairs of Robins nesting in the spring, early this fall, a busy Robin making a thorough search on a neighbor's lawn; about Oct. 7, return of Gambel Sparrows, Audubon Warblers and Western Blue Birds.

NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into membership the following new members:
Mrs. Mary F. Hixson,
Mrs. C. J. Burnham, Mrs. Florence May, Mrs. J. C. Carmichael and Miss Betty Keim.

NOVEMBER						
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				9	(10)	11
				15	(17)	18
				16	18	19
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						30

OCTOBER FIELD DAY

Forty-five members and guests enjoyed a bright day at Cabrillo Beach. The Northern Phalarope, Forster Tern, Snowy Plover, Black Turnstone, Surf Bird, Wandering Tattler, Western Grebe, and Sanderling were a few of the forty birds listed. One of the Western Gulls banded at Coronado Island was identified. Mrs. Jesse L. Morain showed pictures and specimen to illustrate her talk on the Linden and other trees seen during her tour of the United States this summer.

Mrs. Ella Hamilton talked on superstitions -- just what butterflies and insects bring us good or bad luck!

Charlotte Hamilton showed specimen and spoke on the herbs and shrubs belonging to the Buckwheat family, natives of America, found mostly in the west.

We then visited the museum with Dr. William Lloyd, curator, who explained about the birds found and mounted.

OCTOBER INDOOR MEETING

Mr. C. V. Duff gave us a fine account of the birds of Yosemite and also many facts and figures from his experiences as a bird-bander, after which an animated discussion followed.

Arline Moore and Louise Turner gave us a "Bird Conversation" -- arranged by Mrs. Milton Jeffs from an actual recording of a nightingale.

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY BIRDS ARE GRATEFUL !

The California Zoological Society send thanks on behalf of their birds for the six dollars contributed by our members at our program meeting. We quote from their letter: "We gratefully appreciate your friendly interest in our zoo and shall give our birds and animals the best possible care."

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Western Tanager on a card of distinction! What would be a more lovely messenger of good wishes? The price? Only 7¢ each! These cards may be purchased at the meetings -- Call Miss Laura Greely, at BLanchard 71849 for further information.

AUDUBON ORIOLE

The following is a description of the Audubon Oriole, observed by Mrs. Grace S. Hall, and identified by Mrs. Alma W. Mason: in Los Angeles, Cal. July, 1938.

Male--head, upper part of neck, foreportion of upper chest, wings (except lesser and part of middle coverts and tail, black; inner wing quills and greater wing coverts broadly edged with whitish; lower hind neck, back, shoulders, rump and upper tail coverts wax-yellow; sides of neck and underparts deeply lemon yellow, sometimes tinged with orange.

Audubon's Oriole is essentially a Mexican species, but its northern range brings it into Texas, in the valley of the lower Rio Grande.

It is naturally timid and retiring, and if noticed that it is being observed is likely to retreat to thick cover. The whistled note is sweet with a suggestion of sadness. Its large size, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, brilliant plumage and magnificent whistled song made it a favorite cage bird in the days when such traffic was legal.

The eye is a yellowish green or a greenish yellow.

Arizona Hooded is 8 inches long and Bullock's 7 inches long.
(Gilbert Pierson's "Birds of America", Vol. II, page 253. New Geographic "Book of Birds", similar.)

JUST A REMINDER !

At this time of the year, our Treasurer is interested in birds with green backs! Dues are now payable. Please notify Mrs. O. L. Wait of any change of address. Telephone - OXford 1990.

NATURE STUDY - Los Angeles District Federation of Women's Clubs - 10 to 12 a.m., November 17th, 1938 - at 2103 South Hobart Boulevard, Los Angeles. Mrs. J. H. Comby extends an invitation to us all!

NOTICES OF THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Harriet Williams Myers
President

Mrs. Merta White
Secretary- Telephone
CLleveland 66702

The objects of the California Audubon Society, Inc., are to encourage the study of birds, that their economic and aesthetic value to mankind shall be understood; to use all lawful means for their protection and propagation, and to prevent the unnecessary destruction of wild birds, their nests and eggs.

When the Society was organized in 1906, the only non-game birds given protection were the Blue Crane and the Meadowlark. Today, thanks to our efforts and the assistance of other bird lovers, we have laws which give protection to all non-game birds except a few of doubtful economic value.

MEETINGS

Evening lecture the second Thursday of each month from October to May, inclusive, 7:30 P. M. Held in the Lecture Room at the Los Angeles Public Library, 5th and Grand Streets, Los Angeles. No meeting in November, 1938.

FIELD WALK -- Fourth Saturday -- 8:30 to 10 a.m. Fern Dell - Griffith Park. The next one will be held on November 26th.

JUNIOR AUDUBON NOTES

Weekly Broadcast over KEHE, Saturday, 10:45 to 11 a.m., in "The Junior Audubon Bird Club of the Air."

This year Junior Audubon Club members are offered a choice of buttons, the Red-winged Blackbird, Yellowthroat and Canvasback Duck. They are also offered a wide choice of leaflets. There are seven new ones written in the two editions, for older and for younger children. Among these are The Kinglets, Barn Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler and Yellowthroat.

In the old style leaflet, we have the California Quail, Condor, Roadrunner, Bush-tit, House Finch, Brown Towhee, and Black Phoebe. Also Yellow-headed Blackbird, Black-necked Stilt and Vermilion Flycatcher.

Already enrolled this school year, in Southern California, are 538 Junior Audubon Club members. They are in Bishop, Bakersfield, Santa Maria, Wilmington, Pixley, Exeter, Lafayette, Arroyo Grande, Fresno, Clearwater and San Pedro and Los Angeles.

Children in San Pasqual School, Los Angeles, have heard that there is two inches of snow in the mountains, and are busy making feeding trays, as they know the birds will soon be here!

Helen S. Pratt - Junior Audubon Representative - 2451 Ridge View
Eagle Rock, California- Telephone
Albany 4723

KITTIES

Mr. Duff gave a talk on birds
And where the winged ones dwell,
He told of eagles trapped
And of Dippers in the dell.

He told of enemies
That face the feathered flocks
But when he mentioned CATS,
Then were hurled the verbal rocks.

Pleeeeze put me on the
protected list during Nov.
and Dec.



The cats had friends within the
hall
They arose in twos and threes,
And filled the room with red-
hot words
As we trembled in the knees.
Yes, I, too, love the Kitties
The toms and mother cats -
But ladies save the feathers
And wear Cat-tails in your hats..

By J. M. Brennan, Poet
Laureate.

VACATION NOTES OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON MEMBERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

In the country near Roseburg, we are seeing many birds and hearing bird songs: Robins, tanagers, lazulis, song sparrows, nutall sparrow, kingbirds and spotted sandpiper with young. Oh, our joy when we saw a white-tailed kite near San Francisco!

(Ed Note: These notes to be
continued in our next issue.)

Mrs. Ruby Keely - Roseburg, Oregon