

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

T H E

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

Western Tanager



VOL. V

JANUARY 1939

NO. 4

"A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL"

"Four and twenty blackbirds" arrived early in Plummer Park the day of the birds festival to see what all the commotion was about. They were the reporters for the "Birds Magazine of the Air" and this is what they said about it: --- "There were entire trees decorated with strings of popcorn and berries, moulds of suet and seeds, and bread houses; tables spread with all of the good things that birds love, such as nuts, grains, crumbs, grapes, pomegranates; verily 'tables prepared in the presence of our enemies'; A pool of clean, clear, fresh water in which to drink and bathe - It must be the 'Kings pie' that was opened and of course we were expected to sing about it, and wasn't that a pretty dish to sit before any king?

"A plain titmouse flew by calling in his harsh voice 'Here she comes with the nuts'. Later a pair of them inspected the bark house on the grevillea tree and decided to take it on March 1st. A California Jay came to warn the more trusting birds and said he was sure there was a trap somewhere and to look out. He said one of those humans had been seen putting shiny bands on the legs of some of his neighbors. He did not know why, but they could not get them off, try as they would, and said that now they belonged to the Government -- again he called 'Better Look Out!' A ruby crowned kinglet became so excited he opened his ruby crown until it looked like a red geranium blossom. The hermit thrush was so agitated he came out from the bushes and dashed to the pool to cool off. The song sparrow sang - 'Yes..yes..yes..I know these Audubon friends.' The Gambel-white crowned sparrows actually strutted about claiming that they knew the jay bird was wrong this time, because they had proved these Audubon people after many weeks time and knew that they were true friends. The mocking birds quietly ate raisins and pomegranate seeds, to their fill, and decided to say what they thought later. We heard an Audubon Warbler express regret that his whole family hadn't moved to Plummer Park this fall in place of Pacific Palisades, where the terrible fire took so many of their lives. We heard a flicker asserting that he had lived in this park for many years and he thought that these people were only trying to encourage the bird neighbors to come here for safety and rest.

"How grand it is to be free to go where we please! Later we flew up on the telephone pole and met a mocking bird and a cow bird. We had a fine view of the place and got to talking about it all and the mocking bird grumbled that he thought it strange when so many people were gathered there that no one told of his virtues. He said 'I sing day and night my most lovely songs to cheer and please people - we eat many weed seeds, harmful insects - in fact we are nature's check on insect life and if we didn't destroy the harmful bugs and worms that eat the trees, flowers and grain, the humans could not produce food and could not live. My aesthetic nature which I express in song and my beautiful plumage and my economic value were not referred to today.' 'Well, for my part I am very well satisfied that the virtues of our folks weren't talked about' said the cow bird --- who is known to be a very bad citizen.

"We reporters saw no reason to doubt the sincerity of these Audubon people who have made Plummer Park a Bird Sanctuary and are trying to teach the people how very important birds are to the economic set up of our world. We have our work to do as well as they and 'all the world is kin' when only kindness reigns."

Mary B. Salmon
With apologies to Felix Salton

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
8072 Dicks Street, West Hollywood

Telephone: Oxford 1990

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

Auditor.....Mrs. Grace S. Hall
Curator.....Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon

Club Editor.....Mrs. Maud Murphy
508 E. Howard Street - Pasadena

Telephone: Sycamore 7-2866

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.

NEW MEMBERS

We happily welcome into membership the following persons: Mrs. Paula Wolffgram, Rev. Bernice Girnus, Rev. Edith M. Arnott and Rev. Pauline Barnes Pendleton.

JANUARY MEETING NOTICES

FIELD MEETING-Thursday, Jan. 5th-9 a.m. Fern Dell-Griffith Park, Western Avenue entrance. It has been a long time since we have explored this beautiful spot so get out the glasses and camera, pack a lunch and a-birding we will go! Friends always welcome.

BOARD MEETING-Thursday, Jan. 12th-10 a.m. at the beach home of Mrs. George L. Veatch, 3107 Strand Avenue, Hermosa. Those going by electric car will get off at Longfellow Station. Bring a lunch. Mrs. Veatch will serve coffee. Remember-meeting at 10 a.m., birding in the afternoon.

PROGRAM MEETING-Thursday, Jan. 19th, 2 p.m., at the State Building, Exposition Park, Los Angeles. Our own Miss Miriam Faddis will talk on "Shore Birds". Come and hear this eloquent and instructive discourse by one of our leading authorities.

BIRD STUDY CLASS-Friday, Jan. 27th, 10 a.m. Plummer Park-7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Informal study of birds under the direction of Mr. C. V. Duff. Bring a lunch if you wish. ALSO of special importance: Mrs. John E. Bishop will dedicate the Bird Fountain as Mickey Bishop's gift to the birds of Plummer Park. The ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. Friday afternoon. We have long desired a fountain for the birds so this will be a very happy occasion. All the birds and all the birds friends are cordially invited to be present. (See Page 16 for further details.)

PARK FESTIVAL

Seventy-five members and friends attended the Christmas Bird Festival held in December, at Plummer Park. It was an occasion long to be remembered! The Audubon headquarter arrangements were under the direction of Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon and her (Continued on Page 15)

NOTES

"Taint no use to grumble and complain--the kind of weather what you has is all you're gwine ter git".--- Riley knew, didn't he?

L. H. Daingerfield is one of the leading scientists in the study of weather. He is now chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Los Angeles. Rarely indeed does he take time out to tell the public about his work and the recent developments in weather study and prognostication. On January 18, 1939, Wednesday, at 10 a.m., at 2103 So. Hobart Blvd., Mr. Daingerfield will make one of his public addresses when he comes to tell the clubwomen and other nature students what the Weather Bureau is doing these days about the weather. Everyone is welcome. So come and find out why, when the prophecy is for a clear day, suddenly it rains!

Mrs. Mary N. Rose presented the Audubon headquarters with a mounted specimen of an Alaska Hermit Thrush found by her in Griffith Park, a victim of some unknown disaster.

A fine letter of thanks was received from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the \$5.00 sent to feed the birds in the burned district of the Santa Monica mountains.

JANUARY

	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				

Committee. The Exhibits so attractively displayed were: camera studies of birds by Mr. Frank F. Lockwood; a novel study group by the Southwest Bird Study Club; a collection of shells and seaweeds belonging to Mrs. Fern Shelford; feeding devices for Humming Birds, bird houses and photographs by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Tucker, who are leaving them at the Audubon headquarters for permanent display. The Campfire Girls decorated a tree under the direction of Mrs. Bickell and Mrs. Shelford; and the Junior Audubon exhibit of handicraft and leaflets were displayed by Miss Helen Pratt; the aquarium of tropical fish proved to be one of the unusual attractions. On the grounds a table was set for the birds by Mrs. James Brennan, ^{and her committee}, including a bouquet of flowers and fruit and nuts. Miss Cora Bassett decorated the birds' Christmas tree, a delightful array of titbits. Mrs. Grace Brown, always a gracious hostess, with the help of her Committee, was in charge of table decorations. Original bird "models" were donated by members endowed with a keen sense of humour. Mr. Otto Steiert had on exhibit two ingeniously designed bird houses made of bread. They were later given to the Boys and Girls Aid in Altadena and the editor of the Society. Mrs. Jesse L. Morain was speaker, giving interesting highlights on the birds seen on a trip across the states. Miss Miriam Faddis read an appropriate poem written by Mr. James M. Brennan, our poet laureate. The tropical fish aquarium was displayed by Mr. & Mrs. Cass.

Also included among the many interesting exhibits was a Bread house and suet garden, by Mrs. O. L. Wait; a Birchwood house for blue birds, by Mrs. Thomas Shearer; and a novel feeding device, by Miss Charlotte Hamilton.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Full credit goes to Mrs. E. E. Cobb for the success of the Bird's Christmas Festival for children. The attendance was beyond all expectations. A bird cookie tree provided cookies for each child, after which Mrs. Cobb took the tree and additional cookies to the Children's Hospital. The antics of the birds and dog owned and trained by Mr. Triford, and the numbers of Mrs. Bertha Stockwell, Audubon Whistler of KEHE brought rounds of applause from the young audience.

About twenty-five hundred people visited the Audubon rooms during Saturday and Sunday, according to our hostesses, Mrs. O. L. Wait and Mrs. Grace Brown.

VACATION NOTES OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON MEMBERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

(Continued from the December, 1938, issue of the WESTERN TANAGER)

The following is an excerpt from a letter to Mrs. Elsie Humphreys from Mrs. Charlotte McKay Edwards:

"Here in Fairfax, Virginia, is the birdiest spot I have ever been in. I have seen thirty-two species of birds right around the house. Robins are everywhere. The Catbird is now singing near my window. Not a day has passed since I came that I have not seen several Cardinals. An Indigo Bunting has come close to the house, and yesterday a Peewee and Bluebird sat for a long time not two feet apart and with my glasses I could spy on them.

"Wednesday we took the skyline drive in Shenandoah Natural Park. The pink azalea and mountain-laurel were all in bloom. We also visited the Caverns of Luray, all so wonderful it seemed a fairyland of beautiful fluted stalactites and colored draperies, cascades in frozen stone and a Dream Lake that filled one's mind with curious sensations of wonder and awe. It took almost two hours to go through and when we came out, we enjoyed a recital on the Carrillon Chimes of forty-seven bells in the new Luray Singing Tower."

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 1938 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS REPORT

The 1938 Christmas Bird Census Report, taken by Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Field Chairman of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, is as follows: The territory was the same as the 1937 Christmas Census: Section radiating $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from La Cienega and Airdrome Crossing, in Los Angeles--taking in a short stretch of seashore, sloughs, three City Parks and canyons on west slope of foothills. There was a total of 103 species, with 13,378 individuals. The official observers were as follows: Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Miss Helen S. Pratt (California Audubon Society & Junior National Audubon), Mrs. Fred Lee, Mrs. D. Mabel Sargeant, Miss Isabel Ames, Mrs. Grace S. Hall, Mrs. Clara Veatch, Mrs. Elsie Humphreys, Miss Ella N. Johns, Miss Laura Greely, Mrs. Dora Lane, Mrs. Bertha Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Kent, (Southwest Bird Study Club,) Miss Miriam Faddis, Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Mrs. Maud Murphy and Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty. This census was taken for the National Audubon Society, on December 22, 1938.

NOTICES OF THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Harriet Williams Myers
President



Mrs. Merta White
Secretary - Telephone
Cleveland 66702

Evening Lecture, held on the second Thursday of January, will be held at 7:30 p.m., in the lecture room of the Los Angeles Public Library, 5th and Grand Streets, January 12th, 1939. Dr. Henry Smith Williams will speak on "Birds that are different."

Field study of wild birds - Fern Dell - Griffith Park - the "4th Saturday" -- or January 28th, at 8:30 a.m.

JUNIOR AUDUBON NOTES

...SPECIAL NEWS FLASH... Canary Bird Gives Bird Fountain to Plummer Park: A bird member of the "Junior Audubon Club of the Air" and who listens to the Saturday programs over KEHE, learned of the Birds Christmas Party and phoned to the Radio Station concerning his Christmas Gift.. This resident of the Ambassador Hotel gives a beautiful Fountain to Plummer Park. Once a waif himself, he gives to his less favored kind. Lost in the halls of a great Hotel, the little black and gold canary pauses for a nap on boudoir lamp of Suite No....! Finds himself a home and a name. He is now "Mickey Bishop", for Mr. and Mrs. John E. Bishop accept the responsibility as the golden-voiced canary makes a place for himself in their hearts! ---So might a reporter give Mickey's story, for such it is. The reporter might not know that Mickey has for some time been a member of the Junior Audubon Club of the Air.

Not Mickey Rooney nor Mickey Mouse, but Mickey Bishop makes the headlines in THE WESTERN TANAGER and in the hearts of all devotees of our wild birds who visit the quaint quiet old garden surrounding "Audubon House", for a Bird Fountain was their cherished desire. Upon being interviewed by Mrs. Myers and Miss Pratt, as to a suitable gift, Mrs. Bishop gladly agreed that Mickey should give this lasting gift, through the Junior Audubon Club of the Air, for the enjoyment of all birds, and all friends of birds who enjoy the hospitality of the Bird Sanctuary of Plummer Park. The Fountain will be dedicated by Mrs. Bishop Jan. 27th, at 1 p.m.

Every Saturday morning, at 10:45, over KEHE, Mickey Bishop listens to the program of the Bird Club of the Air. He is thrilled when the Audubon Whistlers give bird calls, and hopes one day to contribute his own voice.

Helen S. Pratt

THE LAMPLIGHTER OF KAWeah

A group of vacationers at Sequoia National Park had the pleasure of exchanging experiences with a retiring but extremely interesting person, who called himself the Lamplighter of Kaweah. He could be seen daily, gathering and filling the camp lanterns and placing them about in the evening, brightly clean.

His love of nature, and the simple way in which he was privileged to live, made it possible for him to observe many things which would generally pass unnoticed by others.

We are happy to pass on a description he has written about an unusual visitor to Sequoia:

"During my first spring in the park, while observing and studying the flowers and wild life, I was attracted by a bird entirely new to me, although I knew by its features it was a Robin. The markings were different, however, the breast paler, the back mottled with white, about one and one half inches of the tail was pure white and the beak and feet were yellow like the other Robins.

It stayed around the Robins and they, feeling none too friendly, attempted to chase it away. I have often wondered what part the bird had in mating, nest building or contributing to the vesper songs. Whatever its place in the scheme of nature, to me it will always be my Lamplighter Robin."

Frederic Aulich

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL !

