

T H E

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

# Western Tanager



Vol. X

October, 1943

No. 1

## THE ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending June 30, 1943

By Mrs. J. H. Comby, President

It has been said that by opening the doors of the past we may prophesy for the future; so a glimpse into the year gone by may encourage us to a program of greater achievement in the days to come. Whole-hearted cooperation and a real appreciation of the objective have been the secret of the year's accomplishments.

The outstanding undertaking of the year was the first regional conference of Audubon societies in the southland, with the Los Angeles Audubon Society as host club. Motivated by the common desire to make a contribution to the needs of our Country in wartime, the program of these groups concerned itself principally with Conservation and Youth Leadership. Out of the discussions and forums (a condensed account of which we published in the June 1943 TANGER) came new ideas that will challenge the Audubon societies to a greater effort in the interest of Nature education.

Among the highlights to be recorded as a result of the Conference is the collaboration of the Los Angeles Audubon Society with the Master Planning Commission of the City of Los Angeles in the plan for the development of slough areas in the Laguna Dominguez vicinity into parks, part of which is to be in the nature of botanical gardens, and part in a bird refuge.

The fine feeling of cooperation and stimulated interest in Audubon activities that resulted from the Conference have proved very gratifying, and make a similar venture in the future something to anticipate with pleasure.

Among the projects initiated by our Society the past year is a new youth leadership, which is proving to be a real contribution to the need of the times. How better can we utilize time and effort than by encouraging young America to find its place in the appreciation and understanding of the natural world?

Another new activity was developed in cooperation with the Forestry Department; the making of sandwiches for fire fighters during the long hours of intensive fire fighting. Painstaking efforts in organization by the chairman of the committee have been so successful that a single telephone call by the Forestry Department can now set in motion a completely efficient assembly line to carry out this project.

These are but a few of the many activities of the Society, but they are manifestations of alertness to the problems with which we are confronted if we want to preserve the American way of life. Whole-hearted participation, understanding effort and loyal cooperation are the stepping stones upon which we may trace our footsteps from the past along the paths of the future.

During the year seven indoor programs in the State Exposition Building and a special Christmas program in Plummer Park were arranged by Mrs. W. J. Holden, Program Chairman, all maintaining the high standard of former years. Guest speakers were Dr. J. C. Merriam, President of Save-the Redwoods League; Dr. John Garth, of the Allan Hancock Foundation, and Mr. Paul Colburn, Ranger-Naturalist. Classes for more intensive bird and nature study, fourteen in all, were arranged and presided over by Mr. George T. Hastings and were of a high order.

The Society omitted field trips to distant points this year, "birding" near home instead. The San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, the spacious grounds of Huntington Library, Echo, Griffith and Sunland parks, the now Alma Stultz Bird Sanctuary, the

(Continued on page 4)

THE WESTERN TANAGER

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summer by

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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House Mrs. Mary B. Salmon  
Membership Miss Charlotte J. Fox  
Nature Study Mrs. T. G. White  
Program Mrs. Warren J. Holden  
Protection Miss Dorothy E. Groner  
Publications Mrs. Wm. T. Shelford  
Publicity Miss Alberta Hodge  
Transportation Mrs. W. F. Willis

Membership Dues: Annual \$1.50, Sustaining  
\$5.00 annually, Life \$25, Patron \$100.

DUES NOW PAYABLE

OCTOBER CALENDAR

FIELD DAY; Thursday, October 7, 1943. Redondo Beach City Park - 9:30 a.m. Take Redondo Beach Motor Coach leaving Subway Terminal, 423 S. Hill St., Los Angeles at 8:00 a.m. Round trip fare 66¢. Get off at Torrance Blvd., close to City Park. Take lunch and WEAR NAME PIN. Bird walk will start about 9:30 a.m. This will be a good opportunity to study Gulls and shore birds.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 - San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary. Field trip for those unable to join in week-day programs. Many fall migrants, including possible rarities are to be expected. Come early and we will cover the area thoroughly. Groups will start at 7:15 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. from entrance, 2578 Durfee Road, El Monte.

EVENING STUDY MEETINGS: Second Thursday of each month at Mannings Coffee Shop, 319 West 5th St. L. A. First of the series to start October 14. Dinner at 6 p.m. followed by informal study period and illustrated talk. Howard L. Cogswell, Chairman.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Theresa White Kelly  
5435 - 7th Ave. L.A. 43  
Gene A. Davis,  
435 Friendship Ave. Pico, Calif.  
Miss Alma A. Dobbs,  
5340 Hermosa Ave. Eagle Rock 41  
Mrs. James Porter Fiske,  
4821 Ambrose Ave. Hollywood 27  
Mrs. Celia M. Holbert,  
327 E. Adams Ave. Alhambra  
Mrs. Robert Hoolhorst,  
256 E. Walnut St., Pico, Calif.  
Mrs. Ruth A. Lester,  
503 W. Vine St., Glendale 4  
Miss Madeline B. Murphy,  
115 E. San Marino Ave. Alhambra  
Robert Wayne Newcomb,  
723 W. Doran, Glendale  
Mrs. T. Gordon Reynolds,  
1463 E. Wilson, Glendale  
Miss Jessie N. Tilney,  
4821 Ambrose Ave. Los Angeles 27  
Mrs. Vincent E. Wagner,  
127 W. 6th St., San Dimas  
Mrs. Ralph Wesely,  
7964 McGroarty Ave., Tujunga  
Mrs. T. G. White, Jr.,  
806 Strand, Redondo Beach

Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, 8231 Chapin Way, Tujunga, will receive subscriptions to NATURE MAGAZINE and Miss Laura Greely, 904 Kendall Ave. South Pasadena, has Hoffman's "Birds of the Pacific States" and Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" for sale. All profits go to the society's general fund.

Get your new plastic name pin from  
Miss Charlotte J. Fox. Price 25¢

BOARD MEETING: Thursday, October 21, - 10:00 a.m. L.A. County Museum, Exposition Park.  
PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, October 21, - 1:30 p.m., L.A. County Museum, Exposition Pk. Santa Monica Mountains Fire Prevention Society will present two color films, "Three Horsemen Ride the Range" and "One Match Can Do It." These pictures should be of special interest at this season especially in view of the work done by our new committee of Fire Defense under the supervision of Mrs. Josephine Willis, chairman. Miss Ruby Curry will show bird pictures taken while on vacation at Sequoia Nat'l Park.

NOTE THE MEETING PLACE. MUSEUM BUILDING instead of State Building.

STUDY CLASSES: Thursday, October 28, - Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

10:00 a.m. "Birds' Eggs and Their Development" by Mr. George T. Hastings.

11:00 a.m. "The Pageant of Autumn" - Colored slides by Mrs. Harlan Eckler.

BRING A NOTEBOOK and plan to keep a record of this year's work. Picnic lunch as usual and afterwards enjoy the Bird Song records at Audubon House.

ATTENTION SCOUTS AND SCOUT LEADERS! The Los Angeles Audubon Society is presenting a special six-weeks course in Bird Study at the L. A. County Museum, Exposition Park, starting October 23 - from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

The object of this course is to acquaint the Scouts with the common birds of L. A. County, so they will be prepared to complete their Merit Badge requirements. Each Scout must be recommended for the course by his Scoutmaster. Under the direction of Mrs. Mary V. Hood, Chairman Youth Leadership, Scouts are requested to register in advance with her; 138 So. Wilton Drive or phone HEmpstead 0974. Last year's average attendance was 150. This year we will accept only 100 for registration. Meet in Hall M.A.4 at 10:00 a.m.

October 23rd - "City Birds. How to Study at Home and in the Field"

October 30th - "Birds to Be Found Near Griffith Park Zoo"

November 6th - "Birds of the San Gabriel Mountains"

November 13th - "Birds of the Coast, Marshes and Open Fields"

November 20th - "Bird Groups: Hawks, Owls, Gulls and Terns"

November 27th - EXAMINATION

The San Gabriel Mountains were the locale of many birding trips this summer. Lists sent in for Audubon Magazine's "Season" report include some really valuable records: nesting Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Western Tanagers, Purple Martins, Green-tailed Towhees and Stephen's Fox Sparrow, as well as the more common Chickadee, Nuthatch, Robin, Bluebirds, Cassin's Purple Finch and Mountain Quail. Rarities included summer records of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black Swift and Flammulated Screech Owl. Future trips to these and other good birding areas will be planned at our new evening meetings- see announcement on Page 2. --Howard L. Cogswell

AT Sequoia National Park, July 1, 1943, a group of 48 persons were led on a nature walk by Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Miss Ruby Curry, Mrs. Alma Stultz and Miss Dorothy E. Groner. On August 6, Mrs. Mary V. Hood gave an illustrated talk at the Campfire, using her own kodachrome slides.

OVER K M P C, on September 13, Mrs. J. H. Comby, representing the Audubon Society and Mrs. Ellwood K. Lightholder, Chairman of Women's Club Division, held an interesting discussion on wildlife conservation.

THREE well attended summer meetings were held in Fern Dell in Griffith Park. Mr. Joseph E. Burgess, Ranger-Naturalist, led the nature walks and after lunch gave interesting talks on birds, trees and flowers.

WE ARE happy to announce that one of our members, Mrs. P. C. Ridgely, has become a Patron Member.

ON SUNDAY, October 10, 1943 the Nature Club of Calif. will hold an all-day picnic at Plummer Park. At 2 p.m. Mr. W. Scott Lewis will give an illustrated talk on "The Elfin Forests of California." TUESDAY, October 12, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Mary V. Hood will give an illustrated talk to the Nature Club at Mannings Coffee Shop, 319 W. 5th S.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NEW ZONE NUMBER SO WE MAY COMPLETE OUR MAILING LIST.

estate of Miss Mary Beatrice Fox in Altadena, the Bel Air home of our youngest member, John J. B. Miller, the Recreation Gun Club near Playa del Rey, and a day at Redondo Beach, - all these under the leadership of Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, gave us fine opportunity to study resident and migratory birds, with the occasional thrill of a rare species. The attendance averaged 52; the cumulative bird list of the ten trips, 149 species. Our now printed check lists, compiled by Mrs. Daugherty, were most helpful in keeping the record of each trip.

Again this year Mrs. Daugherty organized the Christmas Bird Count and compiled the statistics, and her report was printed in AUDUBON MAGAZINE. The observers, thirty in all, represented the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon societies and the Southwest Bird Study Club. Handicapped by military restrictions and by a dense fog in some areas, the count nevertheless reached the interesting total of 121 species and an estimated total of 16,784 individual birds on this one day, December 20, 1942.

The "Field Group," - those members who may be free only for Sunday bird trips, - led by Mr. Howard L. Cogswell, has had one trip each month of the club year in the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary and another to some other locality, going as far east as the edge of the desert and west to Santa Monica. In all, there were 18 trips, with an attendance usually of from 15 to 20, and a bird list of 217 species. This group sponsored one evening meeting, with Mr. C. A. Harwell, California Representative of the National Audubon Society, as speaker. Because of transportation difficulties no other evening programs were attempted.

In addition to leading the Field Group, Mr. Cogswell compiles a bi-monthly report of Southern California birds for "The Season" supplement to AUDUBON MAGAZINE. The territory covered extends north to Death Valley and south to San Diego. Many of the State's best observers are cooperating in this important undertaking.

The revised Constitution, adopted May 7, 1942, merged three former committees, - "Butterflies," "Trees" and "Wildflowers," into one, called the Committee on Nature Study. Mrs. Ann B. Young accepted the chairmanship. It was under the auspices of this committee that important subjects other than birds but closely related, received attention. A tree was planted in the garden at Plummer Park March 25, 1943, in honor of our immediate past president, Miss Greely.

From its beginning, the Society has realized the importance of interesting young people in bird study and through the years has given much attention to this subject. A new high was reached the past year by the Committee on Extension, Mrs. Mary V. Hood, chairman, who with the help of several other members and the cooperation of the Los Angeles County Museum, conducted two very successful bird study courses for boy and girl Scouts. The first, given on five consecutive Saturday mornings at the Museum, was attended by an average of 143 boys and girls. No field trips were attempted. The second was a course for Boy Scouts and their leaders, - four evening meetings at Plummer Park and two field trips, with an average attendance of 59. Smaller groups of Scouts were given similar courses at Santa Monica by Mr. Hastings and at Plummer Park by Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon.

A direct outgrowth of this work among Scouts was the dedication May 9, 1943, of Camp Arthur Letts (B.S.A.) as a Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary. Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Audubon Society, officiated, our Committee on Protection assisting. Another was a suggestion, originating with Mrs. Hood and transmitted to the National Committee on Badges and Awards, B.S.A., through the National Audubon Society, for broadening the Scout Nature-study program, to the end that when the boy reaches the rank of Eagle he will have a better foundation for the requirements of that Merit Badge.

Another "extension" activity is the response to invitations for more formal addresses on bird life or some phase of conservation. Some forty-seven different organizations were addressed during the year by members of the Society. Outstanding were Miss Charlotte Hamilton's Nature talks for sick and wounded service men. We are to hear more about them in a future issue of THE TANAGER.

In this connection mention must be made also of the requests from other organiza-

tions for conducted field trips. A goodly number of our members have responded.

The Committee on Protection, Miss Dorothy E. Groner, chairman, has been alert to every opportunity to carry out its purpose and in this it has had the helpful co-operation of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Division of Fish and Game, and certain local organizations devoted to conservation. The committee participated in the dedication of the Alma Stultz Bird Sanctuary, near Tujunga, Nov. 28, 1943. Mr. C. A. Harwell officiated. Property of our fellow-members, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, is included in this sanctuary, and its guardianship was placed by them in the hands of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

The Protection Committee studied proposed legislation, taking such action as was found possible. Instances of individual abuse of wildlife and of illegal shooting were brought to the attention of proper authorities. "First aid" was given 12 injured birds and homeless nestlings by Mrs. W. F. Willis, a member of the committee. It was Mrs. Willis also who organized the canteen service for forest fire fighters mentioned above.

The Executive Board held eight regular and five special meetings for the transaction of business during the year. At one of the latter it accepted an invitation to hold future Program Meetings in the Los Angeles County Museum. There it will be nearer the Ornithology and Extension Departments of the Museum and their excellent scientific collections.

Full and accurate minutes of Board and Program meetings were kept by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Belle H. S. Maguire. The Corresponding Secretary, Miss Laura Greely, in addition to the duties of her office, had charge of sales under the permit granted the society by the State Board of Equalization. During the year 136 bird text books and field guides and 1727 field check lists were sold. Miss Greely's accounts were examined during the year by the Auditor of State.

Miss Bonnie C. Green, Treasurer, submitted fully itemized financial statements to the Executive Board each month, all of which were found correct and were approved. The figures for the fiscal year are: Balance carried over from preceding year, \$173.56; receipts, \$449.66; disbursements (including \$100 invested in a War Savings Bond from the Patron Membership dues of Mickey Audubon Bishop), \$508.21; balance \$115.01. The Society renewed its membership in the National Audubon Society and the Save-the-Redwoods League; it contributed to the fund for the purchase of the State Azalea Reserve, and took out a membership in the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Prevention Association.

THE WESTERN TANAGER, our club paper, was edited again this year by Mrs. Wm. T. Shelford. Nine issues were distributed to an average mailing list of 267. Much newspaper and other helpful publicity was secured by the excellent work of our Publicity Chairman, Miss Alberta Hodge.

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Curator and Librarian, reports the Society's property in good condition and fully covered by insurance. Her catalogue of our 115 books was distributed as a supplement to the TANAGER for May, 1943. Several books, pictures, phonograph bird song records and a Victrola, and a number of mounted bird specimens were added to our possessions this year. The park authorities redecorated our headquarters, much to our delight. The reading-room is used frequently. Thirty-two of our books were borrowed. The House Committee, under Mrs. Salmon, and the Hospitality Committee, under Miss Martha C. Gilbert, cooperated as usual in making visitors welcome, and both committees did valiant service for the Regional Audubon Conference, one full day of which was held in Plummer Park.

As chairman of the Membership Committee, Mrs. O. L. Wait reports 59 new members received during the year and 247 members enrolled June 30, 1943, classified as follows: Annual, 196; Life, 32; Sustaining, 1; Patron, 1; Honorary, 10 and Complimentary, 7. The homes of these 247 members represent 35 different California communities.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Mary Hazard  
Miss Lyda M. Cox  
Mr. Frank C. Davis

Mrs. Z. D. Root  
Mrs. H. H. McMillan  
Dr. Henry Smith Williams

Mrs. Marie P. Brownlee  
Mrs. Lyda Scott Brown