

Western Tanager



Vol. XI

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No. 1

THE ANNUAL REPORT

For the past four years the report of the Executive Board has been presented in THE TANAGER instead of verbally, at a Program Meeting, as was done formerly. The report, much condensed, for the year ending June 30, 1944 the Society's 34th year, follows. The Board feels that the Society has held steadfastly to its course, - that tasks begun are on their way to fulfillment. Cooperation and helpful interest have contributed to this steady accomplishment and they inspire us to new projects. It is a source of great satisfaction that our regular activities have been carried on in spite of added wartime duties.

Foregoing its usual vacation, the Society held three summer field trips in Griffith Park, led by Joseph E. Burgess, former ranger-naturalist at Lassen Volcanic National Park. These were followed, beginning in October, 1943, by the regular field trips on the first Thursdays and the second and fourth Sundays. Handicapped in range though they were, there was no "rationing" of enthusiasm or of interest. We are indebted to Howard L. Cogswell, now in the Navy, and to Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Field Leader, for arranging necessary details and for keeping permanent records.

AUDUBON MAGAZINE (Jan.-Feb., 1944, Sec. 2) printed Christmas bird counts led by our members in three different areas in and near Los Angeles. Mrs. Daugherty led the trip in the Los Angeles area, compiling the statistics collected by twelve participating groups, representing, respectively, the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon societies and the Southwest Bird Study Club, - 123 species and 13,646 (est.) individual birds, this record placing Los Angeles second in this nation-wide count. Ten observers led by Mr. Cogswell found 65 species and 25,114 (est.) birds in the snow-bound Big Bear Lake region, while Frank G. Watson found 65 species and 3872 (est.) individuals in the Lake Elsinore area. As reported in THE TANAGER, February, 1944, the three counts netted 152 species and 39,427 (est.) birds on the one day, Dec. 26, 1943.

For the Thursday afternoon programs, the board accepted a cordial invitation from Mr. Roland J. McKinney, director of the Los Angeles Museum, to meet in that building, and the first indoor program of the year was given there Oct. 21, 1943, with Mrs. Lois E. Jackson, secretary of the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Prevention Assn. as speaker. Other guest speakers during the year were Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, Berkeley, and Mr. J. B. Dixon, Escondido. The remaining programs were given by our own members, all under the direction of Mrs. W. J. Holden, Program Chairman. Mr. C. A. Harwell, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society and member of our own Society, contributed greatly to the success of the annual Christmas party, held in Plummer Park Club House. Another delightful social occasion was a tea for local Audubon societies at the home of Mrs. Henry Smith Williams, for a showing of the bird paintings of the late Dr. Williams. Mrs. Williams graciously invited the Los Angeles Audubon Society to act as host for the occasion, and later in the year presented most of the collection to our Society. It is now housed in our headquarters in Plummer Park and will go far, as Mrs. Williams hopes, in advancing the knowledge and love of birds and of nature in general.

The Thursday evening programs originated by Mr. Cogswell have now become well established. Held first as dinner meetings at the Manning Coffee Shop, their popularity made it necessary by April last to move to the larger auditorium of the Central Library. The program includes personal observations and illustrated lectures. The group has voted to continue its evening programs and Sunday trips throughout the summer.

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THE WESTERN TANAGER

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
Free to Members. Non-members, 50¢ per yr.

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Hospitality.....Mrs. J. P. Churchill
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Educational Fund...)
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Headquarters

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46. From down town, take Santa Monica Blvd.-West Hollywood car, Subway Terminal; get off at Fuller Ave. Walk one block west to park entrance.

Membership Dues

Student (12 to 18 years of age), 75¢ annually; Annual, \$1.50; Sustaining, \$5 annually; Life, \$25; Patron \$100 in one payment. Dues payable now. Help the Treasurer by paying promptly.

HERE AND THERE

THE LIST of new members, usually given here, will be published next month. It breaks all previous records!

EIGHTEEN woolen afghans, made by members and credited to the Society, have been sent to service hospitals.

WHEN Mrs. Stultz, Mrs. Daugherty, Mrs. Wait and Miss Groner were in Sequoia National Park this summer, they led a group of 45 persons on a Nature walk - it was mostly birding - in Round Meadow. Great numbers of nesting birds were observed.

HOWARD L. JONES and his family visited Mono Lake again this year, returning with more pictures of California gulls and their home life. He tells about it in "Meet the Gull Friend," in Two Bells (L.A.Ry.), for August, 1944.

IT IS ALWAYS a pleasure to announce a new Life Member. This time it is Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, of Berkeley. Temporarily in Los Angeles, Mrs. Sheldon will speak for T.O.S. Animal Welfare, 1532 N. Western Ave., one half block north of Sunset Blvd., at 8 P.M., Thursday, October 12. Subject, "Knowing that He Has Wings," with motion pictures, in color, of land and water birds. Mr. Victor Potel is in charge. He invites us to attend. No admission charge.

MRS. CARL SCHMITT tells us that she recently found, high on a rafter in her garage, an owlet, a perfect statuette, so still that she wondered if he could move his little head; but he did, slowly, keenly alert to what was going on. So much at home was he that it was evident he had found lodging and board there for several days, - no mice had been caught in a trap. A few days previously Mrs. Schmitt had heard a great commotion among the birds; unaccountable then, but it may have been the day of his arrival.

He was about ten inches tall, gray with white trimmings and small ear tufts. Toward evening he left and has not been seen since, much to Mrs. Schmitt's regret. She thinks he would have made a fine pet!

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The always popular nature study classes were directed this year by Mrs. T. G. White. With special emphasis on bird-study, the program gave attention also to trees, shrubs and butterflies and included several first-hand studies of the flora of Plummer Park, where the classes were held. Our headquarters there, with its library and museum, facilitates study and is visited frequently. More than 60 mounted bird specimens were given us the past year, and a well-preserved Passenger Pigeon, nicely mounted, said to have been taken in Michigan in 1875, was miraculously found in a used-goods store and purchased for our museum.

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Curator-Librarian, reports 27 books circulated and five additions to our library, - Mr. Willett's three monographs on birds of Los Angeles County, Saunders' "Flowers and Trees of California," and Peattie's "Road of a Naturalist." Three of these books were gifts. We now have close to 120 books and many pamphlets. Miss Georgie Ware presented a year's subscription to "Canadian Nature." A great box, 150 pounds, of surplus reading material and phonograph records was sent to the Needles, California, U.S.O., along with a year's subscription to "The Desert Magazine." Two subscriptions to "Audubon Magazine" were sent to military hospitals, and gratefully acknowledged by the respective directors.

A happy thought of our Curator led to the establishment this year of a "Memory Circle" in the old-fashioned garden surrounding our headquarters. Fruit-bearing and other shrubs that attract birds are being planted honoring members of the Society. Seventeen such shrubs have now been planted.

The Committee on Extension, Mrs. W. Scott Lewis, chairman, reports approximately 47 talks on birds and other nature topics given in response to invitations from some 35 different organizations, by 14 members of the Society. So far as reported, the attendance totaled 2295. Some of the speakers used our own collection of kodachrome slides, the number of which, including 147 presented us by Mr. and Mrs. Harlan E. Eckler, is now 353. It is this committee which arranges for hostesses in the Los Angeles Museum bird gallery Saturdays. Twenty-eight different members served during the year. A number of field trips for other organizations and for groups of young people have been conducted.

It became evident some time ago that the growing interest in bird study among young people presented an opportunity for more service than the Society was offering. The value of such service had always been recognized and the several Extension Committees had devoted time to it from year to year. It was in fact the main activity of that committee in 1943, when Mrs. Mary V. Hood was chairman, and this led to the appointment of a special committee on Youth Leadership, Mrs. Hood continuing as chairman. Eventually the Executive Board recommended an amendment to the Constitution in order to establish this as a Standing Committee, the chairman to be a member of the Board, and to admit young people from 12 to 18 years of age as "student members." This amendment was adopted April 20, 1944, and was explained in detail in the June, 1944, issue of THE TANAGER. In an earlier number, Mrs. Comby described the work of the special committee under the direction of Mrs. Hood, who with the assistance of several members of the Society, conducted for Boy Scouts (162 registered) a six-weeks course in bird-study at the Los Angeles Museum. Plans are now in the making for year-round programs for young people, to be given Saturday mornings.

As in other years, special courses in bird-study were given in Santa Monica by Mr. George T. Hastings and at our headquarters by Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon.

The report of Miss Dorothy E. Groner, Protection chairman, tells of many inquiries into reports of cruelty to birds and of the possession of wild bird plumage, also of numerous instances of cooperation between the committee and interested public authorities, particularly local offices of the State Fish and Game Commission and the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Through this committee the Executive Board joined with other organizations in protesting against the opening of national parks to grazing, requested by cattle interests. Included in Miss Groner's report is an account of 20 injured or orphaned birds cared for by Mrs. Willis in her patio until able to be released. One of these, a roadrunner, was

banded by Mr. C. V. Duff. It was under the auspices of Miss Groner's committee that a bird bath and fountain was installed in the Alma Stultz Bird Sanctuary November 4 and Boy Scout Camp Rio Hondo dedicated as a wildlife sanctuary November 14, 1943. A small contribution was made to the Jack Miner Sanctuary in Canada. Mrs. Comby continues to work in the interest of having a bird refuge included in planned development of sloughs in Los Angeles environs.

The work of Mrs. Willis looking to the establishment of a canteen service for forest fire fighters makes a story to be proud of. Initiated by Mrs. Comby a year ago, Mrs. Willis left nothing undone to arouse interest in the project. There isn't space here to tell the story, but it is on file. The local Red Cross took over the work and expressed its appreciation for having its attention called to what, it said, "should have been on its activity list long ago." There is a letter of thanks from the office of the County Fire Warden, and an article in "Westways," (Jan., 1944) telling how the Red Cross provided food for hundreds of men fighting a fire which had just occurred, adding, "What appeared to be an almost impossible task was solved by the inspiration of Mrs. Josephine V. Willis, of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, an organization which has always been interested in fire prevention."

The routine work of the year was carried on by the Board at regular monthly meetings and five special meetings. As in the preceding year, Mrs. Bella H. S. McGuire served as Recording Secretary, Miss Laura Greely as Corresponding Secretary. Miss Greely had in charge the sale of books, etc., under the permit granted the Society by the State Board of Equalization (125 books and 2462 check lists were sold), and she served also as chairman of the newly created Educational Fund committee. Miss Alberta Hodge obtained publicity in amounts gratifying in these troublous times; Mrs. Willis served as Transportation Chairman and did a prodigious amount of telephoning; Mrs. Wm. T. Shelford edited THE WESTERN TANAGER, her third year of outstanding service in that capacity; Mrs. Carl P. Smith and her Hospitality Committee welcomed all comers at our meetings; Miss Martha C. Gilbert, Historian, collected newspaper clippings of interest, and as Mrs. Smith's vice-chairman handled the "Sunshine Fund," by means of which greetings are sent to members ill or bereaved.

Miss Bonnie C. Green, Treasurer, reports starting off the year with \$115.01; receipts, \$631.54; disbursements, \$630.64; balance June 30, 1944, \$115.91. Of the receipts, \$370.50 came from annual dues, \$100 from Mrs. Ridgley's patron membership, \$100 profit from the sale of bird books, \$29.25 in donations to the "Educational Fund." Disbursements included \$200 invested in War Savings Bonds and of the remainder, the largest single item was \$141.72 spent for THE WESTERN TANAGER. There is now \$330.00 in the Educational Fund. Our membership in the National Audubon Society, Save-the-Redwoods League and Santa Monica Mountains Fire Prevention Association was renewed, also insurance on our property.

The Membership Committee, Miss Charlotte J. Fox, chairman, reports 89 new members received during the year. On June 30, 1944, the Society had 314 members, - 257 annual, 4 sustaining, 32 life, 2 patron, 10 honorary, and 9 complimentary. The last named group includes members now in the service of their country. During the year Mrs. Becherer and Miss Ware changed their status from "annual" to "sustaining."

With deep sorrow we record the passing of seven members since July 1, 1943: Mr. Frank C. Davis, Dr. Henry Smith Williams, Mrs. George L. Veatch, Mrs. J. L. MacSwiggen, Mrs. Mary B. Cawley, Miss Harriet E. Culver and Mrs. Jessie Goodwin Cole.

The written reports of the Board members are available for examination by any member desiring additional information regarding the year's activities.

Month after month we look forward to "A Word from the President," which THE TANAGER brings us. It is with such a "word" from Mrs. Comby that this report for 1943-44 closes: "With grateful appreciation for the loyalty and cooperation of officers and members, let us dedicate the new year to the memory of the old and 'Carry On!'"

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER, 1944

Thursday, Oct. 5. Field Trip, Redondo Beach City Park. Take Redondo motor coach leaving Subway Terminal, 423 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, 8 A.M. Round trip fare, .69¢. Get off at Torrance Blvd. close to City Park. Take lunch and wear name pin. Bird walk will start about 9:30 A.M. A good opportunity to study gulls and shore birds. Returning, leave Redondo Beach 1:07; 1:37, etc.

Sunday, Oct. 8. Field Trip, San Gabriel River Sanctuary, 2578 Durfee Rd. Go by P.E. bus or car, 6th & Main, Los Angeles, to El Monte in time to connect with Long Beach bus going south and leaving El Monte at 8:37. Call Information, TUcker 7272, for best time. Get off at Temple School, - a 10-minute ride from El Monte.

Wednesday, October 11. Los Angeles Central Library, 7 P.M. (Not the usual Thursday, as the library will be closed on account of the holiday.) Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum, President, Pasadena Audubon Society, will speak on "The Song of Birds." Mrs. Bertha Caroline Stockwell, whistler, will give bird songs and calls.

Thursday, Oct. 19. Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park, 1:30 P.M. Subject, "Wild Life in California," in colored motion pictures, with lecture, by Dorothy Dean Sheldon. No one needs to be urged to attend a lecture by Mrs. Sheldon. Edith A. Rickard of San Francisco State College, says of her: "She infects her audience with her own enthusiasm to look with refreshed eyes and minds at the mosaic of innumerable colors in the out-of-doors, and to become acquainted with its fascinating population." We are indeed fortunate in having Mrs. Sheldon in our part of the State at this time.

A SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING will follow the program, to discuss revised plan for branch membership in the National Audubon Society.

Saturday, Oct. 21. Field Trip, Echo Park, for Student Members (under 18 years of age). Meet at 9 A.M. at corner of Parkview and Glendale Blvd. Bring lunch. Leader, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty.

Sunday, Oct. 22. Field Trip, Tujunga. From down-town Los Angeles, take Sunland bus leaving P.E. Station, 6th & Main, at 8:20 A.M. Get off at Tujunga Canyon Blvd., where Mr. Truman will be waiting to guide the party to his home, 6277 Blanchard Canyon. Take lunch. If time permits, the group may visit the Alma Stultz Bird Sanctuary, 8231 Chapin Way, or Sunland Park.

Thursday, Oct. 26. Study Class, Long Hall, Glummer Park. At 10 A.M. an informal discussion as to what subjects we shall take up for a special study during the year. Please give this some thought before class time, and come equipped with notebook and pencil and some information on the Hawk family, as we shall take up at this lesson the Redtailed Hawk and the Sparrow Hawk, the two most frequently seen in this locality. The last half-hour of the session will be devoted to a question-box; queries on any branch of Nature Study will be welcome. Those unanswered will be referred to members for future report. Bring lunch.

Following the Study Class, shrubs will be planted in "Memory Circle" honoring Miss Miriam S. Faddis, also the late Mr. Charles Michael and Dr. Henry Smith Williams. After picnic lunch we will return to Long Hall for a showing of the famous bird paintings of Dr. Williams. Mrs. Williams will speak informally of her and Dr. Williams' experiences and the facts of bird life they learned.

Saturday, Oct. 28. 10 A.M. Los Angeles Museum, Exposition Park. Miss Unterkercher, chairman, Youth Leadership Committee, will present a program for young people under 18 years of age. Included will be a review of birds identified on the field trip the preceding Saturday, with a study of Museum specimens.