

Western Tanager



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THE NEW HALL OF BIRDS

At the Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park

The bird hall at the County Museum is about to become a reality at last and although not completed as yet, it is expected to open the latter part of April.

According to Kenneth E. Stager, the curator of birds at the museum, the new hall will be radically different from the former hall and will truly be a bird hall filled with interest and beauty.

Instead of grouping the birds by their family relationships, the exhibits will display the birds by geographical localities and habitats. There will be a seacoast group which will include the offshore, rocky shore and beach, and tidal flat and lagoon habitats. This will be followed by exhibits of the birds of the city area, the mountains of Los Angeles County, and the deserts of Southern California. Wildlife conservation will be stressed in a group of exhibits showing the California Condor, the beneficial hawks and owls, and the introduced game birds of California.

One of the highlights of the opening of the hall will be a temporary exhibit of a number of the beautiful large oil paintings of birds by the wellknown bird painter, Francis L. Jacques, of the American Museum of Natural History. Most of these pictures are large 30 X 40 inch works and are a good representation of Jacques' unusual skill.

Numerous other exhibits will show such interesting things as adaptations of birds, the mechanics of albinism, bird homes and specialization of bird plumages. An exhibit devoted to the relationships of birds will show the rise of birds through the geologic ages and the ancient relationships of one order to another. The migration of birds will be graphically shown by large flyway charts covering North and South America.

The rear portion of the hall is to be devoted to the small mammals of California and their problems for survival. One exhibit will deal with the use of Sonar by bats and will explain how these interesting mammals are able to avoid objects in their path of flight by echo location. A study of the food chain relationships of the common coyote tends to clarify the beneficial qualities of this much persecuted animal. Across the rear wall of the gallery will be an attractive display showing the family tree of California mammals and explaining their relationships to one another.

This is the type of bird hall we have longed for over a period of years and it is now becoming a reality. Some day we hope to have a habitat hall of birds, showing them in their natural surroundings, just as has been done at the American Museum of Natural History and the Colorado Museum in Denver.

So watch for the opening date and make that evening a definite "must" on your schedule of activities, for we want to convince the officials of Los Angeles County that our cries for a bird hall have been sincere and that there is within Los Angeles County a large group of people with a definite interest and love for the bird life of our region.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
The Advisory Committee

At the request of our editor, the following brief resume' of the purpose and activities of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary Advisory Committee has been compiled by the chairman.

The committee has been in existence from the beginning of the organization of the sanctuary, - first as a Sanctuary Committee of the California Audubon Society, with Mrs. O. M. Stultz as chairman. Later, when the National Audubon Society became the sponsor, it became known as the Sanctuary Advisory Committee, with Mrs. J. H. Comby as chairman.

The committee, comprised of representatives from the various local organizations, functioned during the early years as a clearing house for ideas and plans for protection of the area, to further an educational program, and generally to stimulate a wider interest in the project.

During this period the cooperation of volunteer assistants was of the greatest importance and this phase of the development of the sanctuary is significant of its history, for although no great expansion of the program was possible, the objective was never lost sight of and little by little progress was made.

Recent developments augur well for the future of the sanctuary, with Mrs. O. M. Stultz as director of activities and Mr. Howard L. Cogswell as warden, and the committee anticipates with keen interest the growth of the program.

The Advisory Committee, with Mrs. Anna B. Young of the Pasadena Audubon Society, Mr. Otto J. Zahn of the California Audubon Society, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mr. Harlan Cate and Mrs. F. F. Pellissier as members, continues to function in an advisory capacity for the benefit of the sanctuary.

MRS. J. H. COMBY
Chairman

OBSERVATIONS

Our birds face a most precarious existence. Many marshes have been drained by Mosquito control measures, others filled in for building. And now the drought is affecting all wildlife. Nesting water birds will suffer greatly. This year it behooves us to be more charitable with our wildlife. When the birds come into our yards, hungry, overlook the fruit and plants they may eat. Put out water, crumbs, yellow cornmeal, grains and, for hummers and orioles, sugar-water. Tell your friends and neighbors to do likewise. If the birds nest with you, protect them by keeping curious folk at safe distances from the nest and young. Nesting time is the birds' own private life period. Let us help them keep it so.

VALLEY QUAIL are becoming scarcer each year through foothill areas (Getz-Daugherty) Two years ago flocks numbered 25 plus; now, 8 to 12. In March quail become very quarrelsome, sometimes getting into tough fights, - breeding season's preliminaries.

POORWILL heard in Eagle Rock (Curry) and Burbank (D) Feb. 25.

HUMMINGBIRDS. One male Allen's in Burbank yard since Feb. 5 (D) spends nearly all its time feeding in the flowering Abutilon and Cestrum. When not feeding, sits guard, keeping off a once belligerent Anna's, which now retires to rear of yard, daring to slip up for a sip only during Allen's few absences.

SWALLOWS: March "Observations" unfortunately reported tree swallows honking instead of hawking. (The Editor's fault, for which she apologizes.) Feb. 26, hundreds of rough-winged and 2 violet-green swallows over river settling basins.

THURSSES-WAXWINGS: W. Robins numerous over foothill and city yards. An invasion of robins and cedar waxwings March 3, all flying together, some robins singing, Burbank. (D) Ethel Anderson, Sherman Oaks, reports robins feeding on jujube tree (Chinese Date) fruits, cedar waxwings on dried loquat fruits. Hermit thrushes numerous and so tame (Getz).

ORIOLES: Two Arizona hooded in MacArthur Park in January (Woods); one in Glendale in February (Getz). WATCH NOW FOR migration flights: vultures, Swainson's hawks, white pelicans, ducks, geese. Summer residents returning: flycatchers, wood pewee, phainopepla (foothill areas), russet-backed thrush, warblers, W. tanager, black-headed grosbeak.

--CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY
Field Leader

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Editor Miss Laura Greely
904 Kendall Ave., South Pasadena
Telephone: Blanchard 7-1849

President-Emeritus .. Mrs. Mary B. Salmon
President Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Executive Secretary . Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman
1112½ S. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 35
Telephone: Walnut 8937
Treasurer Mrs. C. J. Parker
821 N. Garfield Ave., Alhambra
Telephone: Atlantic 1-2490

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Students (12-18 yrs.), 75¢; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. Joint Membership, Los Angeles and National Audubon societies, with "Audubon Magazine," \$5 (minimum). Send membership applications, with the dues, to the Treasurer, at the above address.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME !

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672 S. Rampart Blvd., Los Angeles 5
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Mrs. Vera T. Taylor
2820 Bradford Ave., Arcadia
Mr. James H. Taylor
2820 Bradford Ave., Arcadia
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Miss Lillian K. Dykstra
10570 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles 24
Miss Louise H. Keith
Box 395, Oceanside

SEND to the editor the names and addresses of friends and acquaintances to whom you would like her to mail a copy of the Calendar.

NOTES

GREETINGS to our member, Mrs. Ethel E. Richardson, of Berkeley, who has just been elected president of the Audubon of the Pacific....To the newly organized Whittier Audubon Society, Dr. W. E. Hemming, 539 Park St., Whittier, president. And to the recently launched publication, "Nature Lore," of the Agassiz Nature Club of Long Beach, of which our member, Rolland Truman, is president.

MRS. HARLAN E. ECKLER, our First Vice-President, and Mr. Eckler, have left with their trailer for an extended trip East. Best wishes for a happy vacation!

WITH PARDONABLE PRIDE we call to your attention the series of lectures offered by the Adult Education Program, Los Angeles City Schools, in cooperation with the California Centennial Commission, at Belmont High School. Of the twelve lectures on "California - Its History, Peoples, Customs and Natural Features," three will be given by Mrs. Mary V. Hood, our president. Her lectures, illustrated with her own kodachromes, will be given at 8 P.M. April 28 and May 5 and 12. Mr. Will S. Kellogg, principal, in announcing the series, expressed gratification at having been able to secure, for these lectures, "top speakers in their respective fields". (Incidentally, the admission card, 25¢, is good for the entire series.)

LAST YEAR'S weekly bird calendar at San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary shows 78 species for the two weeks on either side of April 1, - the date of the field trip this month. This is the time of year when both winter visitant Gambel's, Fox and Lincoln's sparrows are here, together with the earlier arriving summer residents. Bullock's and hooded orioles and black-headed grosbeaks will have returned from the south; tree swallows and cardinals will probably be nesting; cowbirds will be courting by exuberant gurglings and wild chases through the tree tops. This is the season of light-green, freshly foliaged trees and of blooming wildflowers-mimulus, gooseberry, creek dogwood, etc. Although water is scarce in most areas, the San Gabriel flows steadily through the sanctuary with its life-giving moisture for plant and animal alike.

---HOWARD L. COGSWELL

BIRDING DURING THE NESTING SEASON. How may I as an avowed conservationist conduct my birding without bringing destruction to the very ones I seek to protect? Walking alone in the woods is a psychological self-deception, - I know my every move is followed by bright eyes I never see and soft footsteps and wingbeats I never hear. If I examine too closely a nest of eggs, perhaps the next to follow my example will have a meal of them, as the jay may track as silently as the FBI, gray squirrel may peer from a nearby log, old crow may watch with secret interest from his perch, even the little foxes may smell my trail to a nesting site, and the lithe weazel may come in for the kill.

Praise be, it is no longer a smart hobby to collect birds' eggs. But might it not be shown that an enormous amount of damage is done when a human scent trail is established by the handling of foliage around a nest, or when the agitation of the parents publicizes the cunningly hidden home to all the forest folk? Do my interest and enjoyment justify me in endangering our birds? What are your Audubon ethics?

----ELIZABETH BURWELL GOOLDEN

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

"The children of Los Angeles, especially the Boy and Girl Scouts, are very fortunate in having a kind and charming lady to help them in their study of birds. She is Mrs. Mary Salmon, president-emeritus of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. I am one of many Scouts who have attended her class in the headquarters and nature museum of the society in Plummer Park.

"Mrs. Salmon creates a love for birds in her pupils by giving them not only the scientific side of the subject, but giving them the aesthetic side as well. She helps her pupils to see the beauty, grace and color of the birds. She teaches them to recognize and identify the birds by their markings, song, or call. One also learns a great deal about their habits and habitats.

"Every one who has studied with Mrs. Salmon has not only been introduced to a very interesting subject, but has begun a hobby which he will probably enjoy the rest of his life."

---SCOUT WALKER BUSH, Troop 156

SCREEN TOUR DINNER, honoring Dr. Telford H. Work, who presents the next tour. Unique Coffee Shop, 1848 S. Figueroa St. ("W" car), 6 P.M., Monday, April 5. \$1.35. Make reservations by Friday, April 2, with Mrs. Albert W. Knox, 344 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles 5. Telephone, Exposition 3555.

EUROPEAN ORNITHOLOGISTS and their families need help. Thirty pounds of basic rations can be sent for \$10. If you can contribute, send the money to Dr. Hildegarde Howard, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7. If you have clothing to spare, write Miss Dorothy E. Groner, Room 701-C, Hall of Justice, Los Angeles 12, giving her the size of the articles. She will then send you necessary instructions for mailing it to the proper address in Europe.

THE ARBOR DAY celebration, March 7, at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, in Arcadia, was a most enjoyable occasion. Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum, of Pasadena, representing the Audubon societies, participated in the tree-planting. The Arboretum, with its 5-acre lake and the plantings contemplated, will be a natural bird sanctuary. Mr. Quattlebaum has already listed all birds within the grounds. The date for the formal opening of the Arboretum has not yet been fixed.

A SIGHT TO REMEMBER: A willowy eucalyptus covered with creamy white blossoms, and, clinging to the branches, eating honey from the flowers, dozens of Western tanagers, Arizona hooded orioles and Bullock's orioles. It resembled a star-studded Christmas tree, plus scarlet ornaments of Western tanager heads!

---ALICE BOWERSOCK, San Diego

A PLEASING WORD to Mrs. Hood from S. B. Heckler, Executive Secretary, St. Louis Audubon Society: "I have looked over your 'Nature Leaders' Workshop' (The Tanager, Jan., 1948) and am much impressed and much interested. Congratulations on a splendid project, splendidly organized."

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

President Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Executive Secretary, Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Drive, Los Angeles 35
Telephone: Walnut 8937

CALENDAR for APRIL, 1948

THURSDAY, April 1. Field Trip: San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, 2594 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte. See travel directions at the bottom of this page. We should find many birds, including the Eastern cardinals. Bird walk will start at 9:00 from the Museum. Bring lunch and return to picnic tables about 11:30.

---LEADER, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty; Charleston 6-1747.

SATURDAY, April 3, and Monday, April 5. The fifth and last of this year's Screen Tours, - "Bits of Land Along the Coast," by Telford H. Work, M. D. Admission by Screen Tours Membership card. See special announcement.

TUESDAY, April 8. 7:00 P.M. Central Library, Fifth St. and Grand Ave., Los Angeles. First floor. Howard L. Cogswell presiding. Mrs. C. H. Linsley will give an illustrated lecture on "Sea Shells from our Beaches," using the kodachrome slides taken by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hood especially for the Nature Leaders' Workshop. Mrs. Linsley will have on display a collection of shells picked up on the Western coast. The study section will center around the inter-relation of plants and animals, especially birds, of the chaparral of our lower mountain slopes.

THURSDAY, April 15. 1:30 P.M. Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park. Mrs. Hood presiding. Mr. Hastings, Program Chairman, will present Clem C. Glass, Radio Scoutmaster, Boy Scouts of America, who will speak, with motion pictures, on "Timberline Travels," --the famous mountain trip given some 40 selected Scouts annually, called Sierra Patrol. Kenneth E. Stager, Curator of Ornithology, Los Angeles County Museum, will present "The bird of the month."

THURSDAY, April 22. 10 to 12 Noon. Study Class. Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. From downtown take Santa Monica Blvd. -West Hollywood car; get off at Fuller and continue on foot one block west to park entrance. Bring your Peterson or Hoffman or both. Program: First Hour, - Murres, auklets, puffins, doves and cuckoos. Second Hour, - Short exercises, an easy quiz and perhaps a moving picture by Burt and Anne Smith. Bring your lunch and stay for the eating of it with us in the warm spring air under the trees. Take time to visit headquarters.

---LEADER, Walter Scott, Chairman, Nature Study Committee; Angelus 2-4649.

SUNDAY, April 25. Field Trip: Crystal Lake, in the San Gabriel Mountains, Angeles National Forest; elevation, over 5600 ft. A fine opportunity to study mountain birds. Drive east on Foothill Blvd. to Azusa; turn north at Azusa Ave.; drive up San Gabriel Canyon highway 25 miles to Crystal Lake Ranger Station. L. W. Cammack, Area Director. Bird walk will start from the Ranger Station at 9. Take lunch and return to the picnic tables at 11:30.

---LEADER, C. J. Parker; Atlantic 1-2490

THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Operated by the National Audubon Society. Telephone: Whittier 6-3748

Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Director Howard L. Cogswell, Warden

SUNDAY, April 11. Field Trip, starting from the entrance, 2594 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte, at 9 A.M. The Pasadena-Long Beach bus, four trips each way daily, stops at Temple School, opposite the Sanctuary entrance. From downtown Los Angeles go to El Monte by bus or train. (Telephone Information, Tucker 7272, for best schedule.) At El Monte P. E. Station, change to Long Beach bus leaving at 8:39. If driving, go east on Third Street to Beverly Blvd., continue on Beverly to Durfee, thence north to Sanctuary.