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LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Western



Tanager

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THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

No. 7

NATIONAL AUDUBON NEWS

The National Audubon Society has reserved the facilities at Asilomar, Pacific Grove for an Audubon Conference April 1-3, 1949, with what promises to be a wonderful program. No member will want to miss it. Friends also are invited. This will be a fine opportunity for a reunion of last summer's campers at the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden.

Mr. F. S. Ruth, 1111 Seaview Ave., Pacific Grove, California, in charge of local arrangements, writes that accommodations, including meals, will be available, some at \$3.75 per day per person, some at \$5. No single rooms. Write him promptly for reservations.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Drive, Los Angeles 35, will send you a program on request.

The visit to California the past month of Mr. John H. Baker, president, and Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, vice-president, was a source of both pleasure and inspiration. Each spent a week in the state conferring with Audubon executives, Mr. Buchheister giving also, in his Screen Tour, "Wild Life Down East," one of the finest of this year's tours. We particularly liked Mr. Buchheister's emphasis on the purpose of the Audubon Society, - the study and protection not only of wildlife, but also of the vitally related natural resources of soil, water and plants, and the contribution thereby to community welfare and human happiness.

Besides these two officers of the National society, California also entertained Mr. Bert Harwell, one of its field representatives. In Los Angeles alone he gave ten lectures, with his exceptionally fine films and his own inimitable bird songs and calls.

If you are not receiving "Audubon Magazine", better subscribe! You will not want to miss the 50th anniversary issues. Free to "joint" members; otherwise \$2.50 yearly.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The Committee on Youth Leadership, Mrs. Neil H. Lewis, chairman, reports that 138 boys and girls, with 20 adult leaders, enrolled for the Bird Study Course given Saturday mornings at the County Museum, as announced in the February "Tanager." The president, Mrs. Mary V. Hood, gave a series of illustrated lectures, presenting approximately 100 birds for study. All students had access to the Museum Bird Hall for identification. Of the total enrollment, 71 were Boy Scouts, 42 were Girl Scouts, 11 were Campfire Girls. They came from El Segundo, Long Beach, North Hollywood and Los Angeles. Not all attended every class; the average attendance was 95; but it is interesting to find that 30 had 100% attendance record, 36 made 80%, 24 others made 60%. Members of the course were invited to attend the Audubon Screen Tour given by Mr. Carl W. Buchheister. The climax of the course is to test their knowledge of birds gained in study by a field trip at the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, for actual identification.

As this issue of "The Tanager" goes to press, Mrs. Hood, with the committee's assistance, is preparing to give a Natural History Course for Youth Leaders. It is to be held Wednesday evenings at 7 in the Education Division of the Museum, ground floor, southeast corner.

"Mr. and Mrs. Hungry Bird" and their friends and relatives who live in the mountains are arriving in such numbers at the Apple Valley home of our friend and former member, Mrs. Elizabeth Burnell Smith, that she writes Mrs. Salmon she is unable to find sufficient food for them. Mrs. Salmon, aided and abetted by Mrs. Hood, has sent her a package of peanut hearts from the society's pantry shelf. Other members are sending other tidbits. Have you any to spare?

THE WESTERN TANAGER

Published by the Los Angeles Audubon Socy. Miss Gwendolyn De Forest
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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Student (12 to 18 yrs.), 75¢; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. Joint Membership, Los Angeles and National Audubon Societies, with "Audubon Magazine," \$5 (minimum). Send applications for membership to the Treasurer, at the above address.

THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION of officers for the year 1949-50 has been selected in accordance with the society's by-laws, - one member by the president, one by the executive board, one by the society on nomination from the floor. The report will be presented at the afternoon meeting April 21. Meanwhile, the committee earnestly requests suggestions for the offices to be filled, - president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, treasurer, curator, historian. Send them to any member of the committee:

Mrs. May Wait, Chairman
8972 Dicks St., Los Angeles 46
Miss Bonnie C. Green
774 N. Heliotrope Dr., L.A. 27
Walter Scott
967 Sidney Dr., Los Angeles 22

WE ARE ASKED to get in touch with our respective assemblymen and urge their support of Assembly Bill 1337, introduced by Assemblyman Vernon Kilpatrick. The bill is in the interest of saving the San Jacinto primitive area from invasion by winter sports, as contemplated by A.B. 1229, which established the Winter Sports Authority of Palm Springs.

WANTED: The Western Tanager for November, 1936 (Vol. 3, No. 1), to complete the Editor's file. Please notify her if you have (and are willing to give up) a copy of this issue.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME !

1764 N. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 28
Dr. Irving P. Gardner
533 Cherokee Ave., Los Angeles 4
Miss Bessie M. Pope
912 Victoria Ave., Los Angeles 6
Mrs. Raymond Smokel
116 N. Reno Ave., Temple City
Arlen W. Bell
2130 Gaydon St., San Gabriel
Mrs. Edwin S. Fuller
717 S. Flower St., Inglewood
Mr. Robert V. Woolsey
Pacific University, Forest Grove, Or.
Don Crippen
245 E. Glenarm St., Pasadena 5
Miss Julianne Oakes
300 N. Clark Dr., Beverly Hills
Mrs. T. H. Fulton
3603 Tacoma Ave., Los Angeles 31
Richard Livingston
2030 S. Magnolia Ave., Los Angeles 7
Mrs. Mary F. Strong
129-A South Reeves Dr., Beverly Hills
Miss Gertrud Sutter
440 S. McBride Ave., Los Angeles 22
Miss Harriet A. Cunningham
1020½ Flower St., Bakersfield
Dr. Franklin King
373 Baseline, Redlands
Miss Ethel Morris
331 S. Spruce Ave., Inglewood
Mrs. Carrie Cooley
126 N. Locust St., Inglewood

The above bring to 104 the number of new members received the current fiscal year.

IN MEMORIAM

Two of our most faithful members have passed away, - Mrs. J.W. Mabb Feb. 9 and Mr. R. A. Powell Feb. 12. The Society extends deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

THE SUNDAY FIELD TRIP to Sherwood Lake January 23 had good birding. Outstanding among the 39 species listed were: Band-tailed pigeons, 10 Lewis's woodpeckers, western bluebirds and large flocks of cedar waxwings. The group will go to Griffith Park Feb. 27 and to the Colorado desert March 21.

OBSERVATIONS

Owing to the unprecedent severity of our winter weather, our land birds are still hard-pressed to find sufficient natural food. So, keep on putting out crumbs, yellow cornmeal, grains, raisins, etc., and by all means, sugar-water syrup for the hummingbirds. The migrant hummers are coming through now and there are few flowers yet to supply their nectar.

DUCKS, WATER BIRDS: Arnold Small reports a white-fronted goose, Feb. 1, Playa del Rey, and a glaucous gull, rare winter visitor. This Arctic breeding gull, besides being an ocean scavenger, also devours small birds, swallowing golden plover and birds of similar size, whole. At Morro Bay, the last of January, 5000 black brant and 300 green-winged teal; in a dry field 16 long-billed curlew. Arnold found the Louisiana heron still in the Mission Bay area, San Diego, and 16 mountain plover Feb. 1 near Sweet Water Lake.

LAND BIRDS: Helen Pratt reports 2 varied thrush in her yard in Eagle Rock Jan. 19. Hermit thrushes are regular customers for raisins on her feeding tray. In Griffith Park Justin Russell noted Audubon's, lutescent, dusky and pileolated warblers Jan. 30, but seed- and berry-feeding birds are scarce where he found them in great numbers last year. Feb. 2 Mrs. Parker found a female western tanager wintering over, in Washington Park, Pasadena, and saw, overhead, 29 turkey vultures.

OWLS: Arnold Small found 12 barn owls in a cave along the Santa Ana River, and on Feb. 1 a spotted owl in a heavily wooded area near Chantry Flat, flushed out, evidently, by his squeaking-out small birds. This is a rare owl.

RARITIES: Mrs. Mary Hood found the prize rarity this winter, a sandhill crane in Recreation Gun Club grounds Jan. 25; observed by herself and Mr. Porter, our visiting English ornithologist. Mrs. Hood took impressions of the tracks and checked with the County Museum, verifying the identification.

WATCH NOW FOR: Black-chinned, rufous and Allen hummingbirds, western flycatcher, martins and swallows, western wrentling vireo, Arizona hooded and Bullock's orioles.

--CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY

NOTES

W. D. Quattlebaum reports, for the Arboretum, a tree swallow Jan. 31, a black-chinned hummingbird and a Brewer's sparrow Feb. 5 and a western tanager Feb. 10. The Arboretum's "life list" is now 141.

Robert L. Pyle, a member whose home is in Wilmington, Delaware, writes that on a visit to an arm of the Chesapeake Bay in January, he saw a flock of about 175 whistling swans. They were in plain sight, about 350 yards away. The Chesapeake, he writes, is an accepted wintering place for this wild swan.

The Los Angeles Christmas bird count is published in full in this issue. As stated, it was taken Dec. 27, a cold rainy day. The total count was 138 species and sub-species, as against 152 the year before. Of special interest this year: All five grebes, including Holboell's, rarely found in this area; redheads, 14, and buffle-heads, 5, as against none last year; more ring-necked ducks, surf-birds and black and ruddy turnstones; 9 species of gulls, including a Franklin, a rarity; more robins and a gray-headed junco, a rare find, seen by Paul Colburn, former national park ranger-naturalist. Altogether, the count shows 24,613 individuals as against 22,939 last year.

The Pasadena Christmas Bird count was taken Dec. 26 from midnight to 6 P.M., by 22 observers in 11 parties, led by J. H. Comby. The area extends from the summit of Mt. Wilson to and including the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary. The weather was chilly and partly cloudy. From 6 o'clock the night before to midnight there had been a heavy downpour of rain. Result of the count: 102 species, about 11,544 individuals. Highlights: Wilson's snipe, 7; 8 species of hawks, 6 of woodpeckers; 4 varied thrush; 13 house wrens (a good number to be found in winter); unusual numbers of cedar waxwings (700 est., 300) and of robins (1500 est. 1034), and wintering over, a rarely found gray flycatcher, 2 phainopepla, a solitary vireo, a western tanager. In the same area there were seen between Dec. 25 and Jan. 5, a barn owl, a great horned owl and a Harris's sparrow.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, Los Angeles Area

By CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY

Dec. 27, 1948. Territory, the same as in previous ten years, radiating $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles from La Cienega Blvd. and Airdrome St., from a short stretch of ocean beach to brush-covered foothill slopes. From 6:35 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. After night of intermittent rain clear at 5:30, but clouding over by 7; light to heavy intermittent showers through the day, with some lightning and thunder, some sunshine. Temperature, 43° to 54° ; wind, 1-5 mph. Everything very wet; ground bare, with new grass and weeds just breaking through in sheltered spots, due to recent rains. Thirty-nine observers in 17 parties, representing the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon societies, Southwest Bird Study Club and the Santa Monica Nature Club.

LOONS: Common, 1; Pacific, 1.

GREBES: Holboell's, 1 (Kents, Cogswell, Mall, Stultz); horned, 4; eared, 45; western, 15; pied-billed, 45.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS: Brown pelican, 45; Farallon cormorant, 42; Brandt's cormorant, 2.

HERONS: Great blue, 21; Amer. egret, 25; snowy egret, 53; Anthony's green heron, 3; black-crowned night heron, 38.

GESE, DUCKS, Etc.: Cackling goose, 1; gadwall, 8; baldpate, 233; Amer. pintail, 420; green-winged teal, 71; shoveller, 533; redhead, 14; ring-necked duck, 70; canvas-back, 363; lesser scaup duck, 555; Amer. golden-eye, 2 (Mr. & Mrs. Kent); buffle-head, 5; white-winged scoter, 118; surf scoter, 331; ruddy duck, 379; Amer. merganser, 29; red-breasted merganser, 32.

HAWKS: Sharp-shinned, 9; Cooper's, 3; red-tailed, 17; marsh, 4; prairie falcon, 1; peregrine falcon (duck hawk), 1; sparrow hawk, 31.

QUAIL: California (valley), 144.

RAILS, COOT: Clapper (light-footed) rail, 1; Amer. coot, 792.

SHORE BIRDS: Snowy plover, 20; semi-palmated plover, 27; killdeer, 127; black-bellied plover, 226; surf-bird, 15; ruddy turnstone, 4; black turnstone, 93; long-billed curlew, 2; Hudsonian curlew, 7; spotted sandpiper, 12; willet, 1415; greater yellow-legs, 1; lesser yellow-legs, 1; least sandpiper, 312; red-backed sandpiper, 150; long-billed dowitcher, 500; western sandpiper, 237; marbled godwit, 229; sandpiper, 278; avocet, 200; black-necked stilt, 2 (a few have wintered over for the past several years).

GULLS: Glaucous-winged, 154; western, 302; herring, 10; California, 4682 (4000 est. 682); ring-billed, 875; short-billed, 22; Bonaparte's, 601; Heermann's, 65; Franklin's, 1 (Studied at about 75 ft. with 9x35 binoculars by Cogswell, Mall, Stultz).

TERNS: Forster's, 10.

PIGEONS & DOVES: Band-tailed pigeon, 2; mourning dove, 135; Chinese spotted dove 124; ring-turtle dove, 101.

ROADRUNNERS: Roadrunner, 2.

OWLS: Horned, 3; burrowing, 2.

SWIFTS: White-throated, 121.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Anna's, 135.

KINGFISHERS: Western belted, 9.

WOODPECKERS: Red-shafted flicker, 73; California, 21; Red-breasted sapsucker, 4; Nuttall's woodpecker, 3.

FLYCATCHERS: Ash-throated, 2 (One or 2 occasionally winter over); black phoebe, 105; Say's phoebe, 5.

LARKS: Horned, 600 (500 est., 100).

JAYS, RAVENS: California jay, 140; Amer. raven, 4.

OTHER PERCHING BIRDS: Plain Titmouse, 26; Coast bush-tit, 319; wren-tit, 112; house wren, 6; Bewick's wren, 15; tule wren, 1; canyon wren, 1; mockingbird, 181; Calif. thrasher, 65; robin, 622; hermit thrush, 31; western bluebird, 35; western gnatcatcher, 19; ruby-crowned kinglet, 89; Amer. pipit, 36; cedar waxwing, 20; loggerhead shrike (Calif.), 11; Hutton's vireo, 3; dusky warbler, 3; Audubon's warbler, 16/2; Townsend's warbler, 15; yellow-throat (tule), 11; English sparrow, 350; western meadowlark, 144; red-wing (San Diego), 29; Brewer's blackbird 1092; cowbird (dwarf), 12; Calif. purple finch, 29; house finch, 1474; willow goldfinch, 16; greenbacked goldfinch, 54; spotted towhee (San Diego), 46; brown towhee, 201; Savannah sparrow, 130; Belding's sparrow, 18; large-billed sparrow, 4; lark sparrow, 64; rufous-crowned sparrow, 2; Oregon junco, 53; gray-headed junco, 4 (Paul Colburn); chipping sparrow, 49; Gambel's sparrow, 645; golden-crowned sparrow, 34; fox sparrow, 29; scissor-tail (San Diego), 99.

TOTALS:

Species and sub-species, 138.
Individuals, about... 24,613

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

President Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Secretary, Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 35. Walnut 5-83.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1949

THURSDAY, March 3. Field Trip: Chatsworth Reservoir Grounds. The February trip was rained out, but since this is an unusually rich birding territory, we shall try again. One car did go Feb. 3 and observed many birds, - lesser Canada and white-fronted geese, white-tailed kite, 500 band-tailed pigeons, many Lewis's woodpeckers, ring-necked pheasants, mountain bluebirds, lark sparrows. Special Tanner Motor bus will leave Los Angeles, 6th and Olive Sts. (park corner) 8:30 A.M. Will stop for passengers pick-up corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga Blvds. at 8:45 and at Ventura Blvd. and Laurel Canyon 8:55. Round trip fare \$1.65. Please have exact change. Take lunch. Make reservation EARLY with Miss Edith Crane, 4925½ Cimarron St., Los Angeles 37; ALminster 2-8458. Those driving go out Ventura Blvd. to Topanga Canyon Blvd., right to Roscoe Blvd., left to Fallbrook St., right to reservoir gate, which will open at 9:30 to admit Audubon visitors. All will leave the grounds by same gate about 3 P.M. Lunch at 11:45 at picnic tables, followed by nature talks. Leader, Mrs. Daugherty; Charleston 6-1-47.

TUESDAY, Mar. 8 and SATURDAY, Mar. 12: Audubon Screen Tour, "Trails for the Millions," by Allan D. Cruickshank, of New York. A color motion picture program, showing an unusual outdoor life at a city's very threshold. For information, see special bulletin issued by Wm. K. DeFue, Business Manager, 6055 Fair Ave., North Hollywood.

THURSDAY, Mar. 10. 7 P.M. Los Angeles Central Library, Fifth St. and Grand Ave. First floor. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Goolden, First Vice-President, presiding. There will be a showing of three exceptionally fine films: "Wildlife in the Aleutians," "Bear River Marshes," and "Niobrara Refuge." These films, the work of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, have only recently been released. Study Period: Plans for beach improvement and flood control, in areas where up to now we have had our best birding, will be discussed.

THURSDAY, March 17. 1:30 P.M. Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park; Mrs. Hood presiding. Kenneth E. Stager, Curator of Ornithology, County Museum, will present the "bird of the month." Mrs. J. H. Comby, the society's special conservation representative, will speak on "Conservation in Our Own Neighborhood." Mr. Lloyd Smith, director of the Desert Museum, Palm Springs, and formerly a ranger-naturalist in Yosemite National Park, will show motion pictures of "Birds, Animals and Plants of the Desert."

THURSDAY, March 24. Study Class, Lecture Hall, Educational Division, Los Angeles County Museum; southeast corner of the building, ground floor. NOTE CHANGE IN PLACE OF MEETING. Mr. George T. Hastings, Chairman, Committee on Nature Study, presiding. Program arranged by Mrs. Mary B. Salmon. First Hour: The Structure of Birds, continued from the February class; feathers, special senses (sight and hearing). Second Hour: Conservation of our natural resources. Members are urged to read Vogt's "Road to Survival" or Osborn's "Our Plundered Planet." There will be on display portions of the remarkable conservation exhibit prepared by the Museum, also the exhibit and material prepared by the Committee on Youth Leadership for its natural history course for Youth Leaders, being held on Wednesday evenings, March 1-23.

SUNDAY, March 27. Field Trip, Colorado Desert, Indio to Mecca. Overnight reservations at Indio (hotel or motel) can be made. Take lunch. The route will be: Indio, Coachella, Thermal, Mecca. Follow train tracks. From Los Angeles to Indio, 12½ miles; from Los Angeles to Mecca, 140 miles. Leader, C. J. Parker; ATLantic 1-2490.

Trip will start from Potter Hotel, Indio, at 8 A.M. sharp.

THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

2594 South Durfee Ave., El Monte. Telephone: FOrest 0-1872
Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Director Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods, Assistant Director
C. W. Hamilton, Warden

A conducted field trip the second Sunday each month, starting from the entrance 9 A.M.