

Western Tanager

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AUDUBON SHRINES IN THE UNITED STATES

By WALTER SCOTT

(Walter Scott spent part of his vacation last summer following the trail of the Audubons from Pennsylvania to Louisiana. Here he tells us what he saw.)

First in point of time, if not in importance, is Mill Grove, twenty miles northwest of Philadelphia, where Audubon spent his youth as a gentleman of leisure. Equally important is Fatland Ford Farm, adjoining Mill Grove. Here Audubon courted and married his incomparable Lucy Bakewell.

The mountain road over the Alleghenies that the Audubons took the next day to Pittsburgh may be looked upon by the romantic as a shrine. Think of the delicately reared Lucy, on her honeymoon, following this rugged road by wagon and upsetting once in spite of the care the sturdy John James took for her comfort.

No less a shrine for the nature lover, or any lover, is the idyllic boat trip down the Ohio. The fact that it was made on the rudest kind of a flatboat, with a rough crew, could take nothing away from the charm of the June-green banks or the music of Audubon's violin or flute.

Two happy honeymoon years in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, would make of Louisville a shrine for the Audubons themselves if they could return to it. There was leisure to Audubon to search the "Falls of the Ohio," the "Potholes" and "Bear Grass Creek" for nature study subjects. And during the second of these two years Lucy had her baby Victor in her arms and the young husband had additional inspiration.

The State of Kentucky looks well upon Henderson as an Audubon shrine and has spent a hundred thousand dollars for land and buildings in a determination to make the name Audubon live. Perhaps it is because at Henderson John James and Lucy found the turning point in their lives. Here they lived six or seven years in prosperity and comfort. They had a good store and a comfortable little house and here John W. and the two little girls, Rosa and Lucy, were added to the family. Then the War of 1812 ruined them. They lost by death the two little girls. Utterly impoverished, with Audubon thrown into jail for debt, obliged to declare himself a bankrupt, it was the end of store-keeping for them and they both realized it.

At Cincinnati you may see a little house where it is said the family lived in very poor circumstances, for Audubon could not get his pay from the museum where he had a "job." And this is the house where Lucy taught school for the first time, but by no means the last. It is the place where "Birds of America" first took definite form in their minds.

Louisiana is filled with Audubon shrines. It is the state where Audubon said he was born. It has two small houses in New Orleans where the Audubons lived. It has the great Audubon Park in New Orleans, with fine trees, statuary and animal exhibits. There are magnificent exhibits in the Audubon Room in the State Museum.

St. Francisville is a group of shrines. There is Oakley Mansion, now owned by the state and being made into a museum, where Audubon painted some of his finest pictures for the Elephant Folio, including the turkey cock and the turkey hen. There is Sleepy Hollow Woods and the swamps, and they still have fine birds. There is Beechwoods and Beech Grove where Lucy taught five years and shouldered the entire support of the little family in order to release her husband for their great work.

Minniesland on the Hudson sheltered the Audubons in their declining years and is a real shrine. There Audubon died. But Lucy, her husband gone, her two sons and their wives dead, met with sad misfortune and lost her entire property. And so, her

(Continued on next page)

THE WESTERN TANAGER

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

AUDUBON SHRINES. (Continued from first page.) eyesight so dimmed she could no longer teach and her creditors pressing her, she turned over to them all she had. She rededicated the Allegheny Mountain shrine and the Ohio River shrine by setting out, in her eightieth year, over her honeymoon trail to Louisville, her honeymoon home, there to live with her brother's widow and near there to die. But, "To live in hearts they leave behind is not to die."

THROUGH C. V. DUFF we learn that the Fish and Wildlife Service has recently brought out three new-sized bands for bird banding, namely, Sizes 3A, 7A and 8. Research has proven that there is a definite need for the new sizes. They make possible greater efficiency in fitting the band to the tarsus of the bird.

OUR MEMBERS, dressed for rough weather, arrived at Chatsworth Lake for the March 3 field trip, after a night of heavy rain. Outstanding on the day's bird list were Lewis's woodpeckers, all six swallows, numerous band-tailed pigeons, a white-tailed kite, ring-necked pheasants, six rarely seen buffle-head ducks, rock wrens, grasshopper sparrows, and finally, a Cassin's kingbird. Total number of species, 71.

--E.B.G.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME !

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1850 Mandeville Canyon, Los Angeles 24
Mr. Clem C. Glass
4747 Alta Canyada Road, La Canada
Mr. Noel McFarland
9601 Oak Pass Road, Beverly Hills
Mrs. Margaret P. Mahan
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Mr. John F. Mann, Jr.
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Mr. Sydney Porter
149 Stenson Rd., Derby, England
Miss Letitia Hall
405½ W. 33rd St., Los Angeles 7
Miss Anna Stone
5679 Packard St., Los Angeles 35
Mrs. Lucile r. Olson
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Mr. C. Merle Brooks
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9500 Fifth Ave., Inglewood
Mrs. Nora Armington
2211 Loma Vista Place, Los Angeles 26
Mrs. James R. Brehm
1450 Hillcrest Ave., Pasadena 5
Mr. Leslie W. Cammack, Director
Crystal Lake Recreational Area,
110 N. Wabash Ave., Glendale

FEATHERED SYMBOLS

Sometimes, when we stand appalled at the wanton destruction that man has worked and is working all around him, a small clear note of pure joy will penetrate our consciousness. Such a voice was Mickey's, and it is with deep regret we must announce his passing. For the last eleven years he has lived, a small bundle of feathers, with Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, at the Ambassador. From there, and through them, Mickey promoted the Audubon cause. Twelve beautiful bird fountains stand in our city parks, - "The Gift of Mickey Bishop." One year he "endowed" The Western Tanager. We who knew him will always remember. May there be other homes with other feathered symbols to carry on the good work Mickey started.

--MARY V. HOOD, President

A LETTER

To the EXECUTIVE BOARD,
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is to be commended for the very splendid program it is conducting in this area. This fine type of service on the part of its leaders is doing much to improve the general public's attitude toward the conservation of our natural resources.

Especially are we pleased with the cooperation extended to our schools in making it possible for teachers and selected groups of young people to enjoy the Audubon Screen Tours, which have been not only very interesting, but also highly educational.. Your activities at the County Museum this year for young people and for youth leaders, as well as the field trips, have been helpful in bringing this important work to the attention of a larger number of people.

While it is true that the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden is sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the local officers helped us considerably in securing approval of the camp for Inservice Training credits for Los Angeles city teachers. Fifty of our teachers attended this camp last summer and all of them returned with renewed vigor to help our young people gain a greater appreciation of the value and need of conservation of all types of resources.

Even though it has been less than a year since some of us first became acquainted with the Audubon activities, we want all of you to know that we do appreciate this opportunity to cooperate with the Audubon Society in furthering the objectives of its program.

You may feel sure that your time and effort are very much worth-while in helping our young people to gain a greater appreciation for life, property and the world of Nature about them.

Very sincerely yours

BURTON M. OLIVER
Supervisor, Thrift and Conservation
Los Angeles City Schools.

FEBRUARY was an unusually busy month at our headquarters. Mrs. Salmon had a class in bird study every Monday afternoon for five boy scouts and every Tuesday afternoon for another group of three scouts, all of whom were studying for their bird study merit badges. The time was divided between indoor study, with mounted specimens, and "field" work about the garden and grounds. Three groups of girl scouts, one of 18, one of 22, one of 30, came with their leaders during the month. Ably assisted by Mrs. Wait and Miss Kahn, Mrs. Salmon talked to them about birds and showed them through our nature museum.

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY announces the dates for the 1949 season of the four Nature Camps, - Maine, Connecticut, Texas and California. Each will have, as heretofore, five two-week sessions. At the California camp at Norden, the sessions will begin June 19, July 3, 17 and 31 and August 14 respectively. Mr. Floyd J. Brown, Director, will be assisted by many of the same instructors as in 1948. Information and enrollment blanks may be obtained from Mrs. Ethel E. Richardson, 887 Indian Rock Ave., Berkeley 7, California.

SCHOLARSHIPS. In this connection, it will be remembered that the main purpose of our Society's Educational Fund is to assist in the training of Nature leaders, - exactly such training as is available at the Audubon Nature Camp. To that end, the Society will again provide one or more Nature Camp scholarships, and the Executive Board has appointed a committee to receive nominations. Send your nominations, with information as to the nominee's experience and qualifications, to any one of the following:

Mr. Russell J. Smith, Chairman, Head of the Division of Education, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles 7;

Mr. Burton M. Oliver, Supervisor, Thrift and Conservation, Los Angeles City Schools, 1744 Shenandoah St., Los Angeles 35;

Mrs. Ruth T. McCune, Member, Executive Board, L.A.A.S., 707 Lark Court, Los Angeles 31.

SEVERAL of our members are planning to attend the Audubon Conference at Asilomar. As announced in the March Tanager, the dates are April 1-3. An inspiring program has been arranged. A copy may be obtained from our Secretary, Mrs. Hoffman.

OBSERVATIONS

Most birds are enjoying more favorable food conditions now, except the hummingbirds. Flowers are still scarce, so keep on putting out sugar-water syrup. Mrs. Thos. R. Shearer, Sunland, reports no hummers since the Christmas freeze, whereas all through past winters several hummers have fed at her stations. Many others report scarcity or absence of hummingbirds.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS: Dr. R. L. Taylor reports, at Hansen Dam, 44 white-fronted geese Jan. 19; 1 male, 1 female hooded merganser Jan. 26; several cinnamon teal, green-winged teal and buffleheads Feb. 2. At Elizabeth Lake Feb. 20, 1 whistling swan, 1 common and 1 lesser Canada geese. At Point Mugu, 5 white-fronted geese, 10 black brant, many ducks of common species.

SWIFTS, SWALLOWS: Feb. 20; Santa Paula, 30-40 Vaux swifts; Hansen Dam, violet green, tree and cliff swallows. (Dr. Taylor.) In Riverside, violet-green swallow (G. Ware). Many violet-green swallows over Los Angeles River (Mrs. M. B. Salmon).

OUZEL (or Dipper): In Santa Anita Canyon, Feb. 21, Mrs. Clara Weedmark found a pair nest-building. This strange bird, in which warbler and thrush-like qualities are blended, walks under water to find its food and places its nest of moss, rootlets and other vegetation where it is kept moist by the water's spray.

THRUSH, WARBLERS, FOX SPARROWS: Varied thrush found from foothills to beach parks. Lutescent warblers observed since Feb. 25. Fox sparrows generally more numerous this year.

GRIFFITH PARK: Justin Russell reports Wilson's snipe and kingfishers along Los Angeles River; roadrunners; 9 migrating Swainson's hawks, Feb. 27; pigeon hawk and 1 Macgillivray's warbler Feb. 13; many golden-crowned sparrows and 4 Lincoln's sparrows Feb. 20.

WINTERING OVER: Mrs. E. S. Pallos, Sunland, reports a pair of black-headed grosbeaks feeding on chicken scratch on her feeding tray for the past several months. An unusual record.

WATCH NOW FOR: Migration flights, vultures, Swainson's hawks, white pelicans; flycatchers, wood pewee, russet-backed thrush, Cassin's vireo, warblers, Western tanager and black-headed grosbeak.

CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY
Field Leader

THE STUDY CLASS

In announcing the April study class we may well briefly review the classes to date.

During recent years the Study Class has considered all the birds of Southern California, taking them by small groups. This season the Nature Study Committee planned on a series of general and fundamental subjects.

In October we studied Where Birds Come From, reviewing what is known of the development of birds from their reptile-like ancestors. Then, in contrast, the development of a bird from an almost microscopic cell in the egg till the fully formed young bird hatches.

At the November meeting a Tree of Animal Life was built up, adding branches representing the main divisions of the animal kingdom as each was described by some member, with the idea of showing the place birds occupy in the kingdom and their relationships to other large groups.

In January books and magazines on birds and related subjects were brought from our Society's library as we considered How We Learn About Birds. In February and March we had reports, illustrated with charts on Bird Structure to see just what makes a bird a bird. Papers on the Skeleton, Circulation, Bills and Feet, Wings, Feathers and Special Senses were presented and discussed.

The second hour of each class period has been taken up with quite different subjects. At the October meeting we had an hour of Nature poetry. In November, following the hour on the Animal Kingdom, we built up the Tree of Plant Life, adding branches, as members described them, to a trunk that sprang from the same base of unicellular forms from which the Tree of Animal Life started.

In January the structure and kinds of flowers were studied, with the aid of a large series of charts, and a little time given to pollen and pollination. The next month some families of Monocotyledons were taken. The ones chosen - lilies, palms, grasses and orchids - contain over 23,000 species, or about half of all known Monocotyledons.

Last month an hour was spent on the vitally important subject of Conservation, meeting in the County Museum, where the exhibit, Our Plundered Planet, served as a basis for the class study.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS
Chairman, Committee on Nature Study

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1949

THURSDAY, April 7. Field Trip: Tapia Park. Good birding there and along the way. We will return via the highway through the mountains and along the ocean, where we should see many water birds. Take our Tanner Motor Bus, 6th and Olive Streets, Los Angeles (park side), 8:30 A.M. Fare, \$1.65. Exact change, please. Bus will stop at Hollywood and Cahuenga Blvds. 8:40 and Ventura Blvd. at Laurel Canyon 8:50. Take lunch. Make reservation early with Miss Edith Crane, 4925½ Cimarron St., Los Angeles 37; telephone, AXminster 2-8458. Those driving go out Ventura Blvd. to Brent's Junction, turn left to Tapia Park. Returning bus will leave for Los Angeles about 2 P.M.
LEADER, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Charleston 6-1747.

SATURDAY, April 9 and TUESDAY, April 12. Audubon Screen Tour, "Alluring Alaska," by Rev. George M. Link. A film featuring wildlife of the Alaska wilderness, - among majestic mountains, forests and flower-filled meadows. Muir Junior High School Auditorium, 5929 S. Vermont Ave. The last tour of the 1948-49 series. For information, see special bulletin issued by Wm. K. DePue, Business Manager, 6055 Fair Ave., N. Hollywood.

THURSDAY, April 14. 7 P.M. Central Library, Fifth St. and Grand Ave., Los Angeles. First floor. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Goolden, First Vice-President, presiding. Motion pictures, in color, of the Audubon Nature Camps will be shown. Members who have attended any one of the four camps operated by the National Audubon Society are asked to tell their experiences and impressions. Study Period, conducted by Miss Louise Luckan; subject, the warbler family, using Kodachrome slides.

THURSDAY, April 21. 1:30 P.M. Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park. Mrs. Hood presiding. Kenneth E. Stager, the Museum's Curator of Ornithology, will present "the bird of the month." Floyd J. Brown, Vice-Principal, Thomas Starr King Junior High School, Los Angeles, will discuss the purpose and methods of the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden, to which he returns next June for his second season as Camp Director. He will show the beautiful motion picture, in color, of the Norden Camp taken last summer by Mrs. Laurel Reynolds.

SUNDAY, April 24. Field Trip: Tapia Park. 8:30 A.M. Drive out Ventura Blvd. to Brent's Junction (four miles west of Calabasas); turn left, 5 miles to the park. Take lunch. Leader. C. J. Parker; Atlantic 1-2490.

THURSDAY, April 28. Study Class, 10 A.M. to 12 Noon. Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. On the Pacific Electric Santa Monica-West Hollywood line. Get off at Fuller Ave. Walk one block west. George T. Hastings, Chairman, Committee on Nature Study, presiding. First Hour: How Birds are Classified and Why; Meaning of the terms Order, Family, Genus, Species and Sub-species, with definitions and examples. Bring your Hoffman or Peterson. Second Hour: Some of the Dicotyledons, - Roses, Pea family, Mints, Aster family. Bring lunch and spend the afternoon at the headquarters.

THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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

Maintained by the National Audubon Society, with the cooperation of its Southern California affiliated societies and branches. Regularly scheduled field trip, the second Sunday of each month, starting from the entrance at 9 A.M.
Advisory Committee: Chairman, Mrs. J. H. Comby, Southern California Representative, National Audubon Society; 200 Kratt Lane, Whittier. Telephone, Whittier 41-4236.