

# Western Tanager



PUBLISHED MONTHLY, OCTOBER TO JUNE  
BY THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE  
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No. 1

## REPORT OF THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1949

The following summary of the past year's activities of the Society is a selection from the annual reports of the officers and committee chairmen.

The regular program of the Society, as in other years, has included Field Trips on the first Thursday of each month, an Evening Program Meeting on the second Thursday, the Afternoon Program Meeting on the third Thursday, and the Morning Study Class on the fourth Thursday.

The AFTERNOON PROGRAMS were all of outstanding interest and value. All were illustrated either with kodachrome slides or moving pictures. At most of the museum meetings Mr. Kenneth Steger, Curator of Birds at the Museum, gave a short talk on "the bird of the month," illustrating his talk with specimens. The November meeting was a luncheon at Helm's Hostess House, followed by guided trips through the bakery and a discussion meeting in the parlor of the Hostess House. The December meeting was a delightful Christmas Party at Plummer Park, with a program of Nature Legends, Piano Solos, Whistling and community singing. Refreshments were served after the program by the Hospitality Committee.

Most of the EVENING PROGRAMS at the Los Angeles Public Library were also illustrated. After the address or moving pictures the first hour there was a discussion of some particular bird or group of birds led by Miss Louise Luckan the second hour.

The first hour of each STUDY CLASS at Plummer Park was on the place of birds in the animal kingdom, or the peculiarities of structure that distinguish birds from other living things, the second hour was usually on plants. The March meeting was held at the Museum in order that the members might study the conservation exhibit - Our Plundered Planet. Twenty four members of the Society prepared papers for the class meetings.

FIELD TRIPS were planned for each month, except December, but one had to be given up because of rain. For four of these trips special buses were chartered. The committee in charge of buses planned so well that a slight profit from the fares paid was turned into the treasury. There was an average attendance of 56 on the seven trips. Mrs. Daugherty, the leader, reports that a total of 167 species of birds were observed on the trips. She lists the following as of special interest:-

White Pelican	Canada Goose	Buffle-head Duck
Mountain Quail	Surf Bird	Wilson's Snipe
Burrowing Owl	Road Runner	White-tailed Kite
Bank Swallow	Blue Grosbeak	Lewis Woodpecker
Lazuli Bunting	Grasshopper Sparrow	

Beside the Thursday trips seven trips were taken on Sundays, one of which to Indio and Mecca was a long one, with members starting on Saturday. These trips were in charge of Mr. C. J. Parker.

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THE WESTERN TANAGER

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OFFICERS 1949-1950

President-Emeritus....Mrs. Mary B. Salmon  
President.....Mrs. Neil H. Lewis  
212 N. Wilton Pl., L. A. 4  
1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Florence H. Hamer  
2nd Vice-Pres.....Mrs. May Warrick  
Recording Sec.....Mrs. John Q. Burch  
Executive Sec.....Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman  
1112½ S. Orange Dr., L. A. 35  
Phone WALnut 8937  
Treasurer.....Mrs. C. J. Parker  
821 N. Garfield Ave., Alhambra  
Phone ATLantic 1-2490  
Curator.....Mrs. Willard Wikoff  
Historian.....Miss Christine Kemp

CHAIRMEN - STANDING COMMITTEES

Field Activities....Mrs. Caroline Daugherty  
Nature Study.....Mr. George T. Hastings  
Program.....Mrs. O. M. Stultz  
Conservation.....Mr. E. P. Terry  
Extension.....Miss Clara Pflager  
Publicity.....Mrs. May Warrick  
Library.....Mrs. Mary B. Salmon  
Membership.....Mrs. Maude McKnight  
House.....Mrs. May Wait  
Hospitality.....Mrs. Ada E. Manguson  
Publications.....Mr. George T. Hastings  
Youth Leadership.....Mrs. Mary V. Hood  
Evening Program....Mr. & Mrs. A. L. Berry

CHAIRMEN - SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audubon Screen Tours....Mr. Wm. K. DePue  
Educational Fund.....Mr. R. W. Julian  
Sales.....Mrs. Celia Christianson  
Special Conservation..Miss Ruth Scherfee

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Student (12 to 18 years) 75¢; Annual  
\$1.50; Life \$25; Patron \$100.  
Joint membership with the National  
Society, including subscription to  
Audubon Magazine, \$5.00  
Send membership applications, with dues,  
to the Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME

(Some of those listed here joined in early  
spring, but their names were sent to the  
National Society and only returned to us  
after the last Tanager was issued in  
May.)

Miss Mabel Blomberg  
17525 Tribune St., San Francisco  
Mrs. Edith Bloomfield  
P.O. Box 404, Reseda  
Miss Bernice G. Bryan  
1814 Wayne Ave., South Pasadena  
Mr. Clifford Burnham  
3811 Seneca Ave., L. A. 26  
Dr. Leopold Cregolio  
Rancho San Antonio, Chatsworth  
Mr. Benjamin B. Crombie  
1510 West Adams Blvd., L. A. 7  
Mr. Nicholas A. D'Arcy, Jr.  
6825 Marconi St., Huntington Park  
Mrs. Margaret Edmundson  
412 Date Ave., Alhambra  
Miss Sarah Ellis  
10531 Garwood Pl., West Los Angeles  
Dr. Carolyn S. Fisher  
6927 La Press Dr., Hollywood 28  
Mr. Grant J. Gerson  
109 S. Sherbourne Dr., L. A. 36  
Mrs. Albert Hackett  
10664 Bellagio Rd., L. A. 24  
Mrs. Gladys C. Hooten  
346 N. Lafayette Park Pl., L. A. 26  
Miss Alice Lecklider  
923 14th St., Santa Monica  
Miss Evelyn J. Paxton  
734 N. Ardmore Ave., L. A. 27  
Mrs. James J. Perley  
2673 Dundee Pl., L. A. 27  
Mr. G. Edward Quandt  
4150 Garden Ave., L. A. 26  
Mr. Ray Rogers  
135 E. Los Angeles St., Monrovia  
Mrs. Richard Rosson  
16032 Valley Vista Blvd., Encino  
Dr. Calla Starbuck  
1363 Lucile Ave., L. A. 26  
Miss Christine M. Thomas  
1607 Maltman Ave., L. A. 26  
Mr. Edward Vaughan  
908 White Knoll Dr., L. A. 12  
Miss Marjorie Walther  
10361 Lemon Ave., San Fernando  
Mrs. Fred Yule  
2308 N. Orchard Dr., Burbank

As we have done for the past eleven years, our Society took part in the National Christmas Bird Count, of the Audubon Society. From the Los Angeles area we reported a total of 138 species and 24,613 individual birds seen by 39 observers who went out in 17 parties. While this may seem a very large number, actually there were fewer species seen than the year before.

Under the Youth Leadership Committee two courses were conducted. One for boys and girls on five Saturday mornings at the museum, followed by a field trip to the San Gabriel Sanctuary. 153 young people were registered in this course, and the attendance was high throughout. The second was for leaders of youth groups and was of six evening meetings with a field trip concluding the course. 79 were registered in this course. The first course was to familiarize students with the birds of our area, the second to teach methods of teaching all phases of nature. Conservation was stressed in both courses. The chairman of the committee, Mrs. Neil Lewis, was in charge of both courses. Much of the planning and of the actual work was done by our president, Mrs. Mary Hood. They were ably assisted by some fifteen other members of the society. A fee of 25¢ was charged each of the students in the morning group, of \$1.00 of those in the evening group. Materials furnished the students were worth considerably more than the fees charged, but as the Society received some of it free, a profit of \$43.08 was turned over to the treasurer.

Through the Extension Committee kodachrome slides from our collection of over 650 were loaned to ten organizations. In addition Mrs. Hood loaned slides from her own collection to other groups. A class in Nature Study as an In-Service Training Class was given to Los Angeles teachers by Miss Ruth McCune. Other members of the Audubon Societies, garden clubs, scout groups, and others. Two junior

members gave instruction on birds in their biology classes in high school. Bird classes for scouts have been given in several places and individual boys and girls have been helped in bird study at Plummer Park and elsewhere.

From our Education Fund, scholarships to the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden were awarded three young women. A full scholarship of \$100.00 was granted a graduate student at U.C.L.A. who acts as counselor for youth groups; a half scholarship was given a teacher in one of the junior high schools, a member of our society and a leader of junior nature groups; another half scholarship went to a worker in one of the city playgrounds.

Our Library at Plummer Park now has 202 books on Birds and on other phases of nature, as well as many magazines, pamphlets, and government bulletins. Ten books were received as gifts, and two purchased. The librarian reports that two books are missing -- Mammals of California, and Bird Notes Afield. She hopes that these may be returned promptly. Members desiring to borrow books may do so at the class meetings at Plummer Park, or will receive them if they call the librarian, Mrs. Salmon - GRanite 9312.

The Press Chairman, Mrs. Florence Hamer, sent out 400 notices of the meetings of the Society to four major and ten smaller papers. In addition enough copies of the calendar sheet from the Tanager were mailed each month to the Public Library to supply all the branch libraries.

Mrs. Erna Comby, Chairman of the Conservation Committee has been very active in the work of conservation in the state. She has worked to help preserve the bird sanctuary at Carlsbad, and that on the San Gabriel River. She has worked for the proposed sanctuary at Playa del Rey and for the Primitive Wilderness area in the Prairie Creek region of the Angeles National Forest. She gave conservation talks before many groups, including sportsmen. She was recently reappointed to the Natural

Resources Section of the Southern Council of the California State Chamber of Commerce.

For the fourth consecutive year a Screen Tour Club was organized that offered members five illustrated lectures, all of them of great beauty and interest. The membership in the club was the largest so far. From the membership dues a profit of \$207.96 was realized and placed in our educational fund.

At the end of June our membership was 627, compared with 558 at the beginning of the year. The 161 new members joining was the largest number we have had in any one year. 92 names had to be removed from our roll. Of the members, 268 are annual members of our local society, 344 are joint members of our and the national society, and 15 are student members.

The Treasurer's report is very satisfactory. The balance on hand at the beginning of the year was \$343.87, at the end of the year it was \$596.01. In addition there is \$348.43 in the educational fund. The chief source of income is always from memberships, - \$1143.91 this year. Other sources of income were the sale of books, check lists, leaflets, and nature games - \$214.36, profit on the luncheon at Helm's Bakery - \$48.20, and from the leadership course - \$43.08. The largest item of expense was for the Tanager, - \$481.31, nearly all for paper, mimeographing, and mailing. No salaries are paid, but necessary expenses of the officers and committees are paid. These, postage, supplies, etc., together with the cost of the Christmas party, insurance on our projector, printing of publicity cards and other items totalled about \$230. For books, Audubon leaflets, nature games, and check lists, - \$245.50, but we still have on hand some books and a good supply of check lists. Nominal amounts were paid some speakers and some charge was made for the films, making a cost of \$43.30. Membership in the Save the Redwoods League, the County Museum Association, and the County and State Arboretum came to \$22.00. Also

from the amount reported for memberships \$196.00 was sent to the National Audubon Society for joint memberships.

Nine numbers of the Western Tanager were issued. The mailing list increased from 570 to 626. Besides being sent to all members, copies are exchanged with several other societies, including one in Ontario and one in Honolulu. With the Tanager there has gone out each month from October to May the calendar of Society meetings. For the past five years the Tanager has been edited by Miss Laura Greely, who also served as Editor for the year 1940-'41, at which time she was also president. As editor, Miss Greely has set a high standard, has been absolutely faithful and extremely painstaking in her work. And in addition to the excellent work she has done she has endeared herself to all who have worked with her by her gracious personality. The regret the Society feels in losing Miss Greely as editor is made more poignant by the fact that it is poor health that has forced her to give up the work she loved and from which we have all profited.

In closing this summary special tribute should be paid our retiring president, Mrs. Mary V. Hood, who by her energy and enthusiasm has done so much to make this such a successful year. We are very glad that as she resigns the presidency, she takes up the work of Chairman of the Youth Leadership Committee, and will direct this very important part of our work the coming year. The gratitude of the Society must be expressed to both Miss Greely and Mrs. Hood for their work this past year, and for the many years they have given so unselfishly of their time and effort.

And now we have surveyed the work of the past year, - what are we going to do about it? Our program chairman, field leaders, study class leaders, and others are planning for a profitable year for all our members. The least we each can do is to take advantage of the good things offered us and attend all the meetings and trips. Then let us spread the work of the Society to others by bringing them to the meetings and inviting them to join. So let us make the new year the best yet,

## OBSERVATIONS

After such a cruel winter season our birds have made much of the favorable conditions for abundant food and good nesting, of the late spring and summer seasons.

WATERFOWL: Reported to have had a very successful nesting season in the north and should return in abundant numbers.

WOOD IBIS: These shy and wary White Storks-Wood Ibis are back in the Carlsbad area. Mrs. Leola Doner, of Vista, reports seeing 13, on July 30, just south of the Maxton Brown Refuge. The C. J. Parkers saw 7, on July 31, along the mouth of the Santa Margarita River, near Carlsbad. Both parties report the Maxton Brown Refuge very dry and desolate looking with only a few spots of open water.

BLACK-NECKED STILTS: Numerous along the Coast Lagoons, July 31 - Parkers.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY: Mrs. Alma Stultz reports a good general nesting season, and we will all be happy to know a pair of White-tailed Kites raised 2 young, successfully, within that area. The now rarely found Yellow-billed Cuckoo also raised 2 young, and the Long-tailed Chats nested there and were found more numerous this season than for many years. The Cardinal population increased nicely as well as many other species...all enjoying the abundant food found within the area.

FOOTHILL AREA: Valley Quail have had a fair nesting season...Arizona Hooded Orioles have had a most prolific nesting. My feeding station started with 2 pair. Now I have 14, mostly immatures. Dorothy Groner and Marg. Parker report two different pairs feeding young on August 14.

HUMMINGBIRDS: No doubt but that Anna's population was sadly cut down by last winter's freeze, but in most areas they are reported coming back very well.

WATCH NOW FOR: Returning Shorebirds and Ducks. Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Audubon's Warblers, Gambel's, and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

Caroline H. Daugherty

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Summer vacation days are over. Whether vacation has been in the mountains, or at the shore, with friends in cities, or whatever change of routine, if we have had that moment of freedom described by John Muir where "life seems neither long nor short, and we take no more heed to save time or make haste than do the trees and stars," then we are refreshed to come back to the round of daily living and take our place in the Balance of Nature. There are many indications that man is being a very destructive force to the Balance of Nature. It is the responsibility of all those aware of the facts to join forces for conservation. Ferdinand S. Ruth, head of biological sciences of the Monterey Peninsula College, said at the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden that the Audubon Society is the most outstanding organization in this country on a non-profit basis for the work of conservation. In the coming year let each member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society support in full measure our purpose "To promote the study and protection of wildlife, plants, soil, and water."

Alice Lewis

## AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

The fifth annual series will be held in the Virgil Junior High School, 152 No. Vermont Ave., beginning on November 1. Membership in the Screen Tour Club will be the same as in past years, \$2.00. Send for further information, or money for membership to

Wm. K. DePue, Business Manager  
6055 Fair Avenue  
North Hollywood, California

## FIRST MEETING OF THE FALL

Thursday, October 6. Field Trip: Playa del Rey. To study Gulls, Terns, and Shorebirds. Take Playa del Rey Motor Bus, Subway Terminal Bldg., 423 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, 8:35 A.M. Get off at Vista del Mar and Culver Blvd. Fare 30¢ each way. Bring lunch. Bird walks start from bus stop - 9:15 and 9:30. Check for possible motor bus schedule change by calling Information, Tucker 7272.