

Western Tanager



PUBLISHED MONTHLY, SEPTEMBER TO MAY
BY THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 22

SEPTEMBER, 1955

NUMBER 1

WHOOPING CRANES

In the Tanager of last October we noted that Whooping Cranes were on their way from northern Canada to their wintering area in Texas and that it was hoped that the 24 that left the area in the spring for the nesting grounds somewhere in the far north would return and bring with them a few young ones. But in our January number we had to report that only 21 of the big birds had come back, none of them young ones.

Formerly those birds were numerous, nesting from Iowa and Nebraska far north into Canada and wintering from the Gulf States south into Mexico. Like the California Condor and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker these birds got on well till the coming of the white man, then civilized man did what the Indians never did, wrought such a decrease in their numbers that they were on the verge of extinction. Thanks to the work of the National Audubon Society and others interested in the preservation of our wildlife all of those birds now have a chance of survival.

In spite of intensive search no nest of the cranes had been found since 1922 until this summer. Last summer a searching party flying over parts of northern Canada where it was suspected the birds might nest spotted several of the big white birds in an area of small lakes and swamps and it was presumed they were nesting in the area. On May 18 of this year Mr. William Fuller of the Canadian Wildlife Service flying with two men from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service over a wilderness area south of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories spotted a pair of Whoopers and a nest near the Sasa River. A few miles to the north they discovered a second pair of birds near a nest. A third nest with one egg and a single crane in flight were also located. Then, to answer questions as how best to protect these rare birds, a party of three men, Robert P. Allen, research ornithologist of the National Audubon Society, who had been studying the cranes for ten years and is the author of the Society's Research Report, "The Whooping Crane", representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service set out through the almost impenetrable wilderness to the place where the birds were nesting. Starting from Fort Smith, south of Great Slave Lake they toiled through a country where not even Indian trappers penetrate in summer. Twice after gruelling effort by canoe and on foot they were obliged to turn back to Fort Smith. A third attempt succeeded in landing them by helicopter in the area where the nests had been located. Struggling through dense thickets and deep mud, through a forest where great swarms of mosquitoes, black flies and deer flies attacked, they found the cranes, adult and young. (Mr. Allen estimated that he had more than 6,000 mosquito bites). They studied the habitat of the birds, the available food supply and the wild life of the region. Later Mr. Allen, Mr. Fuller and John O'Reilly made a survey by plane of the area and discovered that two pairs of cranes had two well grown young each. Other cranes may have been nesting in the same general area without being located.

The Canadian Government will restrict some 2,400 square miles to

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THE WESTERN TANAGER

Published monthly, September - May by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. \$1.00 per year, free to all members. Editor - George T. Hastings, 517 Euclid St., Santa Monica, 'Phone Exbrook 5-1137.

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

Organized 1910 Incorporated 1951
"To promote the study and protection of birds and other wildlife, plants, soil and water."

MEMBERSHIP

Joint with the National Audubon Society, - includes subscription to Audubon Magazine, Regular \$5.00; Sustaining \$10.00; Active \$25.00; Supporting \$50.00.

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Tuesday Eve. Meetings....Mr. Arnold Small
Thursday Field Trips

Saturday Trips.....Miss Ethel B. Craig

Sunday Trips.....Mr. James Clements

The Western Tanager....Mr. Geo. T. Hastings
Youth Training.....Mrs. Allen M. Hardt

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to Audubon members and friends with this first Fall issue of our little publication. I hope you all had some kind of holiday through the summer.

Old Nicolas Breton's "Almanac" says: "If September first be dry, it promises a dry Autumn". But we hope for showers of blessings by and by, and new green growth outdoors for birds and trippers for the regular three Field Trips per month.

In addition to the previous two Indoor Meetings, there will be an Evening Meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 8 o'clock in Long Hall of Plummer Park. Thus all members have an opportunity to choose some outing or meeting with Audubon groups.

It occurred to me, beginning another season of meetings and working together that it is as though I ran to catch up with a smoothly-rolling light wagon, with hands extended to help me in scrambling aboard to the driver's seat. There the reins are gently but firmly placed in my hands; but the former driver is there to assist when needed, and she continues a vital part of the Society's work. The vehicle, with trained crew, has never indeed stopped since set in motion, except for a brief pause to exchange workers from time to time. And we have only to pull together to reach our desired objectives; doing what we can to promote conservation and enjoyment of the great world of nature.

Grace Harvard Phillips

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND

Thursday, October 6, first program meeting.

Saturday, October 8, field trip.

Tuesday, October 11, evening meeting at 8 in Plummer Park.

Thursday, October 20, field trip.

Sunday, October 23, field trip.

Thursday, October 27, study class.

The full program for these meetings and trips will be given in the October Tanager, but plan now to attend as many as possible; they will all be worth while.

With very great regret we announce the death of Miss Martha Gilbert on Aug. 12th at her home in North Hollywood. Miss Gilbert joined the Society in 1931 and was a regular attendant at our meetings until ill health prevented her coming out.

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
IN 1954-1955

As the Society begins its 46th year we look back over the year past to summarize some of the accomplishments and events as reported by the officers and committee chairmen in their annual reports.

At the beginning of the year, the President, Miss Bessie Pope, expressed the hope that our membership might soon reach 700. This goal was passed by the middle of the year. She reported that the year was very successful as we gained in influence as well as in numbers.

The Registrar of Members, Mrs. Charlotte McBride, reported a net gain of 100 during the year, the greatest yearly gain in our history, making our membership at the end of June 767. Of our members, 7 are Honorary, 6 Complimentary, there are 34 local Life members, 3 Life members of the National Society, 26 Sustaining, 2 Joint Active and 1 Patron member.

With the deepest regret we recall that we lost ten members by death during the year.

The Treasurer, Miss Leoti Fisher, tells us that total receipts for the year were \$4085, of which \$1122 was from dues and \$2020 from the Screen Tours. Against this there were disbursements of \$4187, of which \$1545 was the cost of the Tours, \$855 was spent on the Tanager, \$179 for the Year Book, and \$500 went for scholarships to send teachers and youth leaders to the Audubon Camp at Norden. Our bank balance was \$1221.56 at the beginning of the year, \$1118.24 at the end.

The Executive Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Patterson prepared the Yearbook which was sent to all members in September, took care of all correspondence, including letters sent for the Society to legislative and other groups regarding matters of conservation and in addition attended the Planning Meeting of the National Audubon Society at Santa Ana. The Recording Secretary, Mrs. Bess Hoffman kept the records of the meetings of the Executive Board at which the business of the Society was transacted.

The Program Chairman, Mrs. Grace H. Phillips planned the 7 afternoon meetings and the morning study classes and presided at all of these. The attendance, while larger than a year ago was not as large as

warranted by the excellent programs.

Field trips were taken on the 2nd Saturdays, 3rd Thursdays and 4th Sundays of each month from October through May, planned respectively by Miss Ethel Craig, Mrs. Neil Lewis and Miss Dorothy Groner. Half of the Thursday trips were by chartered bus, the rest by auto caravan. 127 different individuals attended the Thursday trips, about as many more the others. The largest number on any one trip was that of the week end of January 22-23 to the Salton Sea area, 70. Trips were planned so as to visit as many types of habitat of our area as possible. Besides over 100 species of birds seen on the Thursday trips, wild flowers and trees in the canyons and mountains or on the desert and the plants of the Huntington Gardens and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden were enjoyed.

During the year our check lists were revised and three new ones published; one a complete list of all birds of our area arranged systematically, a second a list of the birds ordinarily found arranged alphabetically for beginners, the third a study list with the birds arranged by habitat. These lists were prepared by a committee headed by Mr. Reginald Julian and Mrs. Mary Hood.

As we have done for the past 17 years, we took part in the National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count. Mr. James Clements had the help of 81 members in counting over 30,000 birds of 154 species.

Many members have given instruction to young people, especially Girl and Boy Scouts, and have given illustrated lectures on birds, nature and conservation to various groups. Mrs. Charlotte McBride was chairman of the Youth Work Committee and also had charge of several groups of boys and girls. Mrs. Mary Hood did much along this line and also helped plan and conduct the Nature Leaders' Workshops, which this year were under the direction of the City Recreation and Park Department. A dozen and more members have helped at Audubon House which Mrs. Irma Hecht, the Curator, has kept open two afternoons a week for general visitors and groups of young people and has opened by appointment for groups on other days. Plans for remodelling and redecorating Audubon House have been made by Mr. Robert Sandmeyer, work on this project will be completed this

(Continued on Following Page)

The Society in 1954-1955 -- continued.

year, we hope.

Mr. Robert Blackstone, Conservation Chairman, has kept the Society alerted to proposed legislation affecting conservation. He has had an article in the Tanager each issue. He has written in our name to national and state legislators to give out views on measures affecting national and state parks and wildlife.

Mrs. Nurtha Dunn was chairman of the Screen Tours Committee which planned the five evening and five afternoon tours. These were very successful with a large attendance and turned in a profit of \$475, part of which was spent for the scholarships at Audubon Camp and part for permanent equipment for the Society.

Our very enjoyable Christmas party was in charge of the Hospitality Committee, of which Mrs. Paul Dodds was chairman. Besides the enjoyable program and the social time, there were tables where materials of interest to nature lovers were displayed. One of these was in charge of Mrs. Alma Stultz of the Audubon Center at El Monte, the other of Mrs. Celia Christianson, who also was in charge of sales at all of our meetings and at the Workshops.

The Society has never had better press notices. To secure these Miss Gudrun Pepke sent some 250 notices to all the daily and weekly papers of our area.

The Editor reported that the Tanager had a greater number of pages than in any year before. Besides notes and articles of general interest, a half page of Conservation Notes and reports of meetings, classes and trips under the heading "What's Gone On In The Society", written by the Historian, Mrs. Olive Alvey, there was a half page or more of Observations, written by Miss Ruby Curry.

WHOOING CRANES continued from Page 1
 low-flying airplanes and helicopters and will make every effort to see that the cranes are not disturbed in their breeding area. While it is known that many dangers face any young bird it is hoped that when the cranes return to the Arenas Refuge on the Texan Gulf, there will be 21 great white birds and at least 4 golden brown young ones.

We have to thank our member, Miss Mary I. Dick for the articles by Mr. O'Reilly in the New York Herald Tribune, on which this account is based.

THOSE WHO SERVE

You will notice on the list of our new officers and committee chairmen that many of the names are the same as last year, but a few changes are seen. After two years as our very efficient and gracious president, Miss Bessie Pope is succeeded by Mrs. Grace H. Phillips. Miss Pope will serve as chairman in charge of the Screen Tours, a position filled so very successfully last year by Mrs. Nurtha Dunn. Our new president is well known to us as last year she was in charge of the afternoon programs and morning study classes. One of the most exacting positions in the Society is that of Treasurer. Miss Leoti Fisher has served us well this past year and in addition helped greatly with the Screen Tours. We regret that she is unable to continue, especially as poor health is largely responsible for her relinquishing the work. Mrs. Dunn was not only in charge of Screen Tours last year but was also our First Vice President. This latter position will be filled by Mrs. Paul Dodds who will at the same time continue as Hostess Chairman. Mrs. Celia Christianson has had charge of sales for the last six or seven years. Few of us realized the time and effort she was putting into her work, attending all the afternoon and morning meetings and meetings of the workshop, bringing supplies of our publications and of National Audubon material and bird books ordered by members. We owe her especial thanks for faithful service. Miss Dorothy Groner, after planning and often leading the Sunday field trips, is giving up the chairmanship in favor of Mr. James Clements, who last year had charge of the Christmas Count, but we can be sure she will still be helping with the trips. Other new names are those of Mr. Arnold Small, who takes charge of the evening program meetings and Mrs. Kay Hardt, who brings to the Youth Training work the same fine enthusiasm Mrs. McBride displayed in the work, and Miss Esther Johnson, who will be our Treasurer.

To all those who have served so acceptably our sincere thanks; to those who begin new work for us our best wishes; and to all who have and continue to serve the Audubon cause, our continuing gratitude.

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Mr. William C. Adams,
1341 Kildare St., Lancaster

Mrs. Paul Armour,
44639 No. Beech St., Lancaster

Miss Ellen M. Betz,
564 Dayman St., Long Beach

Miss June Blaine,
1069 Laguna Ave., L.A. 26

Mr. Ralph T. Bloxon,
11828 Venice Blvd., L.A. 66

Miss Alice L. Burkett,
1045 So. Orange Grove, L.A. 19

Dr. William G. Caldwell,
5282 Los Feliz Blvd., L.A. 27

Mrs. Clara M. Clapp,
3926 Dalton Ave., L.A. 62

Miss Feda A. Campbell,
1121 E. California St., Glendale 5

Miss Grace S. Davenport,
1430 West 52nd St., L.A. 62

Miss Ann Dudley,
1435 Alvarado Terrace, L.A. 6

Mr. Arthur S. Erickson,
1974 DeMille Drive, L.A. 27

Mrs. Jennie Alice Friend,
8111 Halldale Avenue, L.A. 47

Mr. Robert Harrington,
470 - 19th Street, Santa Monica

Miss Debora S. Kellett,
2617 So. Barrington Avenue, L.A. 64

Mrs. Carrie Kessner,
1279 Muirfield Road, L.A. 19

Miss Virginia Lee,
Box 4923 Veterans Adm'n Br., L.A. 3

Mr. Philip E. Lewis
1238 Alameda, Glendale 1

Mrs. Rita Lifkis,
101 No. Martel St., L.A. 36

Mrs. Etta Frances McCune,
2708 So. Palm Grove Ave., L.A. 16

Mr. George H. Merrill,
7805 Flight Ave., Westchester

Miss Marie K. Page,
3806 Temple City Blvd., Rosemead

Mr. Robert F. Pickering,
172-A Golden Avenue, Hermosa Beach

Mrs. William M. Reithard,
400 Sycamore Glen, Pasadena 2

Miss Astrid Rognes,
127 No. Hoover Street, L.A. 4

Mr. Stephen Rosanski,
12129 Ivy Place, L.A. 64

Mrs. Margaret N. Spalty,
1565 West 50th Street, L.A. 62

Mrs. Lucile P. Strike,
2600 Wilshire Blvd., L.A. 6

Mrs. Rosaleen Timmons,
4530 Avenue 41, L.A. 65

Miss Marguerite L. Todd,
457 So. Bonnie Brae St., L.A. 57

Miss Madelyn Welch,
5932 Damask Avenue, L.A. 56

Mr. David R. Williams,
6053 Vantage Avenue, No. Hollywood

Mr. Ernest J. Willoughby,
1102 Cedar Street, Santa Monica,

Miss Jacqueline Wonsetler,
582 - 35th Street, Manhattan Beach

Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Windle,
15825 Denker Avenue, Gardena

Mrs. Blanche O. Zweiger,
1435 Alvarado Terrace, L.A. 6

JUNIOR AUDUBON

Early in the summer Mrs. Kay Hardt organized a Junior Audubon Club among the children at the Arroyo Seco Playground. Besides studying nature about their meeting place they made trips to parks, museums and the beach. They also completed several nature craft projects. We give a few excerpts from reports made by 11 year old girls.

"Dear Editor:

Our club has had a very active summer. Some of the children have made reports on what we did. Others have drawn pictures of what we saw on our hikes.

Nancy Furumura, Secretary"

"Our Seed Exhibit

Our club is going to have a seed exhibit in the Arroyo Seco Branch Library. It will show seeds and their travels. Some of the girls in our club are also working with seeds. They are stringing watermelon seeds to make necklaces. We also made tray favors for a hospital. We glued watermelon seeds in the shape of flowers on paper which came out very well.

Eva Acevedo"

"Southwest Museum

I thought it would be interesting to tell about the trip we took to the museum. We saw some Indian clothes. None of us thought that Indian clothes had anything to do with nature, but we were wrong.... The Indians' tools were practically made of nature. For eating and sewing utensils they used the bones of animals and shells. The Indians had to know a lot about nature to live.

Carolyn Healy"

CONSERVATION NOTES

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

For the present the threat to the monument has been averted. The Upper Colorado River Project, including the Echo Park Dam was passed by the Senate but not acted on by the House of Representatives before the adjournment of Congress. But the project will undoubtedly come up again in the next Congress. Here is a brief summary of the project. It is for power development, irrigation, and water storage, and, in addition, the proponents of the project stress the recreational value of the large lake that would be formed above Echo Park Dam and of the roads and trails to open the area for public use. The estimated cost of the project is over \$1,600,000.00. As estimates by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers for large projects have always been much below the actual cost, the final cost would almost certainly be more than three billion dollars. The proportion of the cost allotted to power development would make the cost of power much greater than in other areas; the amount for irrigation would be about \$2,000 per acre benefited, though the land would not be worth more than \$150.00 per acre; as to water storage, the Lower Colorado States, including California, would receive less water than they are at present entitled to; and as to recreation, the roads and trails can be built without the building of dams. The Wilderness Society of Washington, D.C. states "the project would destroy one of the unique, irreplaceable scenic and wild wonders of the world".

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL MONUMENT

A new threat comes from business interests in Indio that are pressing for a road through the Monument from Twenty-nine Palms to Indio. The National Park Service is opposed to such a road as it would cut through a fine stand of Joshua Trees for the preservation of which the monument was created. "The National Park Service opposed spending its own money to build a road which is of no value and of some detriment to purposes for which the monument was established, in order to provide Coachella Valley communities with a short-cut road without local expense."

OBSERVATIONS

Ruby Curry

Members are requested to send notes on unusual or interesting birds or bird behavior to Miss Ruby Curry, 1895 Hill Drive, Eagle Rock 41.

HAWKS: Red-shouldered, Sycamore Grove, July 13 (K. Hardt)

QUAIL: Valley, covey of 17, several young, Eagle Rock, Aug. 1 to date (R. Curry)

COOTS: Adult and young, Maxton Brown Sanct. Oceanside, late July (Grace Phillips)

SHORE BIRDS: Killdeer, a pair with 3 young, La Crescenta, late July, parents fluttered about with "broken" wings, later led young away (Bonnie Green); Black Turnstone, 12, on an anchored boat, Santa Monica Bay (G. Hastings); Long-billed Curlew, K. Hardt reports hundreds in field near Tempe, Ariz.; Apr. 26; Hudsonian Curlew, Mr. and Mrs. George Lash saw over 75, Inglewood Park Cemetery, May 1, the caretakers told them the curlews have been coming for the past 4 years, often 200, staying through April.

GULLS, TERNS: Parasitic Jaeger, Venice, May 15 (Clara Splitter); Least Terns, about 25 pair nested on flats south of Ballona Creek (R. Blackstone)

PIGEONS: Band-tailed, nesting in eucalyptus, Sycamore Grove, May 1 (K.H.); feeding on green elderberries, Eagle Rock through first week of Aug. (R.C.)

OWLS: Barn nested on ground south of Ballona Creek, where a pair have nested for several years, in a clump of salicornia, 2 young in early June, left nest end of July (R.B.)

HUMMINGBIRDS: Black-chinned and Annas, yard near Sycamore Grove, take about a quart of syrup a week from feeders, (K.H.); Rufous in yard in Los Angeles, feeding on Jacaranda (Paul Landau)

HUTHATCH: White-breasted, North Hollywood, Aug. 7, (R. Julian)

VIREO: Hutton, building nest with kleenex, Vermont Canyon, Apr. 23 (Leona Hoogenboom)

TITMOUSE: Plain, coming for sunflower seed, July and early Aug., Eagle Rock (R.C.)

THRUSH: Hermit, near Los Feliz Blvd., Los Angeles, May 14, (Eleanor Bauer)

ORIOLE: Hooded, feeding daily on syrup, Santa Monica, male last seen July 31, young and female still here, (G.H.); Bullock, Eagle Rock, July 24 (R.C.)