

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA



THE Western Tanager

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BIRD BANDING IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS - 1955

Don Bleitz.

During 1955 I banded 975 birds of 44 different species. Banding as I do in the Hollywood Hills, I was surprised to trap my first Pileolated Warbler, a beautiful male, on September 2 just at dusk. A few days later, on the 17th I captured another male with an almost chartreuse-colored back and tail. On the 14th I captured and banded a Long-tailed Chat, an immature, and on the 28th the first Gambel Sparrow, just one week later than my friend, Bill Webb in La Canada, banded his first. Bill also trapped several Bell Sparrows this year. A very unusual record, since these beautifully marked little birds, which occur in typical greasewood chaparral areas, are seldom banded.

On October 5th, just at dusk, a Russet-backed Thrush, a beautiful male with pale gold eye rings and throat patch, entered my trap. In flight the light diagonal band across the almost transparent primary feathers was especially noticeable.

At Buckhorn Flat, on September 27, I banded 20 Mountain Chickadees along with Slender-billed and Pygmy Nuthatches. I failed to trap a male Williamson Sapsucker, Brown Creepers, Audubon Warblers, Western Bluebirds, Green-tailed Towhee and Fox Sparrows. Later, on November 12, I trapped two very differently marked Fox Sparrows together. One measured 7-1/2" in length with a wingspread of 10-1/2" and was much more of a slate color than the other, which was 6 inches in length with a wingspread of 9 inches. I was unable to identify them as subspecies to my entire satisfaction.

I also trapped and banded several Cooper Hawks and two Sharp-shinned hawks. One beautiful adult male Cooper Hawk had a wingspread of 27 inches, a length of 15-3/4" and a weight of 12 ounces. At the same time we had another Cooper Hawk in identical plumage which measured 32-1/2" in wingspread with a length of 18 inches and a weight of 17 ozs. The smaller Cooper was within the size range of the Sharp-shinned that I had trapped earlier. The Sharp-shinned and Cooper got caught in a large funnel trap which they enter after the smaller birds which have already been caught.

This year I banded nearly 100 Chinese Spotted Doves, the number of these has been increasing each year.

My friends were successful in trapping in the San Fernando Valley area a Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk, a Short-eared Owl and numerous more common species.

I have been banding some Anna Hummingbirds which come into our patio, then get caught at our large picture window when they attempt to leave. The other day I captured one which had a band I had placed on it two months before.

I have had a number of interesting returns this past year, including the first Gambel Sparrow I ever banded and also the second Golden-crowned Sparrow I banded.

THE WESTERN TANAGER

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George T. Hastings, Editor, 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 Society, includes subscription to Audubon Magazine. Regular \$5.00; Sustaining \$10.00; Active \$25.00; Supporting \$50.00; Student \$2.00.

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1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Paul Dodds
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WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING
NEW MEMBERS WITH GREAT PLEASURE

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810 So. Burlington Ave., L.A. 57
Mr. Carleton V. Bascom,
5650 Willis Ave., L.A.
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Miss Freda Segal,
654 Echo Park Ave., L.A. 26
Miss Helen W. Wadsworth,
5717 Harold Way, L.A. 28

With deep regret we record the death of one of our long time members, Miss May McGregor, who for several years has been living in Banning.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When next you go to Plummer Park, look at the west wall of the little building we call "Audubon House," dedicated to our use in 1937. On Sunday, January 29, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Milly Barret Chapter, presented a handsome bronze marker to the County of Los Angeles, and it is affixed to the wall, honoring the house as a landmark.

After an invocation prayer and a song, Mrs. Harriet M. Ross, Regent of the Chapter, made the presentation of the marker to the County; Mr. Stickney, Deputy of Supervisor John Anson Ford, accepting it with thanks in Mr. Ford's absence.

The Curator of the California History Division of the State Beaches and Parks, Mr. Glenn Price, gave a short history of the Plummer family and their Rancho, part of which is now Plummer Park. He told of the geniel Don Eugenio, whom he had known, and of his life in the early community of Hollywood, his love of Spanish dancing and how at 90 he danced a few steps of the traditional *jota*. As Mr. Price spoke, the newer buildings faded out and one saw the small frame house, the courtyard, corral and surrounding fields and the busy life that went on there.

A nephew of Mr. Plummer and his wife, with their son and his wife, were present. After the ceremonies outside the group moved into Fiesta Hall to see Spanish dancing and partake of refreshments.

The Plummer House is being painted this week and when again open for our use, will show several improvements and new exhibits. Join us there, won't you? And enjoy this little museum and meeting place of the Audubon Society. "This house is yours." Grace Harvard Phillips

AUDUBON CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

An announcement has been received of the opening of a new and larger headquarters building at the northern end of the Sanctuary area. The new address is 1000 North Durfee Avenue, El Monte. The telephone number has not been changed and is still FOrest 0-1872.

Mrs. Stultz, the Director, invites visitors any afternoon except Sunday.

WHAT'S GONE ON IN THE SOCIETY

Olive Alvey, Historian

Field Trip to Hansen Dam, January 19

It is a pleasant thing when a congenial group meets out of doors to study some phase of nature. We felt this on our birding trip to Hansen Dam. The weather was passably nice, our leader, Mrs. Caroline Daugherty, told us many interesting things about the birds we saw. We had lunch at tables overlooking the lake. Afterwards, Mrs. Phillips, to make new members feel at home, introduced all 34 of us without missing a single name.

Up where the tables are in a eucalyptus grove is where Mr. Hansen built his house and lived with his family for many years. It was a lovely setting for a home, ringed about by hills which are mirrored in the lake below.

Because of the noise of grading being done on one side of the lake, we did not see many birds. There were several kinds of ducks, including canvas-backs, some gulls, a few egrets and coots. One great blue heron caught two fish, just to show us how he did it, a lone kingfisher sat on his perch over the water, on a side hill a conclave of 36 crows were busy at some business of their own. We all enjoyed the day.

Field Trip of January 21 and 22
to Mecca and the Salton Sea.

50 members and guests attended this week-end trip. A master list showed 82 species observed, 4000 snow geese in flight with their accompanying gabble delighted us all. Several thousand baldpates and shovellers were seen floating on the Sea. On Saturday, long skeins of unidentified ducks and geese were seen stringing their way across the pink sunset sky. A pure white albino roadrunner was interesting, and is being accepted by a normal colored one. Many mountain bluebirds were seen. Mrs. McCune reported that her group had seen a solitary sandpiper. Jim Huffman's group saw large flocks of yellow-headed blackbirds. A Townsend warbler was seen on Miss Foulk's place in Mecca. A white-face glossy ibis was a new bird for a number of people. Mr. Edward O'Neill, general manager of the Salton Sea Refuge, gave a most interesting talk at close of our field trip. He said they are trying to

find plants that can be grown in the Sea to serve as food for the birds and that 8 varieties had been tried but all had died. Eel grass lived ten days, then turned black. Temperature readings taken last summer when it was 132 on the ground showed 98 degrees 3 miles out and 6 feet down. Avocados stop growing at 90 degrees. The Salton Sea being saltier than the ocean, creates another problem. A windstorm will cause the water to encroach on the land for an eighth of a mile, taking that area out of cultivation.

Dorothy Groner, Leader.

Study Class of January 26.

The meeting was rained out by one of the heaviest storms of the season. However, five members attended and Mrs. Bess Hoffman talked about ferns to the group.

Afternoon Meeting of February 2.

The scheduled program was postponed till another time. Instead, we saw a color film, "Realm of the Wild", put out by the Department of Agriculture. This showed some of the forests of the nation, with the abundance of wildlife that lives in them. One-third of the wild game and game birds of the United States live in these wildernesses. Many migrants among both birds and animals find rest, food and water in these protected areas.

The Park Service tries to keep the number of animals in balance with the food supply, by regulating the numbers to be taken during the hunting season. Some places provide enough food all year; in others, there is not enough in winter, so the number of animals must be kept down to assure continuance of the species.

Some animals, like the Big Horn Sheep, once almost extinct, have increased in numbers since conservation regulations have been enforced.

So, when we visit such places as Yellowstone with its abundant wild life and the Grand Tetons with its herds of elk, we realize the painstaking care that keeps our wild places natural homes for the wild life of this country.

On one of our field trips, Don Tomas Parker waxed poetic --

It's great to be an Audubon,
These birding trips are so much fun,
The folks so friendly, gentle, kind,
Bring joy to heart and rest to mind.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society
Assists the Den Mothers' Workshop
Irma S. Hecht

For the past ten years the May Company has loaned its Tea Rooms and Auditoriums to the Boy Scouts so that Den Mothers, leaders of Cub Scouts, might attend classes to assist them in their work. This year 1500 Den Mothers registered for the Workshop.

In November, Scout Headquarters asked the Audubon Society to help, since the April theme for the Cub program is Bird Watching. Mrs. Mary Hood, with the help of Mrs. Kay Hardt, our Youth Leadership Chairman, planned the program and the exhibits for the meetings. Five sets of exhibits, bird house, baths, containers of nesting materials, feeders with Audubon plant and bird cards and books were prepared. Mr. Robert Sandmeyer made five large colored posters of the Anna Hummingbird and of the California Jay. He made outline drawings of each and these, with descriptions of the birds, were mimeographed by the Scout headquarters to go in the portfolios the May Company had printed for each of the Den Mothers.

When the big day arrived, five teams went to the five May Co. stores. There they arranged the exhibits, explained them to the mothers and answered their questions. They told of bird feeding and watching and about the importance of sanctuaries and the necessity of protecting birds.

The five teams were:--

Downtown May Co. - Mrs. R. McCune, speaker, with Mrs. Kay Hardt, Mrs. C. Parker and Mrs. J. Kizler.

Wilshire May Co. - Mrs. N. Dunn, speaker, with Miss Bessie Pope, Mrs. C. Christianson and Miss C. Pflager.

Crenshaw May Co. - Mrs. Mary Hood, speaker, with Mrs. L. Hoogenboom, Mrs. Fulton and Miss Elsa Schwartz.

San Fernando Valley May Co. - Mrs. M. Wait, speaker, with Mrs. J. Yule and Mrs. I. Hecht.

Lakewood May Co. - Mrs. P. Dodds, speaker, with Mrs. O. Alvey, Mrs. G. Phillips and Miss E. Patterson.

Mrs. Phillips was requested to return to the Lakewood store the next day, when the Long Beach Council planned a similar

meeting. So she undertook the long trip and handled a large and enthusiastic audience single handed.

Our Society's thanks to all who helped. We hope the Den Mothers enjoyed it and that they will enjoy Bird Watching and that their Cubs will, too.

AUDUBON WEEK-END AT PALOMAR,
Friday, May 18 to Sunday, May 20

Reservations (which are limited for housing and meals) may be requested now by writing the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, and payment made upon receipt of the official program and registration forms in late March.

Cost for the week-end is \$6.50. This includes six meals, bed and mattress in heated cabins, 8 to 10 in a cabin. Accommodations separate for men and women. All participants provide their own blankets, linens, pillows, etc.

Those who prefer, can camp out at Palomar State Park. For further information, write State Park officials, Palomar Mountain, Palomar.

There is a conference registration fee of \$2.00.

Highlights of the program include a personally conducted tour of the Palomar Observatory, Star saunter, Early morning bird ramble, Field explorations and the initial showing of the color-sound film, "Clouds Over Ohio," by Carl Maslowski.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COOPER
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

To be held in Seattle, June 15 to 17. Members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society are especially invited to attend. The Pacific Division of the AAAS will be meeting during the first part of the week, so those planning to attend the Cooper Society meetings can take in meetings on other branches of science by visiting Seattle earlier in the same week. The Seattle Art Museum is planning an outstanding bird art exhibition. Several field and boat trips are being planned in connection with the meeting.

OBSERVATIONS

EGRET: Mr. W. Scott Lewis has sent a clipping from the Desert Sun of Palm Springs. One noon an egret landed by the swimming pool of the Oasis Hotel. It was so tame children walked up close to it and many guests left dinner to get pictures and movies.

GEESE: 12 unidentified flying over Venice marshes, Jan. 29 (C. Splitter), 9 white-fronted in the Refuge at Santa Barbara, Feb. 4. (Mrs. C. J. Parker).

QUAIL, ETC: 17 California visiting feeding tray daily, Eagle Rock (R. Curry), ring-necked Pheasant, a beautiful male in yard in Alhambra, Feb. 4-6, (Mrs. C. J. P.).

OWL: Horned at Glendale Sanitarium, being fed hamburger by Mrs. Alma Smith, a nurse. Miss R. Curry and D. Groner went to see it on Jan. 28 and fed it a rabbit purchased at a butcher's.

LARK: Horned, a flock of 25 at Venice marshes, Jan. 29 (Mrs. Clara Splitter)

NUTHATCH: White-breasted, Griffith Park,
Feb. 11, (Audubon Field Trip); Red-
breasted U.C.L.A. Botanic Garden, Feb.
8 (Mrs. C. S.).

WREN: House, U.C.L.A. Botanic Garden, Feb.
8, (Mrs. C. S.); Long-billed Marsh,
Venice marsh. Jan. 29 (Mrs. C. S.).

THRASHER: California, singing daily, Eagle Rock (R. C.), Griffith Park, Feb. 11, (Audubon Field Trip).

THRUSH: Hermit, U.C.L.A. Botanic Garden, Feb. 8 (C. S.), 4 in yard and bathing often from November to date (Mrs. R. L. Wendle). Chestnut-backed Bluebird, Griffith Park, Feb. 11, (Audubon Field Trip).

PIPIIT: Water, 30, Venice marsh, Jan. 29,
(C. S.).

WARBLER: Audubon, a dozen or more daily at
Gardena (Mrs. R. L. W.), Griffith Park,
Feb. 11, (Audubon Field Trip).

ORIOLE: Hooded, a female feeding on Flowering Maple (*Abutilon*) and bathing, Monrovia, Feb. 6. (Mrs. I. Rogers).

FINCHES, ETC: Pine Siskin, 20 in Griffith Park, Feb. 11 (Audubon Field Trip); Dark-backed and Lawrence Goldfinches at bird bath, Gardena at bird bath, Mrs. R. L. W.

Mr. Richard Alberts reports that on a recent visit to Havasu Lake in back of Parker Dam he saw 120 Mexican Grebes and 100 Common Loons in the water, a Horned Owl in a tree, 2 Ravens, 2 Black Vultures in flight.

BIRDS OF THE MOJAVE DESERT

The Apple Valley Bird Club was organized in 1949, largely through the interest of and with the help of our Mary B. Salmon. The Club has just printed a list of the Birds of the Mojave Desert. This list gives 143 birds, a few of them in general terms, as gulls, geese, and several are marked with (?) as being doubtful. Several are based on a single observation, as the great blue heron, of which a specimen was electrocuted on a high voltage line in 1950, and the white-faced glossy ibis reported once on a pond. The list is accompanied by mimeographed notes. From these we note that the Chuckar partridge introduced by the Fish and Game Commission in Lucern is now well established; that the Gambel Quail migrated from Mexico about 20 years ago, has become well established. One member of the club began feeding a group of three pairs with their young and the flock, coming mornings and late afternoons, increased to over 100. White Pelicans in migration have been seen in very large numbers. On a day in October 1949, a flock of between 1 and 2 thousand settled down along the river on the Hamann Ranch in the upper Mojave. One was seen to be wounded and was being circled by a coyote. The Hamanns captured the bird by throwing a blanket over it, took it home and for a month fed it on fish, then had the satisfaction of seeing it completely recovered and watched it depart.

Our congratulations to the Apple Valley Club on their good work, and to Rena Fowler and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, who compiled the list.

STARLINGS

Last mongh we noted the starlings found near Monterey and Sacramento. Now we quote from the Armadillo of the Fort Worth Children's Museum -- "About 1890 some 100 starlings were imported from Europe and released in Central Park, New York. From this beginning vast hordes now range over the entire country. Fort Worth plays host to a conservative estimate of 100,000 starlings during the winter."

CONSERVATION NOTES
Robert Blackstone

"Save Endangered Wildlife" will be the theme of National Wildlife Week, to be observed March 18-24 this year under the sponsorship of the National Wildlife Federation. When we speak of saving a species, we know, of course, that this almost invariably means preserving an adequate amount of a particular type of habitat. The continued survival of such species as the whooping crane, trumpeter swan, Everglade kite, California condor, Sonora pronghorn antelope and the desert bighorn, to mention only a few depends primarily on this.

The National Wildlife Refuges, some 260 odd areas in 45 states, Alaska and Hawaii, were established expressly for the protection of wildlife and their importance cannot be overestimated. We should have more, not fewer, of them and we should do all that is in our power to assure that they are administered so that their primary purpose is not defeated. You have already heard of the encroachments by the military and the recent opening of the Refuges to oil and gas leasing. It would seem that the needs of the military could be met without sacrificing our Refuges, and surely there are plenty of oil reserves outside the Refuges to satisfy our needs for years to come without destroying the remnants of our wildlife.

Our National Parks and Monuments, too, are important as sanctuaries for wildlife, including certain threatened species. The grizzly, for example, is making its last stand in this country in the wilder portions of Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks, and the desert bighorn is afforded much needed protection in Joshua Tree National Monument. We must be on the alert to see that our National Parks and Monuments are preserved as was originally intended and not "developed" to the detriment of wildlife and other resources.

No doubt many of you are planning a visit to a National Park or Monument this year at vacation time; why not plan your itinerary to include one or more of the wildlife refuges? Last summer I visited Malheur N.W.R. in Oregon and the National Bison Range in Montana; I learned much from these visits and enjoyed some excellent birding too. The public is welcome; in fact 5-1/4 million persons visited the re-

fuges for recreational purposes in 1954. Further information can be found in "Seeing America's Wildlife in our National Wildlife Refuges" by Devereux Butcher, which contains over 330 pages of useful and well-illustrated information for anyone planning such a trip.

A reminder on two important conservation bills in Congress, both introduced by Congressman Lee Metcalf of Montana. H. R. 5306, which would require Congressional approval for the disposal of any part of a national wildlife refuge, is one, and the other is H. R. 1823, to provide for setting aside 10% of National Forest receipts, up to 5-1/2 million dollars annually, for recreational areas and wildlife improvement.

In conclusion, I would like to pass on the following quotation - "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Edmund Burke

THE CATTLE EGRET - 1955

One of the unexplained mysteries of the bird world is the recent spread of the Cattle Egret around the world. In the National Geographic Magazine of August, 1954, Roger Tory Peterson gave an account of its appearance in the United States; apparently from northern South America, in 1952. In the last number of the Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, Alexander Sprunt, Jr. brings the story up to date. The bird has now been recorded from all of the Atlantic States except North Carolina, where it has probably been overlooked, across the Gulf States to western Texas and up the Mississippi to Missouri. It has also been recorded in Cuba, the Virgin Islands and the Canal Zone of Panama. So far it has been found breeding only in Florida, where last year at least 750 pairs nested. Mr. Sprunt estimates that there are at least 4000 of these Egrets in the United States. None have been reported in the western states, but we should watch for a bird much like our Snowy Egret, but with a yellow bill and grayish-yellow legs. If such a bird is seen, especially if in a field with cattle, it will be the Cattle Egret.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
OFFICERS -- 1955-1956

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1st Vice-President.....Mrs. Paul Dodds Exec. Secretary..Miss Elizabeth Patterson
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Treasurer.....Miss Esther Johnson Curator.....Mrs. Irma Hecht
Historian..Mrs. Olive Alvey
Registrar of Members....Mrs. J. L. McBride, 2224 Via Guadalana, Palos Verdes Estates

CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1956

March 1, Thursday, AFTERNOON PROGRAM MEETING. 1:30 in Exposition Community House, 3990 Menlo Avenue, corner of Santa Barbara Avenue in Exposition Park.

Book Reviews: "THE EDGE OF THE SEA" by Rachel Carson and "WILD AMERICA" by Roger Tory Peterson and the British ornithologist, James Fisher. The reviews will be given by Mrs. Irene Schmitz.

"Bird Songs in my Garden" will be rendered by Mrs. Roselynde Hutchinson, who has made an intensive study of bird songs and calls and will bring the bird music indoors to us.

March 6, Tuesday, EVENING PROGRAM. 7:45 in Long Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. R. Dudley Ross will lead a Symposium on Rare and Endangered Birds in North America.

March 10, Saturday, FIELD TRIP. To Audubon Center of California, 664 No. Durfee Avenue, El Monte. Meet at the Sanctuary gate at 9 A.M. Bring your glasses and lunch. A guide from the Sanctuary will take us on a tour of the area and to the newly located museum.

March 15, Thursday, FIELD TRIP. To the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, in Arcadia. A trip that will be scenic, informative and for very good birding. Our Tanner Motor Bus will leave Los Angeles from the Grand Avenue entrance to the Biltmore Hotel between 5th and 6th Streets at 8:30 sharp. Please have exact fare, \$2.25 round trip. Returning to Los Angeles by 3:30. If driving - go out Colorado Blvd. to Baldwin Avenue in Arcadia, turn right to Arboretum gate parking lot. Bird walk will start from the same entrance at 9:30. We will leave at 12, joining the Pasadena Audubon Society at County Park, near the corner of Huntington and Santa Anita, for lunch and program, followed by more birding.
For bus reservations, call Miss Edna Burt, 750-1/2 W. 113th St., L. A. 44, phone PLymouth 5-1044. Rain will cancel the trip. Leaders W. D. Quattlebaum and Caroline Daugherty.

March 22, Thursday, STUDY CLASS. Long Hall, Plummer Park at 10 A.M. Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum will talk on "Mocking Bird, Musician and Mimic." Mrs. Alice Lewis will tell about "Birds That Have Been Introduced Into This Country."

March 24-25, Saturday and Sunday, FIELD TRIP. To Cottonwood Springs. An overnight camping trip. If you wish to stay at a motel, the nearest are at Indio, 20 miles away and reservations should be made as early as possible. A fine place to study Desert Birds and early Spring Migrants.

All these meetings and trips are open to all who are interested.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

Dr. Harold M. Hill, color moving pictures and lecture, "WINGS AND TALONS."

Tuesday evening, March 13, 7:45 at Virgil Junior High School.

Saturday afternoon, March 17, at 2 P.M. in John Burroughs Junior High School.