

T H E

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

ELUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

Western



Tanager

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
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TREE FARMING

For three hundred years, the people of America have gained an abundance of wood products, game, sport and enjoyment from the vast forests growing on this continent. Today many of these forests still remain, carrying on their role as man's most versatile natural resource. It is important that they continue to serve the needs of present and future generations. Toward this end, multiple use of tree-growing lands must be considered, particularly the relationship of timber growing and harvesting to grazing, watersheds, recreation and wildlife. The forest industry is applying these management principles in growing timber as a crop on privately owned tree farms. This is true forest conservation because it means that the nation's forests can be both wisely used and perpetuated.

As our nation's economy continues to expand, an increasing amount of wood is required for lumber, plywood, pulp, fibers, chemicals and many other forest products. To help meet this demand, man and nature are working together to grow and harvest crop after crop of trees on millions of acres of privately owned forestland. These timbered areas are operated under a scientific system of modern forest management known as tree farming.

A tree farm is a privately owned area of forestland voluntarily dedicated to the growing of timber as a perpetual crop. All tree farm owners agree to protect their trees from fire, insects and disease, carry out a clean, systematic log harvest and grow new trees to replace those harvested. The tree farming concept recognizes the fact that a forest is not static, but is a living, dynamic unit..and that, given a chance, it will reproduce itself as a renewable natural resource.

This improved philosophy of forest management has not always been in existence. Early settlers were concerned about timber supply - but only in the sense that there seemed to be too much. Forests stood in the way of fields to grow food - and they were cleared away. Vast areas of trees were cut and burned to provide clear land for the building of roads and cities. As the nation's economy became more industrial, the timber that was once a nuisance became a necessary commodity. This was the beginning of the forest industry in America.

----from "Promise of the Trees."

"Forests are made for many men
That they may find their souls again;
And little leaves are hung on trees
To whisper of old memories.
And trails with cedar shadows black
Are placed there just to lead men back
Past all the pitfalls of success
To boyhood's faith and happiness.
Far from the city's craft and fraud
O forest, lead me back to God."

Mary Carolyn Davies

THE WESTERN Tanager

Free to members...Others \$1.50 annually
 Editor Emeritus.....George T. Hastings
 Editor.....Fern Shelford
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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 National Audubon Society in-
 cludes subscription to Audubon Magazine.
 Regular - \$6.50, Husband & Wife - \$10.,
 Sustaining - \$12.50, Sustaining-Husband
 & Wife - \$20., Active - \$25., Supporting-
 \$50., Contributing - \$100., Life - \$300.

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 4th Thurs. (morn)..Mrs. Maurice Alvey
 Publicity.....Mr. Warren Blazer
 Sanctuaries.....Mr. David R. Williams
 Screen Tours.....Mrs. Donald L. Adams
 Western Tanager.....Mrs. Fern Shelford

AUDUBON HOUSE -- Headquarters of the Los
 Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Mon-
 ica Blvd....HO 7-9495. Open Wednesday,
 Thursday and Saturday - 2-4 p.m., 3rd
 Wednesday - 7:30-8 p.m.; 4th Thursday,
 (members only) 9-10 a.m. - 1-4 p.m.

Librarian.....Mrs. Robert Landis,
 -- HO 3-9336

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The California condor is one of the
 five threatened species whose status was
 deemed critical enough to warrant the
 preparation and publication of Audubon
 Research Reports on them. The purpose
 of these reports, as is well known, is
 to provide information as to what action
 may be necessary to save these species
 from extinction.

The condor is of especial concern
 to us, since its range lies entirely
 within the state of California, and most
 of its nesting sites and the principal
 winter roosts are in the very "back
 yard", so to speak, of those of us who
 live in the Los Angeles area. The Sespe
 Wildlife Preserve, as you doubtless know,
 protects these vital sites, and the cost
 of employing a warden is shared by the
 U. S. Forest Service and the National
 Audubon Society.

The above considerations have made
 many of us feel that this society should
 take a lead in supporting the "Condor
 Sanctuary" by making a sizable contribu-
 tion toward the cost. You may recall
 that, at the start of this season, it
 was decided to reduce the size of our
 Year-book by leaving out the membership
 list, and the pledge was made that the
 money so saved would be used for conserva-
 tion. With this in mind the Executive
 Board, at its March 12 meeting, voted to
 contribute \$100 for condor protection,
 to be sent directly to Mr. John Baker.

This sum is of course only a very
 small portion of the annual cost, and
 the members of the Board felt that the
 membership of the Society would welcome
 an opportunity to contribute personally.
 They have therefore asked me to make an
 appeal to the members for contributions
 to swell this amount. Since we have not,
 in all these years, contributed directly
 to the support of this program, it was
 felt that our contribution should be as
 generous as possible.

If each member could contribute only
 a dollar, we would indeed have a handsome
 sum to turn over. So do help by sending
 that much at least to our Treasurer, Mr.
 Donald Adams, specifying that it be put
 in the "Condor Sanctuary Fund." Let's
 keep the condors flying.

Robert E. Blackstone

WINTER BUDS ON AN ELM TREE

In a little book I have been reading the author tells of "The Natural History of a Yard," describing his observations over a period of three years in a small yard in Chicago. The most noticeable feature of the yard was its one tree, an elm. Near the top was a cavity in which a pair of screech owls lived and raised young. Robins nested in the tree and sparrows perched there. A squirrel ran down and across the lawn or ran up to chatter at the owls. In his third year the author noted that "about the 20th of March small buds formed on all the branches of the tree, hundreds of thousands of them, wherever there was a leaf stem last summer there is now a bud." Probably he first noticed the buds at this time his first year, so looked for them, and found them, at the same time the following years. If he had looked on the 20th of December or October he would have surely found them. Even if he had examined the twigs in July he would have found buds, green at this time, just above the junction of each leaf with the twig.

Here in Southern California where so many of our trees are evergreen, winter buds are not so noticeable, but we do have our deciduous trees that form winter buds, and these are all worthy of study.

On the elm in my yard there are two kinds of buds; slender ovate ones of reddish brown color and fatter ones of a brighter color. Above every scar made by the falling of a leaf last autumn is a bud.

Near the ends of the twigs the first kind are about a quarter of an inch long, lower down they are shorter, and at the base of last season's growth they are less than a sixteenth of an inch.

The thicker buds are a trifle longer and usually are near the bottom of the twigs.

Examine one of these buds and you will note small, hard scales, overlapping from the base to the tip, four or five on each side of the slightly flattened bud.

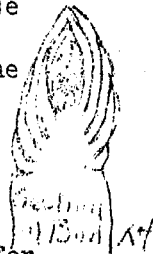
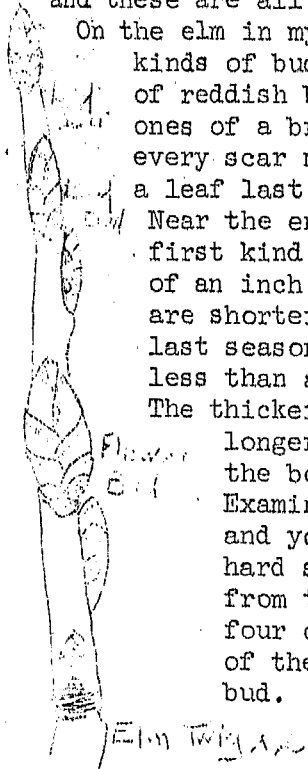
If you carefully remove these scales with a needle or knife point you will find that they cover similar, thinner green scales. After removing two or three of these a tiny leaf will be found, a perfect elm leaf about a sixteenth of an inch long, folded lengthwise along the midrib. Then another and still another and still another little leaf will be found till six or more are exposed. They and the scales grow from a short stem in the center of the bud. It is sometimes thought that the hard, brown scales are to keep the little leaves warm through the winter, actually they are to protect them from drying.

In late March or early April the buds will begin to open. On my tree those on the lower branches will all have opened and the leaves have grown to nearly full size before the buds near the top open. As growth begins inside the bud the scales are pushed off, the tiny leaves unfold and begin to grow and the stem to lengthen. As soon as the new leaves begin to enlarge tiny buds are formed in the angle each leaf makes with the twig. When the leaves reach full size these buds grow rapidly till by midsummer they are full size.

The fatter buds we noticed on the twigs opened before the leaf buds, probably before the middle of March. As their scales spread apart there appeared clusters of tiny flowers. Few of us ever realize that the tree is covered with flowers, as the individual blossoms are not over an eighth of an inch across. But examine one closely; there is a little reddish cup with a group of purple stamens pushed above the rim and two feathery white stigmas in the middle. These flowers, like the leaves, were formed 8 or 9 months before they opened and had rested all this time in the bud. In each flower bud there are 4 to 6 clusters of some six flowers each.

As with the elm, buds are formed on all trees in the axils of the leaves (except in palms and gymnosperms). These buds vary in size, shape, color, and number and arrangement of the scales in different kinds of trees. But for each species the buds are as characteristic as the leaves or flowers. The buds are a beautiful example of the preparation made by nature for the future.

George T. Hastings



CONSERVATION
By Otis Wade

Amongst the many bills introduced within the opening weeks of the new 86th Congress are some which are of special interest to conservationists. We would especially single out for consideration three bills - Ice Age National Park, New Wilderness Bill and the Youth Conservation Corps. The first of these authorized the establishment of Ice Age National Park within thirty-four Wisconsin counties in which portions of the terminal moraine left by the Wisconsin glacier are found.

The Wilderness Bill is being reintroduced with a few additional changes none of which alter the original intent of this piece of legislation which declares that it is the policy of the Congress to dedicate an adequate system of wilderness areas to the needs of the whole people. Continual changes in the wording of how this great project may be carried out will go on for a time but the eventual passage of the bill is assured during this session.

The third bill we mention authorizes the establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps to advance the conservation of timber, soil, range and recreational resources. The objectives of this bill are threefold: (1) to provide opportunity for healthful training and employment of young men in conservation work under the supervision of federal conservation agencies; (2) to provide immediate work opportunities for up to 150 thousand young men from ages 16 through 22 in areas removed from centers of population and existing work programs; (3) to accelerate federal conservation programs. The success of these three bills will mark a great advance in the aims and ideals of all conservationists.

The statehood for Hawaii measure contains no specific provision for the establishment of conservation agencies in the proposed 50th state. It does provide for the continued administration of Hawaii National Park by the federal government.

California Senate Bill 75 regulating highway advertising - billboards - came up for hearing March 10th; results at this writing not known. The California Roadside Council calls S. B. 75 "Moderate but Effective." It was drafted with careful consideration for county and municipal rights, local business needs, motorist convenience and other practical factors. Although it would affect only 10% or less of the total outdoor advertising the bill would nevertheless cause the removal of the majority of billboards where they are most offensive - that is, along rural highways. The bill is obviously very moderate and falls far short of the aims of those who would abolish all billboards. However, success with this bill will be at least a forward step and some billboards will indeed come down, whereas if defeated not one will come down and not a single mile of California landscape will be protected.

Also on our local scene is the matter of Emerald Bay legislation which has to do with the replacement of the present highway, which must eventually be abandoned, at the southern end of Lake Tahoe. There are two possibilities - that proposed by the State Division of Highways which involves, amongst other objectional features, putting a bridge across Emerald Bay, a particularly scenic feature of the area, as against a high-level route back from the lake shore. A resolution urging construction of the low-level Emerald Bay-spanning wilderness-destroying route has passed the Senate and is now before the Assembly. To date no hearing has been scheduled. If you wish to write your Assemblyman regarding this resolution refer to S. C. R. 13.

Over a museum doorway the purpose of the Parks is stated:

"The National Parks are part of our heritage as Americans. They inspire in us an appreciation of unspoiled nature, for here her timeless processes may work unhindered. They are irreplaceable treasures which give peace to our souls and generate in us pride and love of our country."

BIRDING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Arnold Small

Winter departed almost before it arrived this year. After the few brief storms in January weather over southern California can best be described as spring-like. Weather conditions during March were formulated by the Great Basin high-pressure system and a persistent Pacific high-pressure system. The Great Basin high forced hot dry winds (Santa Anas) south and west out of the deserts and through the mountain passes to southern California. The result was summer-like conditions in mid-March and temperatures in the high eighties during this time. This condition hastened the departure of winter visitants and speeded the arrival of transients and some summer residents.

The coastal Loon flight began somewhat early and departure of Glaucous-winged Gulls and Mews Gulls was largely accomplished before the end of February. Migrating waterfowl were seen to be moving north about two weeks early and many had departed our area by the first week in March. A single Wood Duck (drake) appeared on Johnson Lake in January and became attached to white feral duck there. This suggested that it might be the same individual which deserted McArthur Park sometime last fall, since that individual behaved in a like manner.

A single Snow Goose was present on the lake at Hansen Dam during most of the winter and a few Whistling Swans were on Elizabeth Lake during January and February. Migrant Turkey Vultures were noted early this year as were White Pelicans. The two Rock Sandpipers were still present at Ballona Creek March 10. One of the birds appeared to be moulting into nuptial plumage. The Brown Booby (now seen by scores of birders) was still at Martinez Lake north of Yuma February 21.

Migrant Tree Swallows and a small number of Rough-wings and Banks began to move through southern California late in September. Due to very high water at Ramer Lake, Imperial State Waterfowl Management Area near Calipatria on

February 21, more than 50 Common Gallinules could be counted in a small stretch of marsh.

The Robins remained scarce throughout the southland during the entire winter. Cedar Waxwings had largely deserted by the end of February.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE has submitted the following slate of nominees for the elective offices for the year beginning July 1, 1959:

President.....Mr. James Huffman
1st Vice-Pres.....Mr. Arnold Small
2nd Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Olive Alvey
Exec. Sec'y.....Mrs. Russell Wilson
Record. Sec'y....Mrs. Earl Mahaffie
Treasurer.....Mr. Donald Adams
Registrar.....Mrs. Helen Sandmeyer
Curator.....Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Historian.....Miss Gudrun Pepke

According to our Constitution the Nominating Committee (which this year is composed of Mr. Reginald Julian, Miss Bessie Pope and Mr. Otis Wade), will present the slate of candidates at all meetings in April and election will take place at the first regular meeting in May. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at any meeting in April, provided such nominations are supported by written petitions signed by at least fifteen members...

A few days ago we received a letter from Miss Abbie M. Allyn saying that her sister, Miss Harriet J. Allyn, had suffered a stroke on her way to attend our meeting last January 22 and had passed away on February 17.

Miss Allyn was over 91 years old and had been a member for several years. Her sister said that, although not strong enough to participate in the field trips, she greatly enjoyed the lectures and other activities at the Park, and the good fellowship of the members. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The last of the SCREEN TOURS will be the week of April 7. Let's ALL attend these to assure the series of going over the top.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME

Mrs. Roy J. Bauer,
157 S. Sujall Dr., Beverly Hills
Mr. Alexander Brick,
805 Cynthia, Beverly Hills,
Miss Rose F. Bussey,
3507 Hollydale Dr., L.A. 39
Mrs. Wm. G. Hamilton,
858 --3rd Ave., Los Angeles 5
Mrs. James A. Lighthipe,
3744 Orange Ave., Long Beach 7
Mr. H. B. Keeling,
5272 Veronica St., L.A. 46
Mr. George Marshall,
800 Bel Air Road, L.A. 24
Mrs. Eleanor B. Parsons,
521 Paseo de las Estrellas,
Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mr. O. L. Routt,
Box 46886 West Branch, L.A. 46
Mrs. Esabel Young,
9855 McBroom St., Sunland, Cal.

At the Thursday Morning meeting on February 26 the 35 members who attended felt well rewarded for the trip to Plummer Park. The story of the Whooping Cranes, by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was a real inspiration. It made the facts of conservation come alive, showing as it does what really can be done when people unite to save a species such as this. These birds are on the increase now. The film showed the home life of the Whooping Cranes and went with them on the long journey to and from the nesting grounds.

"Water Birds" by Walt Disney was also a delight.

----Olive Alvey.

The Thursday Field Trip of March 19 was an unqualified success. Edna Burt counted thirty under her leadership and Mrs. Hoogenboom tallied some 31 birds. While the wildflowers were not out in the numbers of recent years of heavier rainfall, there was a fairly representative showing. Phlox, ceonothus and wild buck--wheat were in bloom in the pass and the open grassy fields were carpeted with purslane and miner's lettuce. Amongst the birds a Nuttal's Woodpecker kept up an incessant drumming, Phainopeplas were feeding on mistletoe and pepper tree berries.

A pair of Red-tailed Hawks flew over, there were Tufted Titmice in quantities and plenty of other birds which one would expect to find in this particular type of habitat.

We were especially happy to have with us Mr. & Mrs. Parker of Alhambra and hope that they, as well as all the others, will make it on the Blum Ranch trip coming up this month.

Otto Wade.

DENIZENS OF THE DEEP FREEZE

On January 30 a screech owl was brought to Drumlin Farm Sanctuary at South Lincoln, Mass; it had been found in the road, apparently hit by a car. In examining the bird it was noted that its head hung completely limp and that both legs and one wing were stiff. The conclusion was that the bird was dead and the unfortunate owl was placed in the freezer kept for that purpose until someone had the time to make a mount of it.

Four days later when Dr. Wm. H. Drury, Director of the Society's Hathaway School of Conservation, next opened the freezer, he was greeted by a pair of flashing eyes and a snapping bill. There was the own - big as life and twice as handsome - looking exceedingly well-fed. Probably he never had it so good! Perpetual darkness and the inexhaustible food supply of this excellent recuperative ward was all his heart could desire. The freezer temperature was a comfortable 0 degrees (it was 5 degrees outside at the time). He was transferred to the out-patient department, warm, fat, and healthy until his eye recovered from the damage suffered by being hit by the car. Moral: Given an adequate food supply it doesn't much matter how cold it gets for an owl.

People get great enjoyment out of feeding winter birds and it is really true that food supply, not cold, makes the difference between survival or not.

----from Massachusetts Aud. Soc.
Bulletin.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

President.....Mr. Robert E. Blackstone, 10363 Calvin Ave., Los Angeles 25
Registrar of Members.....Miss Iola R. Moore, 278 Bronwood Ave., Los Angeles 49

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 1959

- April 7-11, SCREEN TOUR - Tuesday evening at Virgil Jr. High School, 152 No. Vermont 7:45 p.m. and Saturday afternoon- 2:30 p.m. at John Burroughs Jr. High School, 600 S. McCadden Pl. SUBJECT: "East and West from Hudson Bay." Arthur A. Allen, distinguished professor of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., captures sight and sound of bird life in Labrador, Hudson Bay tundra and Yukon delta. Puffins, guillemots and red-throated loons; ptarmigan and golden plover, dowitchers and godwits; whistling swans, emperor geese and long-tailed jaegers; strange songs and wild calls of the arctic summer. Share in the first discovery of a nest long sought by ornithologists.
- Exciting exploration for everyone.
- April 11 - SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Vermont Canyon Bird Sanctuary. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars and lunch and plan to attend the Screen Tour in the afternoon. --- Leader, Ethel Craig
- April 14 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m. sharp in Great Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. DR. MALCOM GORDON, of UCLA Department of Zoology will speak on "Ecology of Wildlife in Labrador" and show colored slides. Dr. Gordon is a world-renowned ichthyologist and ecologist as well as an ardent birder who has spent much time in Mexico, Central America and Europe in conjunction with his research work on fishes. ---Arnold Small, Chairman
- April 16 -- THURSDAY FIELD TRIP to BLUM RANCH. Bus will leave Grand Ave. entrance to Biltmore Hotel between 5th and 6th Sts. at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Fare \$3 please have exact amount. We go via Angeles Crest Hgwy. to near Acton, on to Blum Ranch. We will have lunch here. No cider this year but honey for sale. Orchard blossoms will greet us as well as many kinds of birds. A most delightful trip is assured. Make reservations early, with Miss Edna Burt, PL 5-1044
- April 23 - THURSDAY MORNING MEETING at 10:00 a.m. in Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. MRS. MARY V. HOOD will conduct this program, illustrating it with colored slides that she and her husband have taken. Mrs. Hood is a former president of the L.A. Audubon Society and has conducted the Workshop for the past 15 years. She is also president of the Los Angeles Zoological Society. --- Olive Alvey, Chairman
- April 25 - SUNDAY FIELD TRIP will be a new desert trip route which will take us thru
26 some of the best desert and migrant-bird areas in southern California. Group will meet Saturday, April 25 - 7:45 a.m. at Standard Station in Whitewater on U.S. 60,70,99, proceed to Paul Wilhelm's Thousand Palms Oasis. We will leave there about 11 a.m. and drive thru Indio to Cottonwood Springs in Joshua Tree National Monument for lunch. There should be a wealth of desert birds here. Leave here about 3:00 p.m. and drive thru Box Canyon to Mecca. From here down the east side of the Salton Sea stopping at a flood-water spillway for shorebirding. At about 5:00 p.m. we drive south to Calipatria and the Imperial State Waterfowl Management Area. There are excellent motel accommodations at Brawley but those who wish to camp will do so at Weist Lake near Ramer Lake on the Refuge, where we will see the evening Ibis flight and hear the marsh sounds, also the dawn chorus and study marsh birds. At about 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning we will drive to the south end of Salton Sea for more shore birding. Lunch and leave for home about 2:00 p.m. For further information call Arnold Small - VE 7-2272.