

T H E

Western



Tanager

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

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 26

May-June, 1960

Number 9

ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND BEYOND

By Herb Clarke

(Continued)

Allotted time being up, we headed east across north Montana toward Kenmore, North Dakota. The countryside changed abruptly from mountains to rolling prairies, covered with wheat fields. Typical birds of this habitat seen were Baird's Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Grouse and Lark Buntings. As we crossed the Montana-North Dakota border, we were pursued by black clouds and winds stirring up brown dust just ahead. All this was mixed with occasional showers. Needless to say, we were very uneasy about our prospects here.

Arriving in Kenmore exactly on schedule, we met Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gammell, whom we had written to prior to our departure. These wonderful people really rolled out the red carpet for us. Kenmore is located in the northwest corner of North Dakota on the Des Lacs River and the Federal Government maintains several wildlife refuges in the area. The Gammells have made this region famous among Birders due to their excellent coverage and their banding activities. Birds are mostly eastern in character, flavored by specialties of the prairie country. The specialties were what we were after and would be extremely difficult to find without the help of people like the Gammells. That night it really poured and blew. We found out later a tornado had damaged a small town near Kenmore. But to our surprise, the next day turned out to be perfect, complete with white fleecy clouds which are a photographer's delight. The Gammells had arranged for two of their young friends to show us the birds. These boys, who were brothers, were excellent birders even though they didn't use binoculars. No difficulty was encountered in finding such birds as Leconte's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, Sharp-tailed Sparrows and many others.

Later in the day, we met Dr. Gammell at a small, abandoned gravel pit where he was banding birds. We watched as birds such as McCowns and Chestnut-collared Long-spurs and Grasshopper Sparrows came to drink at the small pool and upon taking off, would fly into the mist nets. Then Dr. Gammell would band the birds, release them, and they could take off absolutely unharmed. To top everything, Mrs. Gammell then met us at the gravel pit and spread out a terrific picnic lunch. The afternoon was filled with birding in the marshes and seeing many kinds of ducks and shorebirds. This day's birding was the best of the entire trip and we will always have a warm spot in our hearts for the hospitality of the people and birds of Kenmore.

The next day we traveled due south through the badland country of North Dakota, stopping briefly at Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park for lunch and to watch

THE WESTERN TANAGER

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 Editor.....Hubert H. Weiser
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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.,
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 ing \$50..Contributing - \$100.,Life -\$300.

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 appointment. Open for members and guests
 before and after each meeting.

and photograph the prairie dogs. We had
 hoped to see herds of buffalo but missed
 out here as well as everywhere else we
 looked for them. Continuing south we
 arrived at our day's destination, Spear-
 fish Canyon, in the Black Hills of South
 Dakota. This picturesque canyon lies on
 the western edge of the state and bird-
 life is about evenly divided between
 western and eastern species. White-winged
 Juncos are the specialty here and next
 morning after a diligent search, we
 managed to find a small flock.

We drove through the southeast cor-
 ner of Wyoming, stopping for the night
 at Fort Collins, Colo. Rain began fal-
 ling intermittently that night and was
 to continue for the next few days.

Next morning we drove into Rocky Moun-
 tain National Park. This magnificent
 park is crossed by the Trail Ridge Road,
 the highest continuous road in the
 country. One can drive for miles above
 timberline. Animals such as marmots,
 ground squirrels and chipmunks were very
 tame and could easily be photographed.
 We searched the high country for Brown-
 capped Rosy Finches and finally found
 them after almost giving up hope. At
 one time, while searching for these
 birds, we suddenly found ourselves in
 the midst of a flock of very tame White-
 tailed Ptarmigan. We had a wonderful
 time observing and photographing these
 birds while the sun played hide and seek
 behind the clouds. After two days at
 Rocky Mountain, we headed due west, stop-
 ping for lunch at the interesting Dino-
 saur National Monument and then drove on
 to Provo, Utah. The next day our first
 stop was Bryce Canyon National Park,
 where we spent most of the day sight-
 seeing and photographing the colorful
 rock formations. We then entered nearby
 Zion National Park, which differs from
 Bryce, in that in Bryce one looks down
 on the delicately shaped panorama of
 spires and towers, whereas in Zion the
 visitor must look up at the huge massive
 formations. Birding was now less in-
 teresting, as birds were the typical
 western species with which we were al-
 ready familiar. We camped that night in
 Zion and arrived home next night, Sat-
 urday, August 29th.

night in Zion and arrived home next night, Saturday, August 29th.

In thinking back over our two week adventure, several thoughts came to mind. One is that we spent hours or at most, days, in areas that warranted a more lengthy, leisurely stay. Another is that even with the hectic schedule and unpredictable weather we were amazingly lucky in finding birds and having no major troubles in the 5,308 miles covered. I highly recommend this region to anyone interested either in birding or looking at the remarkable scenery.

Los Angeles Audubon Society
Then and Now

This is the Golden Jubilee for the Los Angeles Audubon Society, Inc.

And it has come a long way since that day in March, 1910, when some fifteen members and friends of the California Audubon Society met in the Alexandria Hotel to discuss the organization of a Los Angeles Branch of the California Audubon Society.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Harriett Williams Meyers. Speakers at that meeting were, Mrs. Meyers, Miss Mary Mann Miller and Dr. Garrett Newkirk.

The first meeting of the Los Angeles Branch of the California Audubon Society was held in the Alexandria Hotel April 9, 1910. Officers were: President - Mrs. W.M. Dixon, Vice President - Mrs. Cora Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer - Mrs. W.J. Saunders, Directors - Mrs. Harriett Williams Meyers and Miss Mary M. Miller.

The membership for 1910-11 totalled 45.

Activities for this year were: eight indoor meetings, seven at the hotel and one in the home of Mrs. F. M. Stewart. There were four Field Trips, three of these at Sycamore Grove and one at Eagle Rock.

Mr. W. Leon Dawson, who had come to California to write his "Birds of California" spoke to an audience of about one hundred persons, under the auspices of the new society. Protests were filed against bills

to take from the protected lists meadow-larks and all marsh and shore birds. Both bills failed to get out of committee.

In the following years, meeting places of the society included Alexandria Hotel, Chamber of Commerce, Y.W.C.A., Hotel Clark, Exposition Park Museum and State Building at Exposition Park.

Many distinguished speakers were heard and the society raised its voice in important matters of conservation and legislation, such as: the crusade against wearing of cigarettes; urged appropriation for Dept. of Agriculture to enforce Federal Migratory Bird Law; indorsed measure for bird sanctuary in National Angeles Forest; urged ratification of treaty with Great Britain in regard to protection of migratory birds in the U.S. and Canada; favored bill to protect against seizure of water in Roosevelt Sequoia National Park for commercial purposes; urged passage of bill to establish game refuge on Mt. San Jacinto and favoring a refuge for migratory birds at Klamath Lake; asking for protection of white Pelicans and cormorants; urging that a sanctuary be established at Playa del Rey; and protested against many other measures which seemed to threaten the preservation of wildlife. Trees were dedicated and planted and assistance in the conservation of wild flowers was pledged. Endorsement of the Wild Duck Stamp was made. A bird sanctuary was dedicated in Griffith Park in 1920.

On January 1, 1914, the name of the society was changed to Los Angeles Audubon Society. The following year, the society won first place in the Christmas Bird Census list of 164 census reports by reporting 121 species observed.

The membership enrollment fluctuated through the years, but an enrollment of 131 members was reported in 1921, which appears to have been the highest for these early years.

(To be cont.)

Gudrun E. Pepke

MARCH 17th FIELD TRIP

Included with this issue of your TANAGER you will probably already have found an announcement of our Fourth Annual Dinner together with a reservation blank. As usual we will at this time have our installation of officers for the coming year. However, this will also be the occasion for a celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Los Angeles Audubon Society founded in 1910. So be sure to reserve that date, June 7, and plan to be there to help commemorate this milestone in the history of our Society. You will find the details elsewhere in this issue. Please note that we have chosen a new location this year, The Carolina Pines Banquet Hall where more parking space is available and the banquet hall has no pillars to obstruct the view of the program.

Bob Blackstone

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
FOR OFFICERS 1960-1961

President	Mr. James Huffman
1st Vice President	Mr. Arnold Small
2nd Vice President	Mrs. Olive Alvey
Exec. Secretary	Mrs. Russell Wilson
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Recording Secy.	Mrs. Earl Mahaffie
Curator	Mrs. Mary V. Hood

1961 ASILOMAR CONVENTION

All who anticipate going to Asilomar in March, 1961 are urged to make a priority request for reservation consideration. There is no money involved nor obligation only an opportunity for Audubon members and friends to receive first attention. See and hear Olaus J. Murie, Roger Tory Peterson, Carl W. Buchheister. March 25-28, 1961 - Flyer enclosed.

GOING TO ALASKA? CAMP DENALI - MCKINLEY PARK, ALASKA.

Wilderness Workshop	- June 20-30, 1960
Tundra Treks	- Aug. 10-22
Shutter Safari	- Aug. 24-31

WRITE: Camp Denali, Box 526, College, Alaska.

On St. Patrick's Day in the morning some 20 Audubonites set forth in a comfortable Tanner bus for a trip which led through green fields, beautifully topped with yellow mustard and with spring "bustin' out all over". The violet green swallows that flitted over our heads in O'Neill Park told us it was spring and we did so wish they would land just for a moment, long enough for us to get a close-up. But being swallows, they had to have it their way and continued their swallow type flight. We did, however, have a ringside seat to watch a white breasted nuthatch fly back and forth gathering tasty tidbits to take to his little lady. When he delayed his return a little too long, out popped her head from the hole in a sycamore tree, but not for long was she kept waiting. He was such a faithful provider.

At Tucker Sanctuary the saucy, well-fed wee hummers were constantly taking advantage of the sweet liquid put out for them by faithful human hands.

The golden crowned sparrows, as well as the white crowns (call them gambels, if you prefer) were stuffing themselves before their long trek northward. How we do miss their cheery song when they leave.

Of course, the old regulars were there and the vanguard of hooded orioles had arrived. So there was no lack of action and sound. Our official counter, Dorothy Lillie, had a list of 34 species seen somewhere along the line.

When we returned in mid-afternoon, safe and sound, it was agreed that a happy and worthwhile time was had by all and with many thanks to our most efficient chairman, Edna Burt, who had taken care of the many details, we went our separate ways, looking forward to another trip next month. Won't you join us?

Bessie Pope

SUNDAY, March 20, saw 20 members at Chilao working hard as they planted 14 hardwood trees for the Forestry Department in an experiment to determine new species which might prove beneficial to our forests. Our group was only a part of 150 people who planted on Saturday and Sunday. We plan to make several trips to the area to see how successful our work will be and to carry water to help it succeed. Anyone interested in joining us on these trips please leave your name and telephone number at Audubon House.

THURSDAY MORNING, March 24.

The subject of study was migration. Mr. Charles Bishop discussed the theories of many experts, some based on long study and observation, others on experiments. Mrs. Neil Lewis told of some local migration routes, some she had observed for several years. During a general discussion period, members related their experiences when birding during migration times. Altogether a most profitable study class.

ON SUNDAY, March 27, 18 persons met at Irvine Park where we were greeted by many, noisy Acorn Woodpeckers for which Irvine Park must be noted. Two California Purple Finches were heard high in the trees but perhaps the most interesting observation here was the large flock of Goldfinches as they dropped down into the fields near the stables only to rise again in clouds. These were almost all Common with a few Lesser. One flock of 40 was a pure flock of Lawrences. We reached Tucker Sanctuary about 10 o'clock and had a wonderful hour observing among other species Anna's, Black-chinned, Rufus and Costa Hummingbirds, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles which had just arrived the day before. We drove on to O'Neil Park for lunch and those who could remain walked up a short canyon where we found beautiful wild flowers, 6 Rufus-crowned Sparrows, Swallows, Swifts and 2 Black-chinned Sparrows. Here also were more large mixed flocks of Goldfinches. This whole area is well worth a day's birding and a weekend's camping.

At a meeting of the L. A. Audubon Society Executive Board held April 7th, Mr. Wm. Frederickson, Jr. and Mr. John Peebles were present. These two officials of L. A. City Recreation and Parks Dept. and, along with Mrs. Hood, enthusiastic supporters of the Jr. Zoological Society, gave their encouragement and blessings when the Board voted unanimously to accept active sponsorship of the Junior Zoological Society.

SATURDAY, April 9th, FIELD TRIP

Due to Easter week this was not too well attended. However, it was a rewarding trip, nonetheless. Some 47 species of birds were observed at Irvine Lake, the unnamed dam nearby and at Tucker Sanctuary. A few of the highlights at random were Western Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrikes five different Sparrows, a Tricolor Blackbird, three yellow-headed Blackbirds (as well as Brewers and Redwings), Florida Gallinule, a Redheaded Duck among many Ruddies. There was, of course, a great concentration of Orioles and various Hummingbirds at Tucker Sanctuary.

Betty Meyerfeld

TUESDAY EVENING, April 12th

Warren Flock, a fellow member of the Los Angeles and the National Audubon Societies as well as a member of the Sierra Club, was the speaker at the Tuesday Evening Meeting on the 12th of April. His subject was "Our Scenic and Wild Areas - Can We Save Them?" He gave a short but interesting talk on natural resources in general before starting the main part of his talk which was a running commentary by Mr. Flock on a series of his color slides depicting our natural resources, with an emphasis on our scenic and recreational resources. He had many beautiful views of the scenic and wilderness areas of the West, and a number of exquisite studies of wildflowers.

Bob Blackstone

PROJECT MIGRATION MAP is about to begin. Please send in data on this; which birds were migrating, exactly when and where. This map can be added to each year and be of help to all members.

Olive Alvey

You might be interested in a few highlights of our trip across the country from Glendale to Washington. We took four weeks and covered a little over 6000 miles. You probably wonder how we could cover that many miles and not make a roundtrip. We went to the lower Rio Grande Valley, then north to Lincoln Nebraska, then more or less direct to Washington. We left Glendale May 1 and arrived here May 29.

I would surely like to recommend the Rio Grande Valley trip to anyone who has not yet gone there. Of course, those who have been there know how wonderful it is for birding. We saw such birds as the tiny Buff-Bellied Hummingbird to the beautiful Roseate Spoonbill. We saw birds that before had only been fascinating names in Roger Tory Peterson's field guides. To name a few - we saw Chacalacas (heard more than we saw) Anhingas, the Green Jay, Derby Flycatcher, White Ibis, Mexican Grebe, Audubon's Caracara, Cabot's Tern, Olivaceous Cormorant, American Oystercatcher, the Little Blue and Louisiana Herons, and the so-different Reddish Egret. Some of these were seen farther north at Rockport, Texas or Arkansas Wildlife Refuge. Among other thrills we saw scores of Scissortail Flycatchers, many Painted Buntings, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Purple Gallinule, Black Skimmers, Sennett's White-tailed Hawk, Black Crested Titmouse and the White-fronted Dove.

We had a special treat just before sundown one day when we saw about ten Roseate Spoonbills keeping company with Black-necked Stilts, Louisiana Herons, American and Snowy Egrets, Coots, Black and Least Terns, a Willet and weaving in and out was a Black Skimmer. In the grassy area between these birds and us we saw such as the Scissortail Flycatcher, Road Runner, Eastern Kingbird, and Meadowlarks. All of these were in sight at the same time and for quite a long time so we really had our eyes full, ornithologically speaking.

Farther east, as we neared Washington, we made a two day detour into the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia.

This country is beautiful in the spring and well worth a stop. Here we saw the Golden-winged Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, the Blue-headed Vireo, and many other interesting birds.

Our total count for the trip was 225 species, with 44 of them new for my life list. So you can imagine we felt it was a very profitable and enjoyable vacation.

Since coming east - just two weeks ago we had the rare privilege of birding with Roger Tory Peterson and also seeing his fabulous film on the Flamingoes of the world.

We haven't joined the Audubon Society here yet, but we plan to at their next meeting. I understand from other members that they have the largest and most active group in the States. (They could be prejudiced).

Yours for good birding,

BEE BECKER (MRS. E. L.)

(from a letter to Marion Wilson)

NEW GAME BIRDS PLANTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

In January of this year the Department "planted" 800 Turkish chukar partridges in four areas of the state, the nearest to our area being in Little Rock Canyon. This bird closely resembles the Indian chukar which had already been successfully introduced and for which there have been open seasons since 1954. The Turkish chukar prefers a moister climate than the Indian, but like it, lives in steep, rough country with a scattering of low bushy cover. About 1,000 more of these birds were to be released in March. The birds were raised on a game farm in New Mexico.

George T. Hastings



FOR : (List names and addresses of individuals, if not in family group)
: (Mail to Audubon Convention, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California)

Above names will be placed on a PRIORITY MAILING list to receive Program Announcements and Registration Forms for the Audubon Convention-Asilomar, 1961

SEND NO MONEY NOW

WAIT FOR PRIORITY MAILING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1960

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TUNDRA TO TROPICS

NATURAL RESOURCES IN ALASKA AND HAWAII

OLAUS J. MURIE

Director, Wilderness Society; Author; Artist

ROGER TORY PETERSON

Author, Artist, Lecturer, Photographer

CARL W. BUCHHEISTER

President, National Audubon Society

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June 7th
6:30 p.m.

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JUNE 1st

Program

★ INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS...

★ COLOR MOTION PICTURES 1959 MACHRIS

EXPEDITION TO CENTRAL INDIA...

Narrated by Mr. Kenneth Stager

Send
it now!

MR. DONALD ADAMS
705 26th ST., MANHATTAN BEACH

Please reserve _____ places for me at the 4th Annual
Audubon Society Dinner, June 7, 1960.

\$

AMOUNT
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NAME _____

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THE WESTERN TANAGER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, SEPTEMBER TO MAY
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THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President: Mr. James W. Huffman 2912 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach
Registrar of Members: Mrs. Robert Sandmeyer 355 Elm St., Burbank

CALENDAR FOR MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST, 1960

May 5 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 10 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - 8:00 P. M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. MR. ARNOLD SMALL will discuss problems in the identification of the small migrant land birds. He will have skins, slides and other illustrative material. This program is intended to be especially helpful to those going on the Saturday Field Trip to Tapia Park on the 14th of May. Bring along your own identification problems to discuss.

May 14 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Tapia Park. Arnold Small will be on hand to give instruction in identification of the birds of the oak and riparian woodlands. Emphasis will be on the warblers, vireos and finches and on identification by song and call. Meet at 7:00 A. M. at Tapia Park. Drive up Pacific Highway past Malibu Lagoon. Turn right and follow Malibu Canyon to Tapia Park.

Leader - Arnold Small - VE 7-2722

May 19 THIRD THURSDAY FIELD TRIP TO RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN, 1500 North College Ave., Claremont, Calif. Bus will leave Grand Ave. entrance to Biltmore Hotel between 5th and 6th Sts. at 8:30 A. M. sharp. Fare \$2.50. Please have exact amount. On display are outstanding California shrubs and flowers - wild flowers from many parts of the state. Eat our lunch at San Dimas Park. Reservations May 14th to 18th.

Leader - Edna Burt - PL 5-1044

May 21 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP will be an overnight camping trip to the Greenhorn Mts. Group will meet at 8:00 A. M. on Saturday, May 21, at the Salad Bowl Restaurant in Bakersfield. There are several Salad Bowl Restaurants in Bakersfield and we will meet at the one on Highway 99 at the south side of town before reaching Bakersfield archway. Group will caravan to Greenhorn Mountain Park to camp Saturday night. The return to Los Angeles on Sunday will be via Lake Isabella and the Kern River Canyon. There should be good foot-hill and mountain birding and possibly condors. Bring food for two days.

Leader - Jim Huffman - FR 2-7124

May 26 THURSDAY MORNING MEETING. Plummer Park, Long Hall, 10 to 12 o'clock. Mrs. Maria Wilkes, a former President of the Los Angeles Garden Club, plant expert and garden designer, will combine flowers and birds in her talk, entitled "Planting your garden for the birds and for pest control." Mrs. Elizabeth Fulton, who has more hummers in her garden than any other member, will conduct a study on Hummers.

JUNE 2 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

OVER

June 7 ANNUAL DINNER - 6:30 P. M. at Carolina Pines Banquet Hall, 7315 Melrose Avenue. Club steak dinner - \$3.00 per plate. Program: Installation of officers, Commemoration of the Golden Anniversary of the Los Angeles Audubon Society and a film, "The 1959 Machris Expedition to Central India, narrated by Mr. Kenneth Stager. Ample parking provided.

June 11 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Charlton Flats. Bring lunch. Meet at 8:00 o'clock. First check with ranger station for Audubon Area. Bring pail for watering trees planted in March.
Leader - Bill Lehmann - FR 7-2635

June 16 THURSDAY FIELD TRIP by bus to Mt. Baldy Village. Leave Biltmore Hotel at 8:30 A. M. Fare \$2.50. Please have exact amount. Bring lunch.
Leader - Edna Burt - PL 5-1044

July 23 SUMMER POT-LUCK DINNER and field trip to Charlton Flats. Since this is a planned pot-luck everyone wishing to attend should mail his or her name, address, phone and choice of main dish, salad or dessert to Headquarters. Everyone will be contacted by the committee by July 9. For further information call H0-7-9495 or P0 1-7635.
Bring pail for watering trees planted in March.

Aug. 4 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

CONSEVATION

In the Audubon Magazine for July-August, 1959 there is a condensation of an address by Monroe Bush of Old Dominion Foundation which deserves much thought. If you have not read it the article is a must.

Resource consumption in our country is rising and this simple statement bears a terrific impact when you consider the dimensions of this nation.

Conservation makes the attempt to obtain a permanent balance between human need and natural supply.

Mr. Bush goes on to show quite conclusively that we in this country are far from having an overall conservation conscience but we do have an operational one. We still labor under the illusion that space and natural wealth are inexhaustible. We are born optimists, always confident of our good luck. Water tables may fall alarmingly and saw timber supply shrink; but we still have drinking water and kitchen tables so everything is all right.

Great steps have been made. Witness the parks, national forests, wildlife sanctuaries, hunting and fishing laws, sound forestry, soil conservation, water management. These have been brought about by a small dedicated corps of people willing to expend much personal effort and sacrifice. They should have much help but they do not and probably will not have it for a long time to come. Mr. Bush's chief point is this: "Conservation conscience can be dominant in American life from time to time and place to place without once representing a conviction on the part of a majority of the people."

Apparently, on the average, conservation conscience is greater where the imbalance between social need and natural supply is greater. The cornucopia of plenty is still too much with us in America. It takes the desperate straits of a Whooping Crane to make us act.