

## THE MAGIC PLACE

by James W. Huffman

Most people have a place that is magic for them. My magic place is Audubon Park, Kentucky. This is a story of Audubon Park and of why it is magical for me.

When John James Audubon floated down the Ohio River in 1810 and settled for a while in Henderson, Kentucky, the area that was to become Audubon Park was part of the vast summer-green deciduous forest that covered much of the eastern United States. When Audubon neglected his grist and lumber mill in Henderson to follow his true vocation, the study of nature, the forests along the Ohio River and its nearby tributary, Green River, were his haunts. It was in these forests that Audubon, Wilson, and other observers saw and were astounded by the enormous flocks of passenger pigeons. Audubon wrote of a roost near Green River that was forty miles long, averaged more than three miles in width, and may have contained more than a billion birds!

When I first roamed this region in the 1930's, most of these virgin hardwood forests had been replaced by cultivated fields and second growth scrub. A relatively untouched area existed, however, along the Kentucky bank of the Ohio River, stretching west from Green River to the highway that connects Henderson with my home town, Evansville, Indiana, five miles north across the Ohio. In those days this delicious strip of land had no trails and was inhabited by semi-wild razorbacks.

With my brother, Al, or sometimes a friend, I haunted this wood much as Audubon had, I liked to believe, enjoying the profuse spring flowers and the fascinating birds. I remember once when two of us were watching a brightly colored warbler through our glasses, a round, bald-headed man approached and asked what engaged our attention. We pointed out the bird and offered our glasses. However, he could see it perfectly well without them, he said, and was delighted at its beauty. We discussed the various species of warblers and our new acquaintance, King, was amazed at their number and variety.

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LUMBER PARK  
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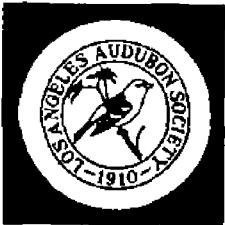
He was a schoolteacher, living with parents in a big farmhouse at the edge of the wood. He had tramped this area since childhood, enjoying the wilderness, but conscious only of those large birds that flew across his path. For a time, Sunday dinner at King's house following a bird hike was a ritual for the three of us. After fried chicken, corn on the cob, homemade pies, and ice cream!! we fell on the lawn, for that is all that we could do, and looked up at the Baltimore Orioles in the cottonwoods.

When, after an absence of many years, I returned to Evansville, I heard that our woodland had been made into a state park in memory of Audubon. I thought I could visualize the "improvements" this must have brought - auto roads, picnic grounds, children's swings. For some time I could not return to this place. One early May day, however, the urge to check a warbler wave was strong and my brother and I visited Audubon Park. We found, to our relief, that much of the original woodland was still unspaled.

(Continued on page 5)

## ANNOTATED FIELD LIST FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA JUST PUBLISHED

The long-awaited revision of the Annotated Field List BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by Robert L. Pyle and Arnold Small is now available from the Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles for \$1.15 postpaid. The newly compiled graphs and notes outline the seasonal status and distribution of the more than 400 species which occur in southern California. Valuable guides as to where and when to seek out particular species are offered, together with a map and notes on the best bird-finding areas in southern California. The Los Angeles Audubon Society is proud to have published this fine work, and proceeds from sales will be used to further the work of the society.



The Western Tanager  
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP  
IN FOLDING, MAILING *The Tanager***

All persons wishing to assist in mailing of the "Western Tanager" please meet at Audubon House Thursday, September 28 at 8:00 p.m. Call Mimi Small, Chairman, VE 7-2272. Refreshments will be served.

A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PAST YEAR  
by  
THE PRESIDENT

The past year was one of notable progress thanks to a hard-working Executive Board and to the interest and support of the Society's membership. You will have noticed the new look in the Western Tanager. It has long been felt that our monthly publication was somewhat dated. During the summer a committee worked hard to achieve a more modern format and a more attractive and readable method of reproduction. You will note that an editorial staff has been added. It is felt that the establishment of a staff responsible for regular departments, such as conservation and bird finding, will better provide the service the membership deserves. The editor and staff will welcome comments on the revised publication.

For the first time in many years the Society made a substantial profit from its Screen Tour Series. Due to the efforts of board members, the Board of Education allowed the Society free use of the auditorium at John Burroughs Junior High School for the series. Under these arrangements the Society made a net profit of \$780 from only

AUDUBON FAIR THEME:

**"SAVE THE BALD EAGLE"**  
*Fair Volunteers Sign-up Now!*

"Save the Bald Eagle"--a major project of the National Audubon Society will be the dominant theme of this year's Audubon exhibit at the forthcoming Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona. Fair dates are September 15 to October 1, inclusive.

As in the past, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Pomona, San Fernando and Whittier Audubon Societies are cooperating closely in planning the exhibit and accepting responsibility for manning the exhibit booth on specific dates. Each group is contributing \$25 toward the cost of the display.

Volunteers to take charge of the booth and greet visitors are now being recruited. All members willing to assist during one of the days scheduled for the Los Angeles Society are urged to get in touch with headquarters at once. Phone Marion Wilson at ED 7-9495. The address is 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

The participation schedule is as follows:

Los Angeles: Sept. 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Pomona: Sept. 19, 20 and 21.

Pasadena: Sept. 22, 23, 24 and 25.

Whittier: Sept. 26 and 27.

San Fernando: Sept. 28, 29, 30 and Oct. 1

five lectures. Youth leaders from the Camp Fire Girls, the City Recreation and Parks Department, and the County Parks and Recreation Department are being sent to the Audubon Camp of California with the Screen Tour proceeds. Arrangements have been made for a lecture series for the 1961-1962 season.

The Condor Fund drive elicited a very satisfactory response from the membership. Donations to the fund totalled \$520. This sum will be used to defray the expenses of a ranger at the Condor Sanctuary in Ventura County.

All of the Society's regular meetings and field trips operated with continued success during the 1960-1961 season. An item deserving special mention is the Bazaar given by the Thursday morning meeting group, which made a respectable profit of \$160. In response to numerous requests by members for continuing activities throughout the year, Saturday and Sunday field trips were conducted during the summer months.

Sincere appreciation is due all officers, chairmen, committee members, and members at large who contributed to the progress of the past season. With continued dedication of this kind, success through the coming year will be assured.

*James W. Huffman, President*

Headquarters, Nature Museum and Library located at Audubon House, Plummer Park  
7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46 - HO 7-9495.

President: James W. Huffman      Registrar of Members: Mrs. James Bussey  
2912 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach      3507 Hollydale Dr., Los Angeles

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 1961

September 2 - SATURDAY, JUNIOR NATURALISTS, 9:45-11:15 A.M. at Fern Dell Museum. Nature films including "Lost Hunter", showing mistakes made and the right things done before the hunter was found. Free literature on the cultivation of Los Angeles official flower, the Bird of Paradise. A few plants will be available to members. John Peebles, Director of Fern Dell Museum, HO 7-1661.

September 7      THURSDAY, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.

September 9      SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Malibu Lagoon and Point Dume for gulls, terns and returning shorebirds. Take Pacific Coast Highway past Malibu pier, crossing bridge over Malibu Creek. Park on ocean side of highway north of bridge. Meet at 8:30 A.M. For further information call David Robison, Field Trip Chairman, PC 1-0217.

September 12      TUESDAY EVENING MEETING, 8:00 P.M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park. Among members showing colored slides taken on vacation and birding trips during the past summer will be Arnold Small and Robert Blackstone who visited Arizona and Canada respectively. Light refreshments will be served after the program. Robert Blackstone, Program Chairman, CR 6-3879.

September 24      SUNDAY PELAGIC TRIP to the vicinity of San Clemente Island. The boat will be the 43 foot New Rocket leaving from Pierpoint Landing, Long Beach at the end of the Long Beach Freeway at 6:00 A.M. Fee \$10.00 per person. Limited to 25 people. Places will be held in order of reservations with check made to and received by Arnold Small, 3028 Cavendish Dr., Los Angeles 64. Bring lunch and coffee, cold drinks will be available. Leader, Arnold Small, VE 7-2272.

October 1      SUNDAY, ANNUAL TEA, 2-5 P.M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Hood, 138 South Wilton Dr., Los Angeles. R.S.V.P. to Mrs. Robert Sandmeyer, Chairman, TH 2-9328; Mrs. Maurice Alvey, NO 1-8036; Mrs. Earl Mahaffee, NC 4-4543; Society Headquarters, HO 7-9495. Anyone wishing to donate homemade cookies contact Mrs. Sandmeyer.

## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS 1961-1962 SEASON

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is happy to be able to sponsor another season of Audubon Screen Tours (now to be called Audubon Wildlife Films). Audubon Wildlife Films are film-lecture programs featuring birds, mammals, marine life, insects, wild flowers, and travel to cut-of-the-way places--all forms of natural wildlife presented in dramatic action and color and narrated in person by the photographer.

Thursday, October 12, 1961  
SUBANTARCTIC ISLE by Alfred M. Bailey

Monday, November 13, 1961  
LAND OF THE SKY BLUE WATERS by Fran William Hall

Thursday, January 4, 1962  
PIKA COUNTRY by Emerson Scott

Thursday, February 1, 1962  
ANIMALS ARE EXCITING by Howard Cleaves

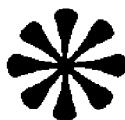
Thursday, March 1, 1962  
HEART OF THE WILD by Cleveland P. Grant

Full information will soon be mailed to members. Others wishing information, please write to Dr. William G. Lehmann, 27023 Shorewood Road, Rolling Hills, California.

### SOCIETY'S ANNUAL TEA SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st.

A cordial invitation is extended to all Los Angeles Audubon Society members and prospective members to attend the Annual Tea, Sunday, October 1, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Hood, 138 S. Wilton Drive, Los Angeles from 2-5 in the afternoon. Plan to come, meet new acquaintances and renew old.

SPECIAL NOTE: Male members who become afflicted with the common "stay-at-home" malady at the mere mention of the word "tea"--take heart, many of your brethren do attend and discover a rewarding amount of masculine conversation and companionship. So don't hesitate to join forces with the distaff side and help to make this event an outstanding success.



## CONSERVATION NEWS

from FRANK LITTLE

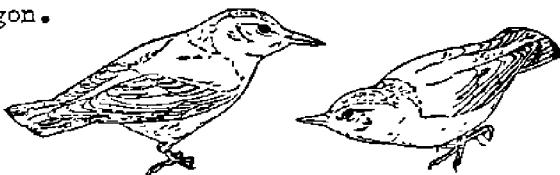
Although the fight to save a bit of wild America for ourselves and future generations is a never-ending one, we are heartened by several important victories and the prospect of more to come.

One important victory was the U. S. Senate's long overdue ratification of the Oil Pollution Control Treaty. Thus the United States joins the rest of the world (we are the last major country to ratify) in an effort to regulate the dumping and spilling of oil on the high seas. Such control should save the lives of hundreds of thousands of birds each year as well as countless forms of marine life.

Another triumph was the extension for two more years of the Federal Billboard Control Amendment. By this action, states that regulate billboards are given a bonus under the Federal Aid Highway Act.

A third gain was the passage of the Water Pollution Control Program. Such action seems to be the only way to reconvert many of our streams and rivers from open sewers back to the sparkling water-courses they once were.

Several bills now pending that seem to have a fair chance of passage are: the Cape Cod National Seashore Bill; the Golden Eagle Protection Bill (amends the Bald Eagle Act to include the Golden Eagle, thus protecting Golden as well as saving the lives of many immature Bald Eagles that are mistakenly shot as Goldens); Open Spaces Legislation providing federal aid to cities and counties in preserving park lands and natural areas; and Senate Bill S 1988 to give permanent status to the vital Tule Lake, Lower Klamath, and Upper Klamath national wildlife refuges in northern California and southern Oregon.



One reason for these gains is the large number of letters and telegrams to legislators from conservationists all over the country. If you have written in the past, keep it up; if not, try now - you'll love the feeling you get from being an active part of this movement (you might start by writing Senator Thomas H. Kuchel, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. telling him you are in favor of his bill S 1988, mentioned above).

## Society's Summer Summarized

By Russell Wilson

Because of numerous expressions of regret that our season of regularly scheduled field trips was coming to an end with the trip to Buckhorn Flats on June 10, it was decided on short notice to try to carry on during July and August. As there were no summer issues of the Western Tanager to provide publicity, word had to be spread by word-of-mouth, by telephone and postal card.

Since Greenhorn Mountain had not been included in our schedule for May this year, being replaced by the trip to Mt. Pinos, this trip to the southern Sierra became our first summer event on June 24-25. Twelve of us made the trip, which always begins with breakfast at seven-thirty in Bakersfield, includes birding in the oak-covered foothills and deposits us finally at Tiger Flat campground among Jeffrey Pines and White Firs at about seven thousand feet. Sixty-seven birds were listed, perhaps the best ones the Lazuli Bunting, a pair of Golden-crowned Kinglets, which were gathering nesting material right among our camps at Tiger Flat, and the Townsend's Solitaire which was seen at very close range and also sang repeatedly. In general it was a good time to concentrate on songs.

Half of the group spent an extra night on the mountain and came home in much greater comfort early Monday morning.

On July 8 a group of eighteen made the circuit to Irvine Park, the Tucker Sanctuary, O'Neil Park and Upper Newport Bay. Our forty-six birds were mostly the usuals; however, the Rufous-crowned Sparrow, which we saw at O'Neil Park, was a life bird for over half of the group. We were joined here by Mr. Francis Raymond of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society who kindly guided us by the back roads to Upper Newport Bay giving us on the way a fine but brief view of a Red-shouldered Hawk. At Newport there were twelve hundred or more Wilson's Phalaropes, many with good deal of the color of their breeding plumage.

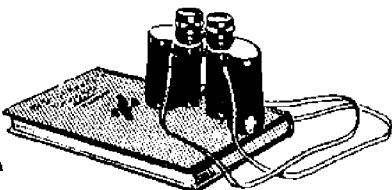
The always successful mid-summer picnic was repeated on July 22 at Tapia Park. Present were over fifty of our members and friends and also some out-of-towners; Mr. Rolf Mall, friend of the Clarks and manager of the Imperial State Waterfowl Management Area and the Charles Jasik family from New York.

Eight o'clock Saturday morning of August 12 found eighteen of us on Mt. Wilson where our best bird was a Peregrine Falcon. We watched it twice in a long swoop miss a small songbird, probably just aerial acrobatics. After birding in the upper west fork of the San Gabriel we had lunch at Charlton Flat and spent the afternoon in that area.

If you think it would be desirable to have summer field trips made a part of the regular schedule of events please let your field trip chairman know.

# BIRDING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

by Arnold Small



Traditionally, August is the month when birding becomes attractive again after the summer doldrums. Shorebird migrants begin to flood our beaches and marshes during the latter part of the month and Elegant Terns drift northward from their breeding grounds south of the border. August is also the month which again awakens our interest in the birds of the sea, and those afield along the coast should look for jaegers among the myriad gulls and terns thronging the costal waters. Early September should also bring flocks of shearwaters to the Santa Barbara Channel, and, depending upon conditions of water temperature and salinity, Tropic-birds and Skuas along with them. The spring flight of shearwaters was excellent with flocks numbering more than a million birds in view from the beaches near Ventura during mid-May. Further at sea Skuas and Laysan Albatrosses were found and Black-footed Albatrosses were not uncommon in

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After a satisfying morning's birding we paused at a shelterhouse where a group of people were discussing birds. It was the Henderson Audubon Society reviewing their annual spring bird census that was being taken that day. In the front was a familiar shiny pate, our friend King. King was now the nature guide at Audubon Park. After sharing in a fried chicken lunch with the group, we joined in the census. This was a homecoming!

Audubon Park now consists of some six hundred acres. One long side of the park is bordered by periodically flooded river bottom land and is safe from encroachment by subdivision. A straight paved road runs from the entrance past the museum and office buildings to a shelterhouse. The management of the park is conservation minded and attempts to preserve the natural scene. Picnic areas are limited to the immediate roadside. Around the buildings and designated recreation areas the shrubbery and lawns are neat and the facilities are in good repair. In contrast, however, fallen trees and brush are left on the narrow trails, and the stream bridges are in a dilapidated condition to discourage all but the enthusiastic lovers of the wild. Bathing facilities are provided at one of the two lakes, but the other, more secluded, has been left in, essentially, a natural state.

An attraction at the park is the John James Audubon Memorial Museum. This beautiful French Provincial building with its seven galleries houses what is probably the most rounded collection of memorabilia of the naturalist on public exhibit anywhere. Here are many of Audubon's original

the waters near San Clemente and San Nicholas Islands. Again this year, Elegant Terns nested successfully at the salt ponds of south San Diego Bay, but the Royal Terns showed no signs of nesting there. It is difficult to explain the appearance of Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes at Upper Newport Bay as early as the first week in July after a very poor showing during the spring. Although we are in the midst of vast "improvements" to our coastal marshes at Playa del Rey, Huntington Beach, and Newport Bay and soon at Goleta, good shorebird concentrations may still be found at the mouth of the Santa Clara River in Ventura, Morro Bay, Malibu, Harbor Park, Sunset Beach, Bolsa Chica, Upper Newport Bay, and some of the coastal lagoons of San Diego County. Probably what is one of the oddest birding stories to be told in a great while comes from Herb and Olga Clarke. As they were returning from an almost all-desert trip to southeastern Arizona on June 24 they spied and photographed a purely maritime bird hovering over Palm Springs, - a Magnificent Frigate-bird! However, this should not give us cause to lay aside our dramamine in favor of suntan lotion and sunglasses to seek the pelagic birds this September. It is to be hoped that more respectable frigate-birds will be found where they belong - over the bounding main.

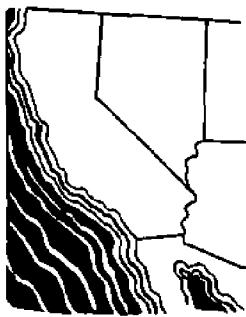
paintings and those of his two sons. Historical records and relics of the town of Henderson exhibited delineate the period of Audubon's life in that community. Housed also in the museum are collections of mounted birds and insects of the locality.

The terrain of the park consists of low hills and ravines through which several small streams flow into the lakes. The flora of the park represents a typical climax community. Dominant trees include Beech, Hickory, Maples, Walnuts, broadleaved Oaks, and Sycamores, many of which are enormous specimens of their kind. These furnish a tall heavy canopy of broad membranous leaves for such smaller species as Flowering Dogwood, Redbud, Pawpaw, and Wild Black Cherry. Another layer in this structure is supplied by low growing herbs and shrubs. The whole formation appears to be laced together by climbing vines, some as thick as a man's leg.

Before the forest canopy develops, the spring ephemerals, those flowers unable to grow under the low light conditions of the summer, bloom from subterranean bulbs and tubers. At this time one walks through carpets of Trilliums, Jack-in-the-pulpits, Spring Beauties, Clovers, and Violets. These are later replaced by an array of summer and fall flowers among which are Morning Glory, Monkey Flower, Goldenrod, Vervain, and Black-eyed-Susan.

Audubon Park lies in the path of the great wave of migrants that proceeds up the Mississippi valley in April and May. The number of species generally peaks about the first week in May.

(Continued on page 6)



# BIRDING in the SOUTHWEST

by ARNOLD SMALL

## GUADALUPE CANYON

Everyone who has read Olin S. Pettingill's "A Guide to Bird-Finding, West of the Mississippi" and birded extensively in southeastern Arizona is familiar with such excellent bird-finding places as Madera Canyon, Patagonia, the San Rafael Valley, Ramsey Canyon, the Huachuca, Chiricahua, and Santa Catalina Mountains, Cave Creek Canyon, and the like, but very few birders are aware of a relatively new-found birding canyon some 40 miles east of Douglas. The Guadalupe Mountains lie almost astride the borders of Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora and offer in Guadalupe Canyon, exciting possibilities of seeing some more typically Sonoran species north of the international border. While many of the expected southeastern Arizona species abound there, the chief interest lies in the newly discovered species which nest there. The Violet-crowned Hummingbird arrives in Guadalupe Canyon about July 1 and was first discovered nesting there in 1959. It also has been seen regularly at the hummingbird feeders maintained at the Southwest Research Station in Cave Creek Canyon. Another newcomer to the United States is the Buff-collared Nightjar (or Ridgeway's Whip-poor-will) which was first collected in Guadalupe Canyon in 1958. It has been recorded each June since then. Its voice is said to resemble certain sounds made by the abundant Elf Owls, although it has been described as "cu-cu-cu-cu-cachessa". Seymour Levy, who has done more work in Guadalupe Canyon than any other ornithologist, claims to have found it about 6 or 7 feet from the ground perched in the sycamores which line the entry road. The Thick-billed Kingbirds were discovered to be nesting in Guadalupe Canyon in 1958 and are the easiest of the three "specialties" to be found, although both the Western and Cassin's Kingbirds are numerous. Birding is highly rewarding even if one fails to find the above-mentioned species. Varied Buntings are a distinct possibility, Zone-tailed Hawks, Pyrrhuloxias, Whiskered Owls, Beardless Flycatchers, and Summer Tanagers together with Turkeys, among many other species, are easily seen.

To reach Guadalupe Canyon from Douglas, start at the corner of 15th St. and Dolores Ave. (marked by two water-tanks). Drive east on 15th St. towards the Douglas Airport (but don't turn right into the airport) to the end of the pavement - 4.2 miles. From here the road is typically desert washboard, but easily negotiable by any passenger car. It is 11.7 miles from here to the first road fork - keep to the

left, and another 6.6 miles to the second road fork. Here there should be a sign to Guadalupe Canyon to the right (or southeast). Another 9.5 miles brings you to the first sycamores in the canyon, and about 5 miles more to the end of the road. Good birding may be had anywhere in the canyon floor where there are sycamores.

There is no drinking water or any accommodations in the canyon so you must be prepared for a dry camp. One should plan on staying at least one night so as to try for the nightjars and owls. Also, there is an excellent chance to see Harlequin Quail, peccaries, and Turkeys early in the morning. If this were not enough temptation, a Fan-tailed Warbler was collected not far from there in 1961!

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In early May thirty-five species of warblers are found regularly in the park. Twelve of these that are known to nest here are Black and White, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Yellow, Cerulean, Yellow-throated, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, Yellowthroat, Chat, and American Redstart. Probable nesters are Parula, Blue-winged, and Prairie. In the spring season are found the Philadelphia, Red-eyed, Yellow-throated, White-eyed, and Warbling Vireos. The last four of these are regular breeding birds. Several pairs of Pileolated Woodpeckers raise broods of young in the park. A prominent feature of the spring bird life there is the horde of thrushes. As you stalk along the trail Wood Thrush, Veery, Swainson Thrush, and Gray-cheeked Thrush scatter into the lower vegetation and peer back. All are in full song at this period.

Each season seems to have its special feature. One spring the park was overrun with Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Another year brought a wave of Purple Finch. I can remember one May when I had to look hard among the Tennessee Warblers to find the other birds. Their sewing-machine-like song drowned out all other bird voices.

It has become a yearly pilgrimage for me now to return to Audubon Park and roam the same locality from which Audubon himself drew inspiration for his pen and brush. It seems magical that I can see and hear, where he did, the Kentucky Warbler on the ravine's sides, the Waterthrush as it teeters along the stream, and the brilliant Scarlet Tanager, complementary in color to the wet green leaves and sounding like a plucked rubber band. ■