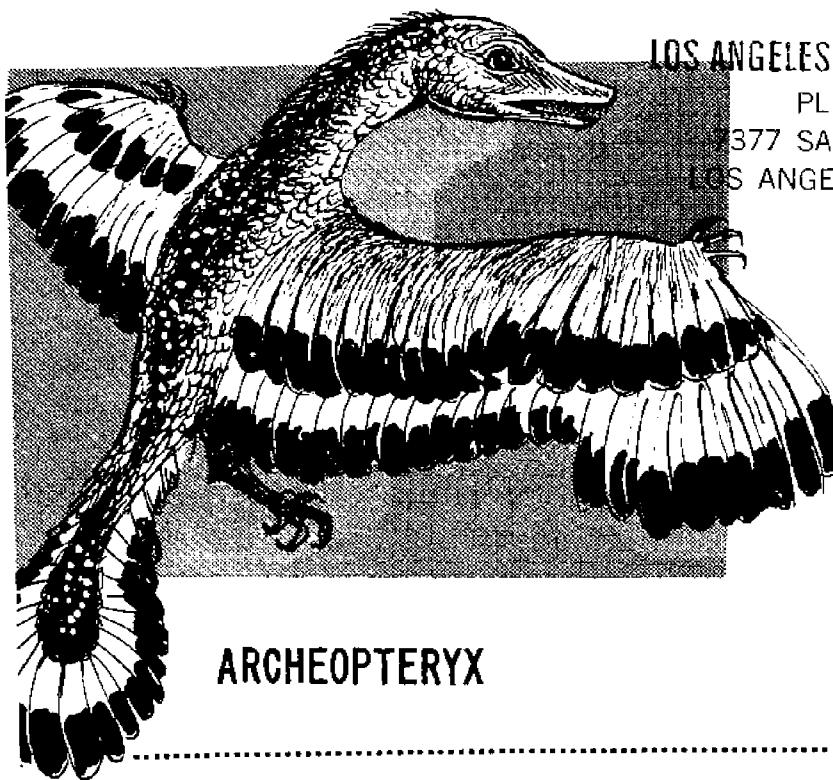


The Western Tanager

VOLUME 28

DECEMBER 1961

NUMBER 4



ARCHEOPTERYX

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

ANNUAL

Christmas

BIRD CENSUSSaturday
DEC. 30

BIRD BEGINNINGS

By David DuVal

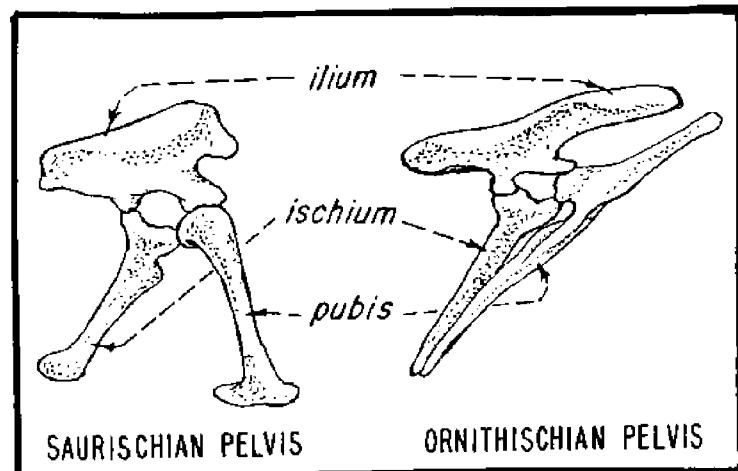
Most of us have observed birds in the field. We have asked ourselves questions about them: What are they? What do they eat? How do they act? However, some of the most important and most interesting questions are often overlooked: Where did they come from? How long have they been around? What was the very first bird? We tend to take the existence of birds for granted, but they had to start somewhere, somehow, sometime.

The evolution of most of the vertebrate groups has been established through fossil evidence. Due to the frailty of bird skeletons, however, a good fossil record of them, comparable to that of the reptiles or mammals, is difficult to find. Fortunately, several important links in the puzzle have been discovered.

It is fairly obvious that birds somehow evolved from reptilian stock. Therefore, in order to get to the very beginning of bird evolution, it is necessary to go all the way back to the Age of Reptiles, 175 million years ago. During this period the reptiles were exploding in numbers and developing into myriads of shapes and sizes. Most of these ancient reptiles became extinct without leaving any descendants, but others evolved into our modern reptiles as well as the mammals and birds. And, although they were reptiles, some exhibited a few birdlike characteristics. For example, among the Archosauria or dinosaurs there were two large groups. One group, the Saurischia or "dino-

saur with reptile-like pelvis", included such familiar genera as the carnivorous Tyrannosaurus, and the huge amphibious dinosaur Brontosaurus. Neither of these, of course, even resembled a bird. However, there were in this group a number of carnivorous forms typified by the Ostrich Dinosaur Struthiomimus. This, as the name suggests, looked rather ostrich-like, except for the long tail and front limbs. It was toothless, supposedly having a bird-like bill. All of the Saurischians became extinct.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46
Hollywood 7-9195

WESTERN TANAGER

Free to members.... Others \$1.50 annually

Aves

Rarae

by

Ernest J.
Willoughby

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

The Kirtland's, or Jack-pine, Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandi*) is reckoned among the rarest birds of North America. One seldom thinks of song birds when the question of rare and endangered species comes to mind, but this one ranks fairly with such birds as the Trumpeter Swan, American Flamingo, Ross's Goose, Bald Eagle and other more prepossessing species of this class.

It has been found breeding only within about 12 counties in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, where it chooses dense, nearly homogeneous stands of young pines, and nests on or near the ground. The species winters in the Bahamas, where it can be seen but rarely. Dr. Harold Mayfield has censussed the population by counting singing males in 1951 and again in 1961. The 1951 census (reported in *The Auk*, vol. 70, pp. 17-20) revealed 432 males and a total population probably less than 1000. The 1961 count turned up 502 males (reported at the 79th meeting of the A.O.U.), indicating slight but probably insignificant increase in the ten years.

The bird's rarity stems from its demanding habitat restrictions. For breeding it chooses dense homogeneous stands of small pines from 5 to 20 feet tall providing thickets and small clearings. Jack pines (*Pinus banksiana*) make up the bulk of the habitat, but breeding birds have been found in almost pure stands of red pine (*Pinus resinosa*). The tracts must be of large extent, greater than about 70 acres.



The STAFF

Editor	Arnold Small
	3028 Cavendish Drive., Los Angeles 64
Ass't Editor & Art Editor	Robert Sandmeyer
Conservation	Frank Little
Field Notes	Arnold Small
Audubon Activities	Russell Wilson
Calendar	Douglas Dick
Typing	Helen Sandmeyer
Mailing	Mimi Small

This bird has depended largely on forest fires to create and maintain this habitat, which remains suitable only about 10 years in any given area (when the trees become too tall to meet the bird's requirements). It does nest in thickly grown row plantings, but this probably is not optimal habitat.

The Kirtland's Warbler is in a rather precarious position. Too strict and successful control of forest fires can eliminate a large part of its habitat. Another danger is the breaking up and scattering of suitable tracts of pines, resulting in individuals too widely spaced to find mates and breed effectively, or tracts below the minimum requirement of about 70 acres. The long migration of the entire population to the Bahamas presents the possibility that a hurricane or other natural calamity might wipe out such a large segment of the population en route to or from the wintering grounds that the remaining individuals could not breed effectively enough to maintain the species.

A measure which has been suggested to save the Kirtland's Warbler is controlled burning of extensive tracts at regular intervals to maintain the habitat. Further break up, scattering and reduction of suitable tracts of pine should be guarded against. ■

Audubon

WILDLIFE
FILMS

Emerson Scott

Pika Country

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1962

The little rabbit-like pika is one of the leading characters in a stirring film of the majestic northwest, photographed in color and narrated by Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan. Audubon Screen Tour audiences, guided by an experienced and dedicated naturalist, explore vast wilderness areas, inhabited by trumpeter swans and ptarmigan, magpies and pine squirrels, elk, moose, and black bear.



Los Angeles Audubon Society

CALENDAR

Mrs. Russell Wilson, Executive Secretary

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

Telephone hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 1961

December 2 **SATURDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BAZAAR** 1:00-4:00 P.M. - Great Hall, Plummer Park. Christmas gifts and decorations as well as baked goods will be for sale and coffee and cookies served for a nominal price, proceeds used for the Nature Museum at Audubon House. Volunteer arts, crafts and assistance welcomed.
Chairman: Mrs. Rose Bussey - NO 2-6523
or: Audubon House - HO 7-9495

December 2 **SATURDAY - JUNIOR NATURALISTS** 10:45 A.M.-12:30 P.M. Meet at Cabrillo Beach Marine Museum in San Pedro. The group will proceed to the tide pools to study and collect. Mr. Ned Baker will be in charge. For further information:
Mr. John Peebles - HO 7-1661

December 7 **THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** 7:30 P.M. - Audubon House.

December 9 **SATURDAY FIELD TRIP** - 8:00 A.M. - Hanson Dam. From either San Fernando Road or Glenoaks Blvd. turn north on Osborne St. to Hanson Dam entrance. Look for Audubon Field Trip signs. We will bird for two hours at the main pond then drive to the east side of the area on Wentworth, north of Glenoaks Blvd. (Wentworth is an extension of Sheldon Ave.) Those wishing to make breakfast in the park may come at 7:00 A.M. Bring lunch.
Leaders: Marion & Russ Wilson - PO - 1-7635

December 12 **TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING** 8:00 P.M. - Great Hall, Plummer Park. "LURE OF THE LIST" by Arnold Small. An expert explains secrets of the 'life list': where to find certain 'specialties'. Illustrated with maps and color slides. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Chairman: Robert Blackstone CR 6-3879

December 28 **THURSDAY MAILING PARTY** - 7:45 P.M. - Audubon House. Come and spend a delightful hour or two of light conversation and light work (mailing Tanagers). Refreshments will be served.
Chairman: Mimi Small VE 7-2272

December 30 **SATURDAY - CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS** Dawn to dusk. All interested members and friends are invited and urged to participate in this day of counting birds in the Los Angeles area. If you wish to join us, phone:

Leader: Allan Meyerfeld - PL 6-8740
or: Jim Huffman - FR 2-7124

January 4 **THURSDAY - AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - "PIKA COUNTRY"** by Emerson Scott - 7:45 P.M. - John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. A stirring color film of the majestic northwest, narrated by Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan. This experienced and dedicated naturalist explores with camera the vast wilderness areas inhabited by trumpeter swans and ptarmigan, magpies and pine squirrels, elk, moose, black bear and the little pika of the title.

Chairman: Bill Lehmann - FR 7-2635

Bird Beginnings

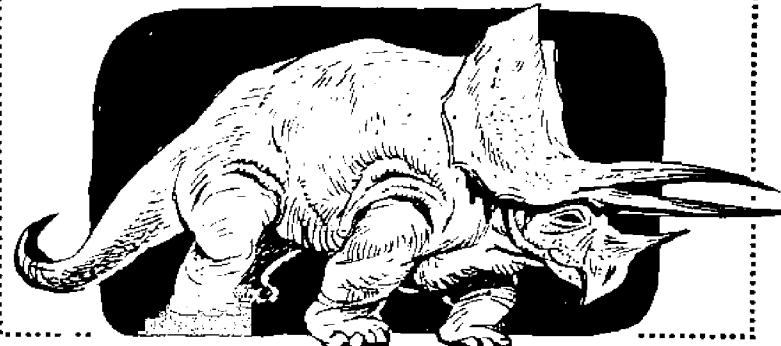
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

The other large group of dinosaurs were the Ornithischia or "dinosaurs with a bird-like pelvis". However, although their pelvis may have been bird-like, their general appearance was decidedly unbirdlike. Most of them were heavily armored such as the familiar Stegosaurus and Triceratops.

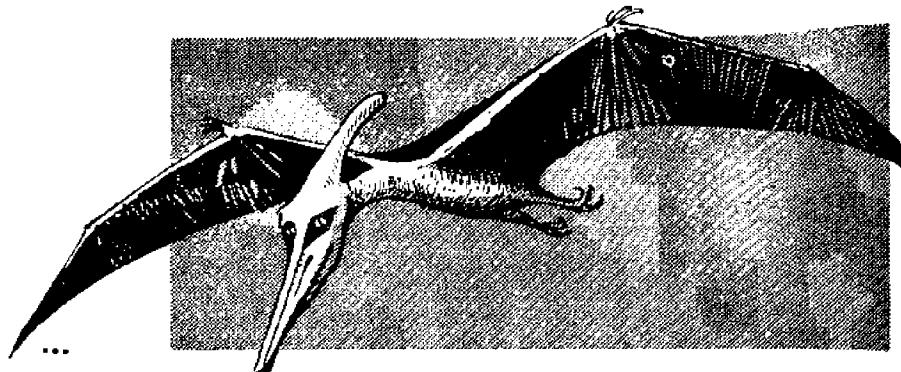
From among the array of ancient reptiles which possessed avian characteristics of various kinds, one group stands out as being quite bird-like. These were the Pterosaurians, (winged reptiles). One familiar genus, which is constantly flying in and out of the comic strips is Pteranodon which, at one time, flew over the seas which covered Kansas. It was an enormous reptile (the last of the "flying reptiles") with a toothless beak, a long crest projecting from the back of the head, and a wingspread of over 20 feet. They were fish-eaters and were no doubt similar in habits to some of our pelagic birds.

So here are three groups of reptiles, the saurischian and ornithischian dinosaurs, and the Pterosaurs, all of which possessed some degree of avian characteristics but none of which gave rise to our modern birds. How do we know? First, although one group could fly, none of them possessed feathers. Also, none of these groups had a clavicle or "wishbone" which is present in all of the birds that we know. Finally, at the end of the Mesozoic Era when the reptiles were rapidly declining, birds were already present and well along in their development. So somewhere along the line some group of undiscovered reptiles gave rise to the birds.

The oldest of birds known today would probably have been classified as reptiles were it not for the fossil impressions of feathers found with them. These birds, found in the Jurassic slate quarries in Germany (which date back



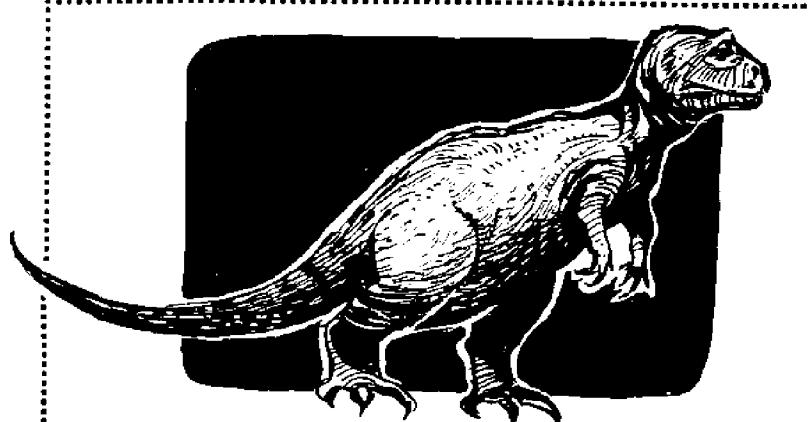
TRICERATOPS



PTERANODON

130 million years) were named Archeopteryx and Archeornis ("ancient wing" and "ancient bird"). Recent studies have shown that these may be the same genus or even the same species. These were pigeon-sized birds, and even though they possessed feathers, they were quite reptile-like. They had long lizard-like tails and lizard-like beaks with teeth imbedded in them. Short rounded wings enabled them to make brief gliding flights. The structure of their feet as well as the three clawed "fingers" on each wing indicate that these birds were forest-dwellers.

The next fossil bird after Archeopteryx comes from deposits dated 35 million years later. (This is indicative of the large gaps in the knowledge of bird evolution, for during this long span of time there has been no evidence of what was happening to the birds.) This bird was a large loon-like bird resembling some of our modern loons or cormorants. It was called Hesperornis or Western Bird and was apparently fairly common during the Cretaceous Period. It also had teeth, but the tail was shorter and resembled



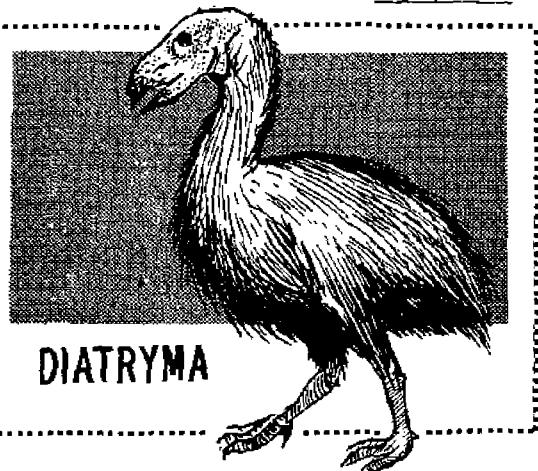
TYRANNOSAURUS

those of modern species. The feet were attached at almost right angles to the body, indicating its swimming and diving habits. Apparently having lost the powers of flight, the wings were rudimentary.

Another bird which occurred with the Western Bird was Ichthyornis or Fish Bird. This bird was more advanced than Hesperornis and resembled some of our gulls and terns. The keeled breastbone and strong wings denote a strong flier. Also, teeth may have begun to disappear in this genus. When the inland seas vanished, they took both of these birds with

them, however other birds found in the Cretaceous further emphasized the evolution that occurred during that 35 million year gap since Archeopteryx. These include such forms as 8 primitive divers, 10 ichthyorniform birds, 2 flamingos, a cormorant, and an ostrich (from Canada). Thus at the end of the Age of Reptiles, some 80-90 million years ago, several groups of birds had become established and began to initiate the trends which would eventually evolve into the birds we see today.

About 60 million years ago during the Eocene Epoch of the Age of Mammals (Cenozoic Era) these trends became established and continued to the present day. However, there were at this time some forms that were quite bizarre. These were mostly large, flightless, carnivorous birds such as the seven-foot tall Diatryma.



Another large group existed in South America and ranged from 27 inches tall to one that was 9 feet tall with a massive 15 inch beak. These birds were contemporary with the earliest horses which at that time were about the size of a fox terrier. This led Alfred Romer, a well-known zoologist at Harvard, to an interesting

speculation. When the reptiles declined, this left the world open for conquest to two groups--the mammals and the birds. Although the mammals won out (?), these giant birds must have given them some stiff competition. Romer asks the intriguing question: What would the earth be like today had the birds won out and the mammals vanished?

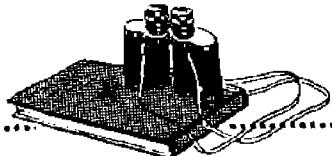
Of course, birds haven't vanished yet. The species which we see today probably appeared less than a million years ago during the Pleistocene. (Man is a little over 1 1/2 million years old according to recent African discoveries.) One valuable source of information as to what birds were like at this time is the La Brea Tar Pits. Next time you visit the Los Angeles County Museum be sure to see the skeletons of birds found there. Also if one thumbs through the fifth edition of the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds it is easy to find that fossils of practically all of our modern species have been found during the Pleistocene.

There have been a few relatively recent birds which have become extinct since the advent of modern man. Two familiar species were the Giant Moa of New Zealand and the Elephant Bird from Madagascar.

Thus it can be seen that the birds should not be taken for granted. Somehow, probably 150 million years ago, some unknown reptile evolved into a primitive bird similar to Archeopteryx which in turn lost its teeth and became more and more bird-like until 150 million years later our modern birds emerged. Of course, this has been the simplest of outlines of bird evolution, and two fascinating aspects of this haven't even been considered--the origin of feathers and the origin of flight. But this article will have been successful if, the next time you see a bird, you think back to Archeopteryx and to all the changes that have occurred which have made our modern birds what they are. ■

Audubon Activities

by RUSSELL WILSON



On a day that was to produce all-time record temperatures for Oct. 12, some twenty of us, led by Field Trip Chairman Dave Wilson, met at Harbor Park. We were greeted by Mr. Edward Anacker of the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department who told us of progress being made in the development of this area, together with efforts to preserve much of it in its natural state. It was encouraging to hear from Mr. Anacker that the administration of the Department is definitely conservation minded and that wildlife and natural areas are in the plans for the development of this area and other regional parks within the system.

Forty-four birds were listed as the group patrolled the perimeter of the slough, stopping at various vantage points, including the area where the Society has plans for the erection of an observation tower overlooking the open water and marsh. Good looks were had of Sora Rails,

Gallinules, Black-crowned Night Herons, Greater Yellowlegs and Egrets. By eleven o'clock the heat was so uncomfortable that we had an early lunch and headed home.

Starting from the traffic circle on highway 101 at eight o'clock, Don and Caroline Adams led twenty-one of us down the coast to Newport Bay for our Sunday field trip. The Burrowing Owl was found in the usual place, Bonaparte Gulls at Bolsa Chica, and off-shore Pomerine and Parasitic Jaegers and Elegant Terns. A large raft of ducks occupied Upper Newport Bay and although Widgeons and Pintails predominated, careful observing produced twelve species. The best bird of the day, spotted by Arnold Small and then seen nicely by all of us, was an Old Squaw. It was a beautiful day to be out and in all sixty-three birds were seen.



BIRDING in the Southwest

by James W. Huffman

SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATERFOWL REFUGES

Those who are looking for good birding during the winter months will be well rewarded by a visit to the wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley of California. Some of the most spectacular concentrations of waterfowl on the North American Continent will be found there. In the Butte Sink region, which is regularly overflowed by the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, are four important waterfowl refuges. Two of these areas are excellent for observing and photographing birds, and are discussed in some detail here.

The 6,700 acre Gray Lodge Waterfowl Management Area, administered by the California State Department of Fish and Game, may be reached by taking the Gridley-Colusa Highway west from the town of Gridley. Six miles west of Gridley, turn left on the Pennington Road and proceed south about four miles to the hunter checking station for the refuge, where one will be directed to the refuge headquarters. Large sections of this refuge are open to hunting, but there is a well kept road near the refuge headquarters that encircles an area where large flocks of waterfowl feed and loaf.

At Gray Lodge, the visitors' road is on a dike well above the level of the water, and excellent views of the ponds are possible. Gray Lodge should be visited if for no other reason than to see the Ross' Geese and the Sandhill Cranes. The latter may best be viewed in the fields to the south of and bordering the refuge. They can be scanned from the road inside the refuge. At this place are also found large flocks of Snow and White-fronted Geese, and smaller flocks of Canada Geese and a few Whistling Swans. A fine variety of ducks will also be found here including great flocks of American Widgeon, Pintail, and Shoveler. Herons of several species and both American and Least Bitterns are here as well.

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is about seven miles south of the town of Willows on U.S. Highway 99W. If one drives from Gray Lodge, an interesting route to take passes near the Butte Sink itself. From Gray Lodge, take the West Butte Road, proceeding west and circling around the northwest corner of the Sutter Buttes. This West Butte Road, after turning south, connects with the Pass Road, which when followed west brings you to the town of Colusa on U.S. 99W. One of the attractions of the entire Butte Sink region is the great flocks of ducks and geese constantly in view, and the

large flocks of Whistling Swans.

The 10,776 acre Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge offers nearly ideal conditions for both observation and photography. The many miles of good roads in the refuge are at or near the same level as the marshes and fields where the birds feed and rest. Good cover for the observer is available along many of the roads, so that it is possible to approach by automobile within a few yards of large flocks of geese and ducks resting in open view. In fact, a car is your best blind.

This refuge is not open to hunting and the numbers of geese and ducks at peak periods in the Sacramento Refuge can be staggering. At times, there may be over two million ducks and several hundred thousand geese here. Twenty or thirty thousand Snow Geese rising like a white curtain in a deafening roar is indescribably thrilling.

Other interesting birds at Sacramento are flocks of White Pelicans, many herons and bitterns, numerous hawks (including Rough-legged), and shorebirds of many types. Often found here also are Hooded Mergansers, as many as eight European Widgeons, Northern Shrikes, and both Emperor and Blue geese have visited recently.



While in the Butte Sink region, one should not neglect the interesting land-birding that is found along many of the roads through the rice fields and other farmlands outside of the refuges. At all times while driving, one should be alert for such wintering species as Short-eared Owls, Bald Eagles, and Lewis' Woodpeckers. Another feature of this countryside is the enormous concentration of wintering blackbirds (including thousands of Starlings) which even outnumber the waterfowl.

Although visitors are always welcome at the refuges, one should always check in at the refuge headquarters to ascertain the conditions of the roads and the location of the closed areas. November and December are the months when these great concentrations of birds are most likely. In regards to tourist accommodations near these refuges, there are adequate motels, restaurants, and trailer parking both in Gridley and Willows although they may be crowded with hunters. Those who require more luxurious appointments may drive to nearby Marysville. It is likely to be cold and perhaps rainy during the winter months here, so go prepared for the weather and for one of the greatest ornithological thrills of your life. ■

Audubon Activities

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

Eighty-three birds were listed on our Saturday field trip to Santa Barbara Nov. 11. Shore birds dominated our list which included eight gulls, twelve ducks, four grebes, five herons, three terns and all of the usual sandpipers, plovers, curlews and godwits. Although nothing outstanding was seen, Dave Robison, our leader, was able to show a good number of life birds to some of our newest friends. We were happy to welcome two newcomers who had never birded with us before, Diana Kaiser and Hugh Kingery, and hope they will come again.

This trip always starts at the Santa Barbara Bird Refuge and continues up the coast to the University of California Santa Barbara campus where there are two good ponds and a stretch of palisades overlooking some rocky and sandy shore. Our cavalcade caught the attention of the campus police and we were escorted by them through the grounds and around to the first pond. The White-tailed Kite was found here as promised. The regularly scheduled portion of the trip ended with lunch at Goleta Beach and afternoon birding along the Goleta Slough.

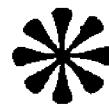
The trip attracted twenty-eight birders this year, many of whom made a full week-end of it by staying Friday and Saturday nights in Santa Barbara, while six of us camped at Carpinteria State Park. With chamber-of-commerce weather, this proved to be a very delightful week-end.

The very well attended Tuesday Evening meeting featured the film "An Island in Time" which was prepared by the Sierra Club to arouse interest in the preservation of the Point Reyes Peninsula as part of the National Seashores program. This beautiful film emphasizes the scenic beauties of the area, its historical interest, the biotic communities which will soon be destroyed if not brought under federal protection, and the opportunities for human use if preserved for present and future generations. As always, time is running out.

During the preliminaries, President Jim Huffman reported on the National Convention of the Audubon Society, from which he had just returned. He was impressed with the large attendance, with the fine management of the programs and field trips, with the significant role which National Audubon Society plays in the conservation movement. He reported particularly the address of President Carl Buchheister who outlined to the convention the areas of particular interest upon which National is now concentrating: (1) the Wilderness Bill, (2) the acquisition of wetlands, (3) seashore recreation areas, (4) water pollution (5) pesticide regulation and control, (6) oil pollution of the seas. Jim mentioned also the possibility that the next national convention may be held somewhere in the mid-west.



Marion Wilson reported steps taken by Society Headquarters as a result of the recent destructive fire in the Santa Monica Mountains. After calling the Fish and Game Department,



CONSERVATION NEWS

from FRANK LITTLE

By and large, this has been a good year for conservation. Congress seems to have been conservation-minded and has passed several important conservation measures (as reported in past issues of the Tanager). There have been, however, several omissions in the conservation slate of the first session of Congress. We hope the second session will fill these gaps.

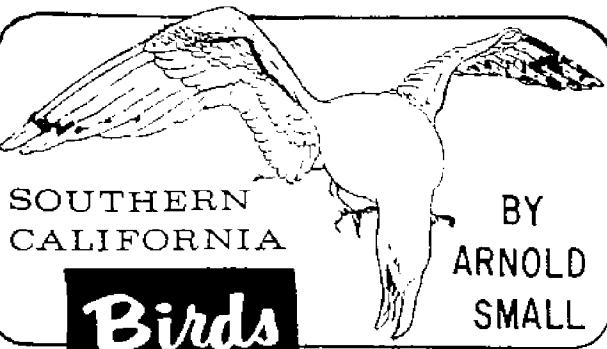
Probably the most important bill still pending is the Wilderness Bill, S. 174. After hanging around in Congress in one form or another for five years, this bill was finally passed by the Senate this fall. This is indeed good news, but final passage is far from being assured. The bill must survive the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs and then fend off a multitude of crippling amendments before it can even be brought to a vote in the House. The bill is sure to meet heavy opposition at each of these stages.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has written many official letters to Congressional Committees and Congressmen in behalf of this bill; individual letters from those interested would also be of great assistance in getting this most vital bill passed. Letters should be addressed to: Wayne N. Aspinall, Chairman, Committee

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

which is opposed to any feeding, and the SPCA, which has a program of controlled feeding, planned to prevent the enticement of wildlife into road-side areas and inhabited areas, Carroll Alcott was contacted and asked to make some suggestions to the public in his daily news broadcast at 5:15 P.M. Mr. Alcott very obligingly did so, saying: "do not scatter seeds, bread and other foods along highways because this attracts rats, brings wildlife into hazardous areas, and if not found soon will mold and cause poisoning of wildlife which may find it later. Those who have fed birds in the area and whose feeding stations are intact should continue to feed. No new feeding stations should be set up in the burned over area unless the persons doing so can maintain them over an indefinite period of time. Those feeding birds at any time should not feed heavily or too regularly as this makes wildlife too dependent, cuts down their alertness and makes them less able to cope with emergencies. It was suggested at the evening meeting that anyone wishing to help feed should do so by donating to the SPCA or the Bel Air Patrol, Beverly Glen and Sunset Blvds.

Our thanks to program Chairman Bob Blackstone for varied and interesting program. ■



The searing heat wave of Oct. 13-15 set the stage for one of the most disastrous calamities ever to befall the Los Angeles area. The remarkable thing is that it did not happen sooner. The great fire which razed more than 13,000 acres of brush, grassland, and chaparral in the Santa Monica Mountains Nov. 6-9 was almost bound to happen. The Santa Ana winds which commenced blowing through the canyons on Saturday, Nov. 6 and lasted through Sunday evening generated the fire into a holocaust. Happily the fire did not start on Saturday when the strongest winds were blowing, or the devastation would have been even more enormous.

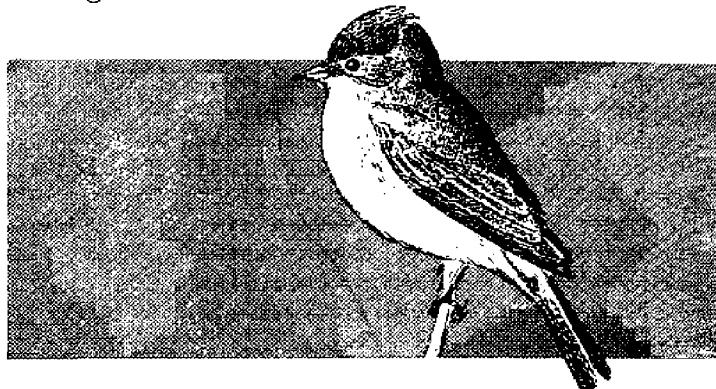
Although most of the press releases emphasized the loss of homes (and more than twenty of our members live in the affected area) the loss of wildlife and plant cover was considerable. Large numbers of reptiles and mammals appeared in populated regions of the Santa Monica Mountains during and after the fire. People who maintained aviaries were requested either to bring their birds with them, or set them free. Many chose the latter course, and since then there has been a rash of reports of exotic species appearing in the western Los Angeles area.

The S.P.C.A. plans to reenter the fire area and set out feed for the mammals (particularly the deer) so as to keep them out of the surrounding gardens where they might be shot.



The U. S. Forest Service and the California State Department of Fish and Game will survey the area to determine what restoration measures might be possible. In reality, chaparral thrives on fire since it tends to thin out the old, matted growth and allows new shoots to spring from the root crowns, and allows herbs to grow, thus providing more food for animals.

There appears to be an invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers under way (probably due to the drought-induced poor cone crop in the mountains). Many nutcrackers have been reported from coastal areas, lowland areas, and even Palos Verdes. White-crowned Sparrows are present in good numbers and the wintering flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Fox Sparrows are large. Robins as well are present in large numbers throughout the lowland areas. A Baltimore Oriole has been coming to a feeder in Santa Barbara rather regularly and Bullock's Orioles were commoner than usual at feeders during the fall.



Phoebe

An Eastern Phoebe was at Malibu Oct. 29, but the big attraction there remained the Ruddy Shelduck. A letter received from the San Diego Zoo (in reply to an inquiry) stated that they had lost none, but they considered the bird to be an escape since there are a number of aviculturists in this area who breed exotic waterfowl. ■

CONSERVATION NEWS (CONTINUED)

on Interior and Insular Affairs, New House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C. or to any member of the House of Representatives.

Another long-standing blemish on the legislative record is the failure of Congress to appropriate funds for the protection of Rainbow Bridge National Monument from the invasion of waters backed up by the Glen Canyon Dam. The odd part about this matter is that Congress, when it originally passed the Colorado River Storage Act, specified that no national park or monument be impaired by any dam or its backwater; but now, when a most outstanding natural feature is threatened by impounded water, Congress will not vote the necessary funds for its protection. This is indeed unfortunate since Rainbow Bridge is one of the most magnificent such structures in all the world. The National Parks Association, which has spearheaded the attack so far, is still trying desperately to get the needed protection for the Bridge. Here again, letters from interested individuals to Congressmen could turn the tide of battle.

Other conservation bills still before Congress stand a good chance for some sort of action in the second session which convenes in January. We shall attempt to report any such action as it appears. ■

TANGER FOLDING and MAILING PARTY

Thursday, Nov. 30th.

Call Mimi Small
VE 7-2272