

# Los Angeles Audubon Society

## The Western Tanager

VOLUME 28

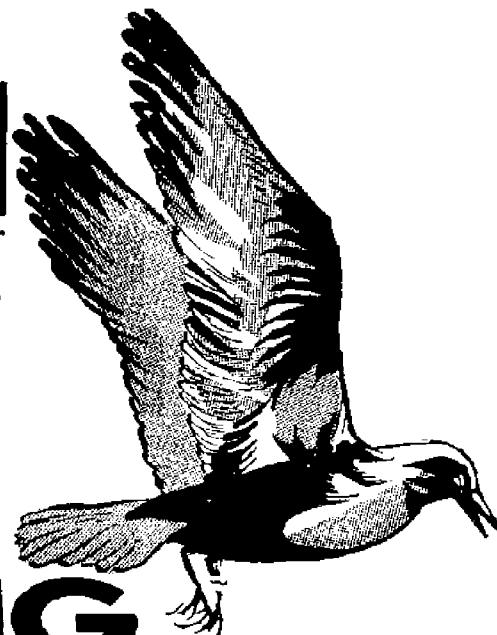
FEBRUARY 1962

NUMBER 6



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK  
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA



## BIRD BANDING

By DON BLEITZ

\* \* \* \* \*

**B**ird banding is a method of providing permanent, individual identification of a bird, usually through the use of a light-weight aluminum band which encircles the leg of the bird. This band is inscribed with a number which is registered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Banding Office, near Washington, D.C.

Some birds are also marked with colored plastic bands in various combinations which provide identification without recapturing the bird. The plastic colored bands, and colored plastic neckties used on some waterfowl, aid in collecting valuable data without having to again capture the bird. Color markings are used mainly to trace migration and distribution of young birds from nesting colonies.

Through the use of banding, accurate information pertaining to migration, longevity, homing instincts, speed of flight over sustained periods, mating patterns, and many other facets of bird behavior can be ascertained.

Banding is done both by Federal and State fish and game officials, as well as by specially licensed cooperators. These cooperators are persons with good ornithological experience and capable of keeping accurate records of the banding they accomplish. The Banding Office furnishes the necessary bands, and the reporting forms. The cooperating bander supplies his own trapping devices which can be purchased from various other cooperators, or he may make his own traps. It is necessary to have specific State and Federal permits to possess and use such trapping devices.

One of the commoner methods of capturing birds is to use hardware-cloth enclosures with doors which close by gravity. Various ways of holding these doors open can be devised, so that when a bird enters the enclosure the door is triggered and allowed to fall, thus closing the trap. Many types of bait are used to attract the bird into the trap, including: mixed grains, berries, insects, water, and all kinds of attractions provided to lure the bird into the enclosure. The bander promptly removes the bird from the trap, affixes the numbered band (of the proper size) smoothly around the leg, then releases the bird after recording pertinent data.

This information is reported at the end of each banding year to the Federal Banding Office on the forms provided by them for this purpose. The banding office enters all of this information from the bander's reports onto IBM cards. Many banded game birds are shot by hunters who report the number, the date, and the place the bird was shot, to the banding office. The banding office in turn informs the bander where and when the bird was recovered, and informs the hunter where and when it was banded, and by whom.

Other birds are found dead by persons who report the band to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and again the IBM cards tell their story. Others are captured alive by other banders, and after recording the band number, they again release the bird unharmed. This report also follows the same procedure, and both the original and the reporting bander receive the pertinent information.

*(Continued on page 44)*

# The Western Tanager



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

3337 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46  
HOLLYWOOD 7-3456

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

## 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	Caroline Adams
	Mimi Small

## CONSERVATION news

FROM FRANK LITTLE

Due to some timely action by alert conservationists a near "tragedy" was averted last month. Desert Cove Properties, a real estate group in Los Angeles, had filed an application with the San Bernardino County Planning Commission for a subdivision on private inholdings in the Quail Springs area of Joshua Tree National Monument. The area involved is highly scenic and includes one of the finest stands of Joshua Trees in the Monument. Moreover, in an era when we are desperately trying to set aside natural areas in the face of ever-expanding urban developments, it seems a crime to permit an island of civilization to form within the sanctity of such a magnificent preserve as Joshua Tree Monument.

Largely due to the efforts of a dedicated, hard-working group of conservationists, permission to develop the area was denied, at least for the time being. The story behind this victory for conservation is a fascinating one and illustrates clearly what can be accomplished by a militant citizenry.

A public hearing on this matter scheduled by the Planning Commission for December 14 was not publicized and was only learned of by the conservationists at the eleventh hour. With time short, the alarm was quickly spread via such conservation organizations as: Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Desomount Club, San Bernar-

dino Valley District Garden Club, Desert Protective Council, Isaac Walton League, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, Ramblers, Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk, etc., etc., etc. We of the Los Angeles Audubon Society did not get word of this action until three days prior to the hearing. By circulating a petition at the Tuesday evening meeting we managed to obtain more than 30 signatures and still get the petition in for the Thursday hearing.

Bill Long, representing the Sierra Club, presented petitions including more than 1,000 signatures opposing the subdivision. Following the Sierra Club presentation, the Planning Commission made its decision to reject the application. While the remaining conservation groups were not heard, their presence in force was an important psychological factor. The Commission announced that it had received a number of telegrams and letters from other individuals and organizations.

The Planning Commission stated that it based its decision upon the fact that the subdivider's plans did not meet the legal requirements of the county in regards to access roads, drainage, flood-control, and domestic water supply; and, while expressing some sympathy for the conservationists' point of view, further stated that it would be obliged by law to approve the development if the requirements be met at some later date. However, the Federal Government would have to grant a permit for an access road; so far such permission has been refused.

Following the hearing, Desert Cove Properties appealed the decision to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors which scheduled a hearing for January 9. Once more the conservationists were not given the news and learned of this hearing with even less time to spare than before. Again the conservation organizations jumped into the fray; we circulated a second petition, this time at our Wildlife Film. Many dedicated people took off a day of work to drive to San Bernardino and testify at the hearing. The Board voted 4-0 in favor of sustaining the Planning Commission's denial to develop. At this hearing, it was the general feeling, although not official, that it was the presence of the conservationists with their three-inch stack of correspondence that tipped the scales. A hearty thanks to all the unselfish individuals, too numerous to name individually, that made this victory possible.

The conclusion reached by many people following these hearings is that conservationists are going to have to do more than fight brush fires if Joshua Tree is to be saved. One solution would be to persuade the Bureau of Land Management to reestablish a policy of land exchanges whereby the holders of private inholdings can trade for government land outside the Monument. Another answer would be an all-out effort to persuade Congress to appropriate the necessary funds to enable the National Park Service to buy up the inholdings.

# Los Angeles Audubon Society

# CALENDAR

February 1962

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

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

February 1      THURSDAY      AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - "ANIMALS ARE EXCITING"  
by Howard Cleaves - 7:45 P.M. John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. A visit to the world's largest feeding station, to the famed "Otter Man", a prairie horned lark, and a weasel family, will be shown in its rustic habitats--and ham habits.  
Chairman: Marion Wilson - HO 7-9495

February 3      SATURDAY      JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45 A.M. - Fern Dell Museum.  
"Nature Protects Itself--Camouflage" by Mary Hood.  
Chairman: John Peebles HO 7-1661

February 10      SATURDAY      FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. - Malibu Lagoon. Take Pacific Coast Highway past Malibu Pier; cross the bridge over Malibu Creek. Park on the ocean side of the highway, north of bridge. The Ruddy Shelduck may still be there.  
Leader: Irwin Woldman WE 8-6141

February 13      TUESDAY      EVENING MEETING - 8:00 P.M. - Great Hall, Plummer Park, "Birder's Potpourri" by Herb Clarke. A photographic record of a year's birding adventures.  
Chairman: Bob Blackstone CR 6-3879

February 22      THURSDAY      MORNING MEETING 10:00 A.M. -12:00 - Plummer Park (Long Hall). Mrs. Samuel Ayres Jr. will show her beautiful color motion picture, "Birds in Motion and Color". Come and bring your birding and non-birding friends, and/or camera fans--we will see how two engrossing hobbies can be combined to make a thing of beauty.  
Chairman: Olive Alvey - NO 1-8036

February 25      SUNDAY      FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. - Los Angeles Arboretum. Drive east on Colorado past Rosemead Blvd. to Baldwin Ave., turn right--the entrance is on Baldwin, opposite the Santa Anita Race Track. Bring lunch and binoculars.  
Chairman: Dave Robison PO 1-0217  
Leaders: Hannah Walker and Irving Goldman

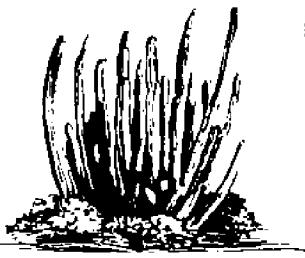
February 28      WEDNESDAY      MAILING PARTY - 7:45 P.M. - Audubon House, Plummer Park. Light conversation; light work; refreshments.  
Chairman: Mimi Small VE 7-2272

February 28      WEDNESDAY      EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. - Audubon House, Plummer Park, Hollywood

March 1      THURSDAY      AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM "HEART OF THE WILD"  
by Cleveland P. Grant - 7:45 P.M. - John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. Films mainly taken in the Manitoba marshes and the Rocky Mountains. Superbly done and with important information on conservation.  
Chairman: Marion Wilson - HO 7-9495

March 3      SATURDAY      JUNIOR NATURALISTS Noon to 1:00 P.M. Guided tour through the Griffith Observatory. Meet on the steps.  
Chairman: John Peebles - HO 7-1661

March 3      SATURDAY      FIELD TRIP - 8:30 A.M. - Hdqtrs. of Audubon Center of So. Calif. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., right on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., left to No. Durfee Ave., left to 1000. Bring lunch, and soup will be served. Joining with other groups, seeing new 3 acre lake. 80 species of birds on their Christmas count.  
Host: Paul Howard



# BIRDING

## in the SOUTHWEST

BY RUSS & MARION WILSON

# Organ Pipe Cactus NATIONAL MONUMENT

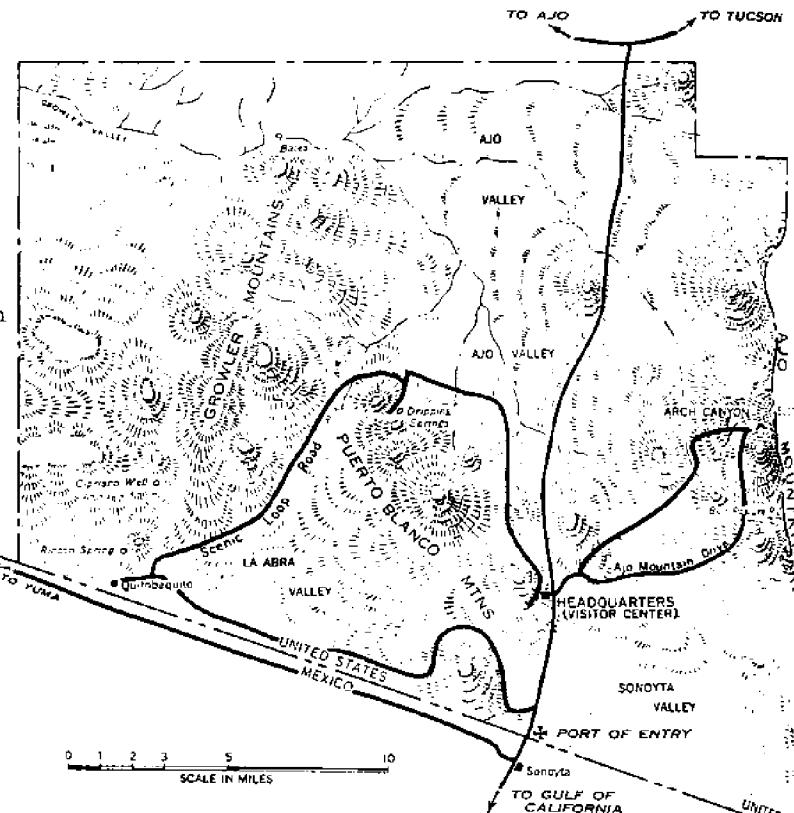
For some winter birding in shirtsleeve weather have you ever considered Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument? This area of some five hundred twenty square miles lying in southern Arizona directly on the border with Mexico is too far away for a week-end visit, but if you can manage five to seven days you most surely will find it rewarding.

This national monument is reached via Yuma, then highway 80 to Gila Bend where you turn south on Arizona highway 85, which leads through the mining town of Ajo and to the fine new Visitors' Center at a total distance of about 475 miles from Los Angeles. There are no motel accommodations nearer than the town of Ajo but Mission 66 has provided a fine campground with modern conveniences. It lies on a gently rising slope about a mile from the Visitors' Center. With commendable foresight the electric lines have been placed underground; each camp site is nicely spaced from the next one, and from there your eye can wander out over a hundred thousand acres of desert wilderness without coming to rest on single man-made object.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument was established to preserve a typical portion of the great Sonoran Desert which dominates northern Mexico and extends north of the border into southern Arizona and southeastern California. It is the home of over twenty-five species of cactus ranging in size from the giant saguaro, twenty foot tall organ pipes, twelve foot senitas, middle size cholla, prickly pear, and barrel cactus, to the small beaver-tail, hedgehog, fish hook, rainbow and pin cushion cactuses. With

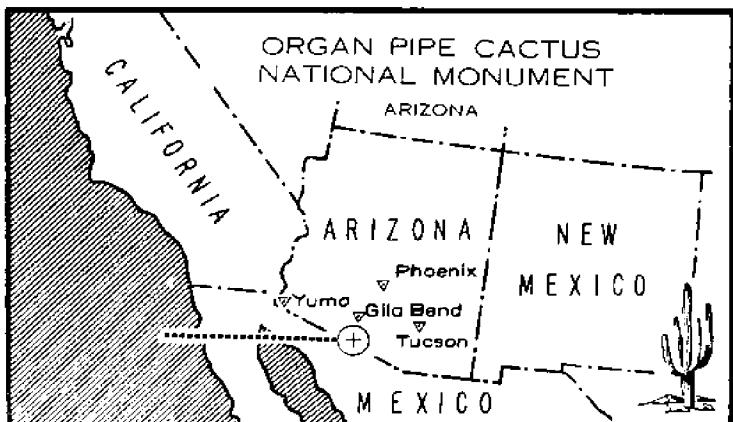
an average annual rainfall of six inches, there is a great deal more vegetation than one habitually associates with the word desert and it is almost possible to speak of "forests" of ironwood trees, palo verdes, mesquites, cat's-claw, white-thorn and creosote bush. This rich vegetative cover provides food, shelter, and nesting sites for a wide variety of birds, and better still, a large number of individuals. If you miss a bird the first time you are certain to have another chance at it again.

We have visited this monument four times; most recently just before Christmas 1961. As we arrived in the campground we were greeted by a Curve-billed Thrasher whistling his unique call notes from the top of a staghorn cholla.



Three Cactus Wrens were chasing each other through an ocotillo, while a Gila Woodpecker called from a saguaro less than fifty feet away. Less than twenty feet away, in the grasses that had sprung up after the summer rains and now stood tawny and ripe, a flock of Brewer's Sparrows, Black-throated Sparrows, and Lark Buntings was feeding. In a nearby creosote bush we made out a Verdin and a Sage Thrasher. Within five minutes and without moving from the camp site we were to occupy for the next several days we had listed eight birds.

In addition to walks from the campground, we would recommend two trips to be made by car. Quitobaquito is a small, spring-fed pond surrounded by cottonwoods and mesquite located in the southwestern corner of the Monument. It has been a watering place for desert travelers since the Coronado expedition of 1540. The Gadsden Purchase placed this choice spot in the U.S. The international boundary passes just a hundred fifty feet to the south. The narrow, graded desert road to Quitobaquito leads through some of



# BIRDING IN THE SOUTHWEST

(Continued)

the finest of the ironwood and mesquite "forest" and is worth a stop for some birding on foot. Here we found Gilded Flickers, Sparrow Hawks, Phainopeplas, Loggerhead Shrikes, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wrens, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Crissal Thrashers, White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows in addition to species already mentioned. Those of you who know this area will be pleased to know that Quitobaquito has been fenced to keep out stock and now grasses are beginning to grow again. Gamble's Quail were numerous and we added to our list a Townsend's Solitaire, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Audubon's Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Black Phoebe and Long-billed Marsh Wren. Perhaps our best birds here were a Black Vulture, which came over at quite low altitude, and a Rufous-winged Sparrow. We had had several unsatisfactory looks at the latter as it fed in the grass and made short flights only to disappear in the grass again. Finally one came to the edge of the water not more than twenty feet from where we were sitting and we had a fine chance to observe it closely.

Another loop road leads east from the Visitors' Center into the Ajo Mountains. Our best birding here was in Arch Canyon, readily identifiable from the natural arch visible from the road. We left the car and walked perhaps a mile up canyon and found the brush literally full of birds: Robins, Cardinals, Fox Sparrows, Rufous-sided Towhees, Canyon Wrens, a fine male Pyrrhuloxia, and in the air, White-throated Swifts and two Golden Eagles.

Spring offers additional birding opportunities and we have visited the monument twice at that season. By late March many of the summer residents have returned and you can look for Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Scotts Orioles, Elf Owls, Lesser Nighthawks, Poorwills, White-winged Doves, Lucy's Warblers, Vermillion and Wied's Crested Flycatchers, and Costa's Hummingbirds. At this time, large numbers of spring migrants will be passing through and this is a good place to get an early look at old, familiar friends. The check list provided by the park naturalist contains 189 species, a good number of which are marked rare or accidental. Since Quitobaquito is no more than 50 miles from the Gulf of California, many unexpected water birds have been seen here. The park list shows four sandpipers, twelve ducks, two grebes, three herons, a Sora Rail, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellow-legs and a Roseate Spoonbill. Part of the pleasure of birding here is the thought that at any moment you may see something quite unexpected in a desert region.

Although there may be nothing much for your life list here, you can always count on a fine outdoor experience in the warm, dry sunshine for which southern Arizona is properly famous.

## Audubon Activities

BY RUSSELL WILSON

The program for the Tuesday evening meeting of December 12 was provided by Arnold Small, who, under the title "Lure of the List", analyzed, dissected, and described our hobby of birding, which unquestionably is the underlying interest that brings our groups together in field trips, in evening meetings, in organization work in the Audubon Society.

Arnold described how the foundation for field identification of birds was laid by Ludlow Griscom, who convinced working ornithologists that birds could safely and accurately be identified by careful observation of their plumage, their posture, their actions, traits, and voice, how this work was advanced by the publication of the field guides of Roger Tory Peterson, and how the availability in recent years of many excellent and not too expensive binoculars has added its bit in making birding a widely enjoyed and rapidly growing hobby. He described listing as a form of collecting, and suggested the variety of forms that it assumes; the maintenance of a world life list, a United States list, a state list, a back-yard list, an annual list, and that ultimate refinement, the "big day". He presented a map on which were marked many of the best birding areas and those where unique species could be seen if they were to be seen in the United States at all. This was followed by his fine slides of the birds themselves and of the variety of scenic areas one would visit in the pursuit of birds. The program was enthusiastically received.

During the preliminaries Jim Huffman reported some birding he did recently in the Boston area. He showed how well he deserves his reputation as a top flight birder by remaining out all day in the kind of weather that would keep everyone indoors except mad dogs and Englishmen with the hope of seeing a Snowy Owl. Irwin Woldman reported a trip to the Carrizo Plain made by himself, Arnold Small and Guy McCaskie on which they saw thousands of Sandhill Cranes, Horned Larks and Pipits, many Mountain Plovers, a LeConte's Thrasher, a Ferruginous Hawk and, near Frasier Park, a Condor. There were reports of continued sightings of the Reddish Egret at upper Newport Bay and of a male Old Squaw at Newport pier.

(Continued on page 45)

## BIRD WATCHING SECRETARY SOUGHT

Mr. Don Bleitz, who is preparing his manuscript for his forthcoming book, "The Birds of North America", is in need of a capable secretary with a knowledge of birds, ornithological matter, etc. to help him in this effort. If interested in this full-time position, call Mr. Bleitz at HO 5-6183 or write him c/o Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 1001 North McCadden Place, L. A.



# \* BIRD BANDING

(Continued from page 39)

While extremely distant recoveries are very intriguing or interesting to both the bander and the person making the recovery, the real wealth of valuable information which is collected consists primarily of learning the normal migratory route, the average longevity, something of normal mortality as between birds of different age groups, various plumage changes, and many other highly valuable facts which are gathered.

When I first commenced banding Mourning Doves that came into the patio of our Hollywood Hills home, I assumed, since the birds were tame and could be seen nearly every day feeding within a few feet of where I sat, that we had essentially a resident population of perhaps 20 individuals coming regularly to our feeders. I was amazed to band more than 50 Mourning Doves before recapturing a single banded bird, and I had recoveries on these birds from our patio from many parts of Mexico well down into the state of Jalisco. My recoveries of Spotted Doves, on the other hand, indicate that these birds move very little, and most recoveries have been within a mile of our home.

I have had many returns year after year of individual birds such as Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, etc., some of which I have captured at least once each year for as many as five years in succession.

At a little special oasis in the Joshua Tree National Monument, where I have done a considerable amount of banding over past years, I have had an individual male Scott's Oriole return 4 out of 5 years to my water traps. Three of these returns were within a week of falling on the same date of the first banding; the fourth return was but 9 days earlier than the original banding date.

One of the first hummers that I ever banded successfully was a male Costa's Hummingbird at this same little oasis. It had a favorite perching spot and was very tame. The following spring, just one week earlier than the original banding date, a male Costa's Hummingbird was using the same perch and acting in the same manner. He continued to frequent this same perch until I was finally able to recapture him and found that indeed it was my little banded male of the previous year.

Often it is found that one particular nesting colony will follow essentially the same migratory route and remain in the same wintering area, again to return to the same nesting area the following

season. This information has proved of much value where costly efforts are being made, as in the case of waterfowl (as an example) to provide assistance to the birds on their nesting grounds through maintenance of proper water levels, properly protected feeding areas, control of exotic predators, etc.

A few years ago, when I was first banding Golden-crowned Sparrows, I captured some which I indicated on my reports as being adults with bright golden crowns. In later years, I captured banded birds which I would have normally indicated as sub-adults or immatures of this same species, since the golden crown was very dull, and in some cases nearly lacking altogether. Since the birds contained my bands of previous years, I found that some of these had been banded indicating they had full adult plumage at the time. This plumage variation is found in a number of species. This same type of information indicated that in Pine Grosbeaks, for example, they were essentially similar variations in the amount of red coloration of the males which I had originally attributed to age. Later, through banding, I determined that this was actual variation between the birds, since some fully adult birds contained very little red, and were mostly gray. Other males which I knew were just one year old, and some birds which I knew were in their first spring, were nearly full plumage.

Banding provides the necessary data to formulate sound policy. Over the past few years, I have banded a considerable number of various species of hummingbirds. Thus far I have had very few returns or recoveries on the highly migratory species. Over the years ahead, however, I feel confident that as more banders become interested, returns and recoveries will become more plentiful, and much new information will be obtained.

Banding is carried on over much of the world, and is gradually extending its scope, even in countries behind the Iron Curtain. Every year there are a number of recoveries of U.S. banded birds which are reported by the Russians, and most of the European governments are pursuing a regular banding program.

No one should attempt to band unless he or she is prepared to spend sufficient time so that a significant amount of banding can be done. Otherwise the chance of recovery is slight. Furthermore, a great deal of information can be gathered on a continual maintenance of the banding station. A perusal of previous banding records, when banding is done at a fairly constant rate, gives a clear picture of the changes in bird population of any

There was no fourth Sunday field trip in December; instead the Society participated in the annual Christmas bird census, which will be reported elsewhere.

On Saturday, January 6, John Peebles brought the Junior Naturalists to Echo Park for a field trip led by Bill Watson. There was a fine turnout of perhaps sixty youngsters and eight or ten parents, and Bill looked a little like the Pied Piper as he led the group from point to point around the lake. Lynne Jasik, Laura and Betty Jenner were on hand to help as needed.

This is a very good place to start children in the field identification of birds, as the coots, ducks, grebes, cormorants and geese are seen at close range and can be identified without the help of binoculars. Bill has a nice way with children and the parents showed a very genuine interest in the program.

The January evening meeting was held Wednesday night, Jan. 10, at West Hollywood Park. Among those introduced as newcomers were Bill and Laurel Feurer and their friends Paul and Valerie Cooley.

After a brief business meeting, Frank Little's report that the Supervisors of San Bernardino County had upheld the decision of the Planning Commission to prevent at this time the tract development of an inholding within Joshua Tree National Monument was greeted by applause. Jim Huffman reported that the Christmas Census had produced 138 species, plus or minus one or two, and that the number of individuals was markedly below previous years. Arnold Small gave a brief account of a trip during Christmas vacation to the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge. Winter conditions prevailed, with ice covering portions of the lakes and marshes, and this is what brings many northern species into this border region at the northern extremity of California. He counted over a hundred Bald Eagles, three Northern Shrikes, ninety Short-eared Owls, more than 650 Lapland Longspurs

## BIRD BANDING

(Continued)

given area, both by number and by species. For instance, as the chaparral area becomes more and more residential, a lessening of chaparral species at the trapping station can be quickly seen, and an increase in those species which are regularly associated with human habitation occurs.

I have always been intrigued in banding unusual species and at the same time while I have the birds in hand, I describe their various plumages accurately and take living measurements from them for inclusion in our forthcoming work THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA.

All in all, banding (as an adjunct) will in the long run contribute greatly to our ornithological knowledge.



and 40 Rough-legged Hawks. Other birds that are casual there are the Great Gray Owl, the Snowy Owl and the Gyrfalcon. It looks as if more of us should put the Klamath Basin into our trip plans for 1962.

The program of the evening was devoted to the showing of the film "The Great Adventure" which was a prize winner at the Cannes International Film Festival. Produced by Louis de Rochemont, it presents with touching artistry and great beauty the changing seasons on a farm in Sweden.

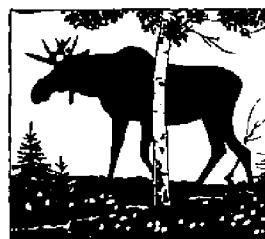
### Howard Cleaves

**Animals Are Exciting**



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1962

## AUDUBON



**WILDLIFE FILMS**

**Cleveland P. Grant**

**Heart of the Wild**

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1962

## TRANSPORTATION ON FIELD TRIPS

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has established a clearing-house for field trip transportation needs. If you can offer a ride to one or more persons on any of our field trips, or if you are in need of transportation, call Marion Wilson at Audubon House, HO 7-9495 and place your name on file. There are those who for various reasons cannot drive, and therefore are deprived of opportunities to participate in the sport we all enjoy. It is understood that expenses of the transportation will be shared by the riders. Besides, it is a good way to meet new friends.

**tanager**

WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY  
28 TH.

FOLD &  
MAIL

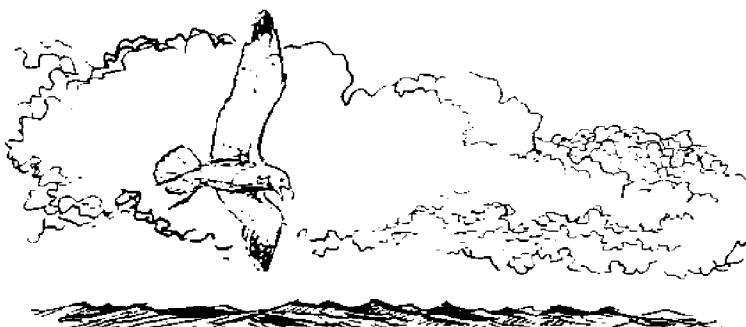
CALL  
MIMI SMALL  
VE-7-2272



By Arnold Small

Hopes for a good wet winter faded as there was virtually no precipitation in the Los Angeles area during the last three weeks of December and early January. Santana conditions from January 5 through 12 alarmed Forest Service personnel about increased fire danger. Although there was good snowpack in the San Gabriels and San Bernhardinos during late November and early December, most of it below the 7000 foot level had melted away by the end of December. Big Bear Lake had virtually no water in it, and no Bald Eagles could be found there on Dec. 27.

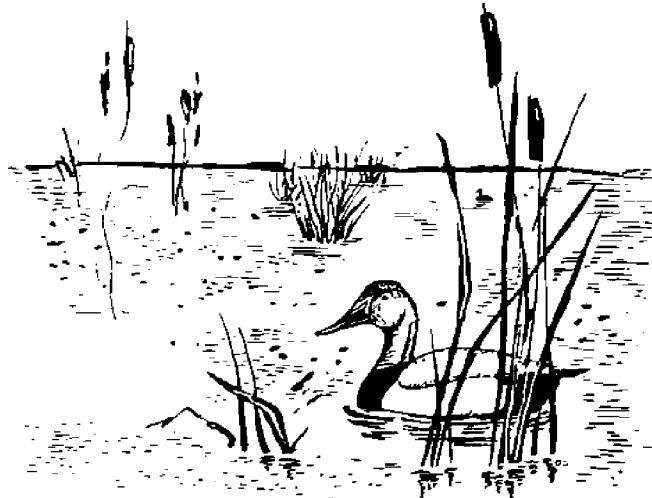
Those birding along the ocean found very few scoters, loons, cormorants, or Western Grebes. But trips offshore during late December and early January revealed one of the best flights of Fulmars in many years. We counted over two hundred within one mile of the beach at Newport on Dec. 26 and Frank Little, Irwin Woldman, and Dave Pearson counted more than 100 very near the beach at Pt. Hueneme on Jan. 7. Fulmars were also seen from shore at Newport, Santa Monica, and Malibu Piers. Similarly, Kittiwakes were very common as Woldman, Little, and Pearson counted more than 500 between Pt. Hueneme and Anacapa Island. Also, offshore numbers of jaegers were excellent, but very few were seen from the beaches. Old Squaws were at both Newport and Santa Monica Piers during December and early January.



In my opinion the riddle of the Little Blue Heron-Reddish Egret has been resolved. It would appear that only one bird has been at Upper Newport Bay after all, and this bird was sub-adult Reddish Egret. Arguments for this conclusion include: feeding behavior typically that of the Reddish; shagginess of the head and neck feathers was evident; size comparison with Snowy Egrets showed it to be appreciably larger; pinkish base to lower mandible; and showed some bluish on the tarsi.

The Los Angeles Christmas Census of Dec. 29 totaled about 132 species, but numbers of individuals were far below normal. This finding was confirmed by other Christmas Censuses, and numbers of many species of landbirds were far down. The best bird on our own count was a Golden Plover at Hollywood Park Racetrack, and fog prevented anyone from venturing offshore or looking for Fulmars and the Old Squaw.

Throughout southern California the flight of Robins has been remarkable, and Clark's Nutcrackers were recorded from many outlying areas including Santa Barbara and Palos Verdes. Probably the most remarkable bird (in a season



of some very remarkable birds) was a male Broad-billed Hummingbird which visited a feeder in San Diego throughout December. Baltimore Orioles were reported from feeders in Santa Barbara and Santa Ana. A Yellow-shafted Flicker was a regular visitor to Olive Alvey's house during December, along with a female Western Tanager.

Report from Guy McCaskie revealed that the Golden Gate Audubon Society succeeded in their quest for Black Rail at South San Francisco Bay on Jan. 9; in fact they almost caught the bird. We certainly have marshes closer than that where Black Rails are known to occur, but it takes a large group of people walking through the marsh to flush one. Anyone for the effort?



Mr. William F. Clements  
316 Bronwood Ave., L. A. 49  
Mr. Roger W. Fowler Jr.  
11491 Wembley Rd., Los Alamitos  
Mr. & Mrs. Arch Higman  
9235 San Juan Ave., South Gate  
Mr. Hugh E. Kingery  
3271 1/2 Rowena St., L. A. 27  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Kohlmeyer  
8428 Gulana, Playa Del Rey  
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Lehman  
11927 S. Orchard Ave., L. A. 44  
Mr. Martin Rigby  
3444 Cloverdale Ave., L. A. 16  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene F. Rose  
17050 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades  
Miss Ann L. Thompson  
2101 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood 28  
Miss Barbara Yager  
3457 S. La Brea Ave., Apt. 206, L. A. 16