

Los Angeles Audubon Society

The Western Tanager

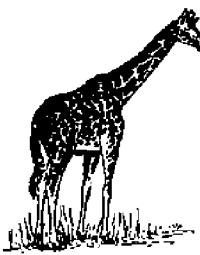
VOLUME 28

JULY 1962

NUMBER 11

WILDLIFE IN EAST AFRICA

BY DALE A. ZIMMERMAN

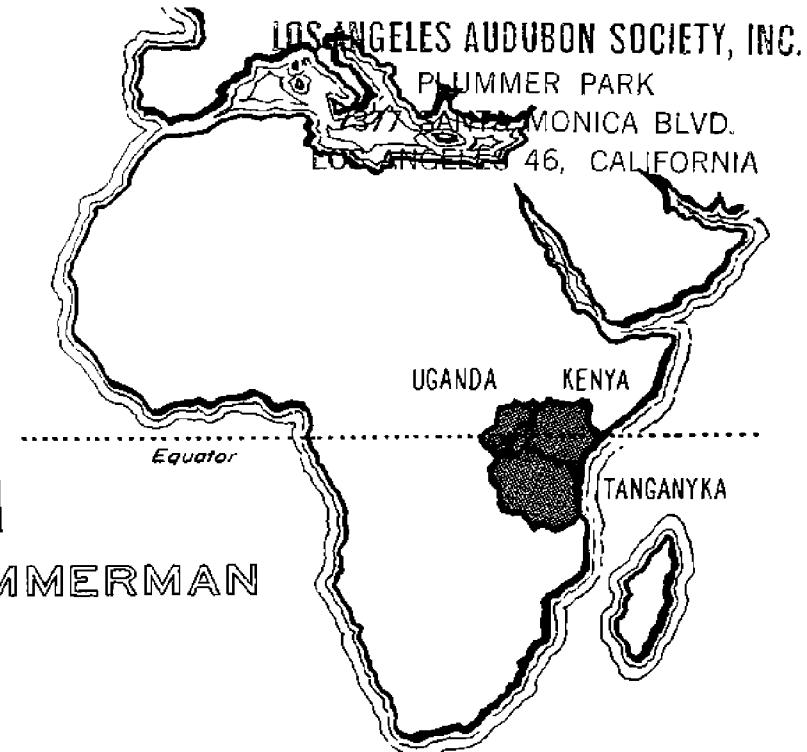


Late in May 1961 I flew to Chicago and boarded a BOAC jet which took me to Nairobi, Kenya, via London, Zurich, Cairo, and Khartoum. The stopovers in these places were at most only two or three hours, but I found the brief views of several countries interesting and saw several new bird species.

My first five days on the continent of Africa, which I had dreamed of visiting since boyhood, were spent birding and photographing in and around Nairobi. In many ways a typical warm-climate city, Nairobi has beautiful parkways, colorful the year round with flowers, modern hotels and apartment buildings, and traffic problems. The skyline also includes frequent mosques, indicative of the high percentage of Indians, the city's merchant class. In their bright saris and turbans they mingle with the numerous Africans and the few whites in the downtown areas, adding considerable color to the street scenes.

Mara River, Kenya

On June 6 Robert Lewis (head of Trans-African Guides Ltd.), three native boys, and I set off in two specially fitted Land Rovers for a three week photographic safari into some of the best game



country in Africa. We went first to the Mara River area in the Narok "closed district" of western Kenya, a region inhabited only by Masai tribesmen and abundant wildlife. My first day among big game brought endless thrills: views of such fine creatures as giraffes, zebras, wildebeestes, Cape buffalos, impalas, Grant's and Thompson's gazelles, wart hogs, and African hunting dogs. In addition there were, of course, many wonderful new birds, ranging in size from huge Kori Bustards and Ostriches down to magnificent Superb Starlings and glittering sunbirds.

The second day in the Mara produced more new birds, an exciting fight between two bull hippos, views of olive baboons, elephants, a rhino, saddle-backed jackals, spotted hyenas, reedbuck, waterbucks, and lions. My first lion was a female which walked directly to the parked Land Rover and playfully began to bite the right rear tire. She was discouraged only by starting the engine and blowing exhaust fumes in her face. She retreated about five feet so that Lewis could move the car far enough to allow me to close the

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THE WESTERN TANAGER
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA
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FREE TO MEMBERS OTHERS \$1.50 ANNUALLY



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**A MESSAGE
FROM THE EDITOR**

by ARNOLD SMALL

We, on the editorial staff of the Western Tanager, hope you have enjoyed the new approach and format used this past year. We invite your comments and criticisms, and above all, we invite you to submit suitable articles for publication.

We have not attempted to divert this paper to an academic publication, but rather, we hoped that it would be a spokesman for the society--one which reflected the feelings and philosophy, as well as the events and happenings of its members.

This paper wasn't produced with mirrors. Many long hours of hard work by many people were involved in it. As retiring Editor, may I take a few moments to single out those individuals who worked so hard to please you. Robert Sandmeyer's art work and general make-up and assembly of the paper took many dedicated hours, and without his sincere interest and efforts, we could not have succeeded. Those staunch and regular contributors of vital and informative happenings, Russell Wilson, Douglas Dick, and Frank Little, added much to the value of this paper. Copy was typed by Helen Sandmeyer and Caroline Adams, and to them we owe a great deal. Mimi Small and her committee of folders and stuffers made it possible, by saving the cost of such services, for you to have a printed Tanager. We hope that those willing to share this burden will file their names with Marion Wilson at Audubon House. To those of you, too numerous to mention, who have contributed copy I extend an especial word of thanks.

And finally, to Marion Wilson, who although not a member of the Editorial Staff, was instru-

**THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
PROGRESS SUMMARY**

by James W. Huffman

This month marks a change of administration in the Los Angeles Audubon Society and, therefore, it is appropriate to give recognition to the efforts and accomplishments of the Society's Executive Board. As your president for the past three years, it has been my honor and good fortune to be associated with the personnel on the board which, for the most part, has remained intact during that period. These elected officers of the Society and its committee chairmen through their dedication and hard work have enabled the Society to become a more effective instrument in serving its members and the community.

It is impossible to find adequate words of appreciation for their efforts. I shall, therefore, as testimonial, present a resume of the board's accomplishments, which are a direct consequence of their individual and concerted efforts. You will note that while the routine services of the Society--the meetings and field trips--have been conducted with increasing effectiveness, there has been at the same time a great increase in the activity of the Society in the areas of conservation and youth education.

A sound financial program, administered by a reorganized Finance Committee, was set up for the investment of the Society's funds.

An annual drive was initiated to raise funds in order to help the National Audubon Society defray the cost of a warden in the California Condor Refuge. Contributions to this fund by the members increased during the three years it has been conducted. In 1962 the Society was able to send \$650.00 to the National Audubon Society earmarked for the Condor Refuge.

The Society also assumed the sponsorship of the Junior Zoological Society. A new name of Junior Naturalist was adopted. Monthly meetings have been held for this group of young people.

Changes in the operation of the Wildlife Films, notably, limitation of the films to a one evening series and procurement of free use of school auditorium, resulted in substantial increases in profits from the films. The 1960-61 series netted the Society almost \$800. Part of this fund was used to create scholarships for the Audubon Summer Camp.

A new format and printing method was adopted for the Western Tanager. A staff was established to handle the various departments of the bulletin. These innovations greatly increased the effectiveness and appeal of the paper.

The Annotated Field List, Birds of Southern California, was revised and reprinted. A campaign of advertising created a good sale for the new edition.

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mental, through her zealous efforts, to expedite delivery of the paper.

I congratulate Robert Blackstone, your new Editor, upon his acceptance of this responsibility, and am certain that under his guidance, the Western Tanager will continue to fly high. ■



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

July 7 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45 A.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. A visit to the Los Angeles Audubon Society's Nature Museum.
Leaders: Los Angeles Audubon Society Members

July 14 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Tucker Bird Sanctuary, O'Neil Park and Upper Newport Bay. Take Santa Ana Fwy. to Chapman Ave. East turn-off; drive through Orange to Tucker Sanctuary where four species of hummers may be seen. At O'Neil Park we will look for Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Last year at Upper Newport Bay over 1200 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen, as well as nesting Least Terns.
Leaders: Laura and Betty Jenner RI 8-7510

July 20 FRIDAY BAZAAR WORKSHOP 10:00 A.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park. Only four more workshops after this so come and lend a hand to a good cause and have fun.
Chairman: Olive Alvey NO 1-8036

July 21 SATURDAY *July 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
29	30	31				

ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 P.M. Tapia Park. Take Hollywood and Ventura Fwy's. to Tapia Park turnoff; or Pacific Coast Highway and Malibu Canyon Road to Park entrance. Keep left after entering the park and watch for Audubon sign. Come early if you wish to walk and bird. Bring: hot dish, salad or dessert; table service; hot coffee or tea if desired. Cold drink will be provided.
For further information call:
Helen Sandmeyer TH 2-9328 Marion Wilson - PO 1-7635
Laura Jenner RI 8-7510 Olive Alvey NO 1-8036

Aug. 4 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 7:30 A.M. for breakfast in picnic area #2 above Fern Dell in Griffith Park. Bring and cook your own breakfast and be ready for bird and tree walk by 8:30 A.M. If you can't come for breakfast join the walk which will be led by Bill Watson.
For further information call: HO 7-1661
Leader: Bill Watson NO 5-0745

Aug. 11 SATURDAY *August 1962*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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FIELD TRIP 7:00 A.M. Switzer's Inlet. Take Angeles Crest Highway to Switzer's turn-off on right side of road. Watch for Audubon Field Trip sign. After birding here we will drive to Mt. Wilson (small entrance fee) and then to Charlton Flats for lunch. Bring lunch, and camping gear if you wish to camp at Chilao, Buckhorn or Horse Flats Saturday night.
Leader: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

Aug. 18 SATURDAY ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP (no ecology trip in July due to Potluck Dinner)
Place and time has not been determined as we go to press. It will be announced at the Potluck Dinner and at the Saturday Field Trip. For further information call Bill Watson NO 5-0745

Aug. 25 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP (note change from Sunday to Saturday) 7:00 A.M. Buena Vista Lagoon. Take highway 101 south to Oceanside. Leave the Freeway north of Oceanside, taking the right hand road that goes through town. Meet at the north end of the causeway that crosses the lagoon.

CALENDAR

Continued...

September 1962

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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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	29

Sept. 1 SATURDAY

Among the 33 birds seen last year were thousands of Northern Phalaropes. After birding this area we will bird on the return trip north. Bring lunch for noon, if you want to join in the hamburger supper at San Clemente State Park, bring food and charcoal broiler. There are gas stoves available. If you like to swim take a swim suit as there will be time for swim before dinner.

Leader: Jim Huffman FR 2-7124

Sept. 6 THURSDAY

JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45 A.M. Fern Dell Museum, Griffith Park. Organizational meeting to plan the year's programs. Send ideas for programs and trips to John Peebles, Fern Dell Museum. Two films "Rainbow Valley" and "Nature's Half Acre" will be shown. For further information call:

Fern Dell Museum HO 7-1661
Bill Watson NO 5-0745

Sept. 8 SATURDAY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.

FIELD TRIP 7:30 A.M. Malibu Lagoon and Point Dume for gulls, terns and returning shorebirds. Take Pacific Coast Highway past Malibu pier to bridge over Malibu Lagoon. Park on ocean side of highway on north side of bridge.

Leader: Dave Robison PO 1-0217

Sept. 11 TUESDAY

EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Dr. John Hardy of Occidental College will present the program. See See details in Sept. Tanager.

Since most of the time we are not near restaurants at lunch time, please bring lunch on all field trips.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(Continued from page 80)

The Society chairemanned the committee which organized the Audubon booth at the 1961 Los Angeles County Fair. The booth, featuring a program of the National Audubon Society--"Save the Bald Eagle"---attracted much attention and favorable comment.

In response to the interest of members, field trips were conducted throughout the summer months for the first time. Field trips on botany and ecology were added to the schedule as well.

When the north half of the Plummer Park Audubon House was turned over to the Society by the County, the rooms were rearranged and refurbished. More adequate service department facilities were installed. Museum exhibit cases were built and exhibits set up. A new library table was built and new books procured.

A Student Naturalist Group was organized for young men with specialized interests in the field of nature study. A student membership was established in order to affiliate this group with the Society.

NOTE

Don't throw away the plastic eye droppers which come in prescription bottles. Send them to Audubon House for the use of Mrs. Muriel France and others who are doing a good work by treating and raising the sick, injured and baby birds brought to them by sympathetic people. This service is building up good will among the people of Los Angeles.

Fern Dell Museum HO 7-1661

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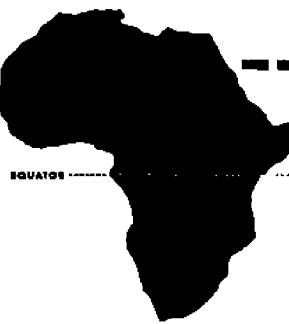
The Los Angeles Audubon Society became sponsors for a new Bird Watchers Society at the Brentwood Hospital of the Veterans' Administration in West Los Angeles. Money was appropriated by the Los Angeles Audubon Society to pay for the affiliation of the Brentwood group with the National Audubon Society.

The above list of accomplishments is incomplete and, I feel, inadequate. However, other evidence of the board's success exists in the Society's growing membership and in the greatly increased attendance and enthusiasm at the excellently planned meetings and field trips.

It is gratifying to know that most of the members of last year's board will remain to serve during the coming year. Knowing their ability and that of your new president, Arnold Small, I feel we are assured of the progress of the Los Angeles Audubon Society in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members for the honor of having been your president for the past three years. ■

WILDLIFE IN EAST AFRICA



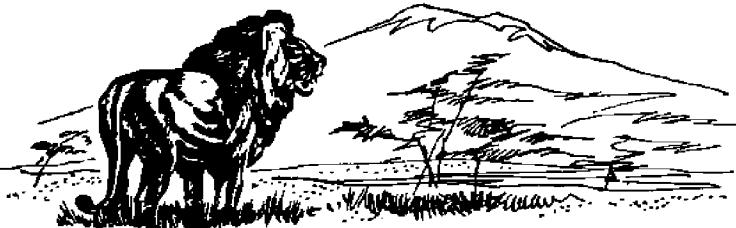
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door of the top hatch -- open during the whole episode!

The next day we located twenty-five lions around the remains of a large giraffe. We watched and photographed all morning. The lions paid virtually no attention to us as I stood photographing half out of the top hatch at a distance of thirty to fifty feet from the kill.

Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika

Moving into Serengeti National Park across the border in Tanganyika, we encountered still different mammals and birds -- and clouds of tsetse flies. Although not dangerous in this part of Africa, they bite ferociously and are very difficult to discourage or kill. In the central part of the park our party was required to camp at one of three designated sites a mile or so from headquarters. Lions prowled around our tents nightly (as



they had done at most campsites in the Mara), and two weeks later a man in another party camped at the same site was dragged from his tent and killed by a lion. That incident ended all camping in the Serengeti Park; all visitors now must stay in the cottages at headquarters. Three exciting days there around Seronera were climaxed by seeing and nicely photographing a handsome female leopard and her cub. This species proved to be one of my favorites of the trip, and about the most difficult to find and picture. One of the most abundant animals in Serengeti National Park was the dainty Thompson's Gazelle. Hundreds could be seen from our camp and even from headquarters (near which buildings I watched a group of them being stalked by a cheetah). We saw an estimated 5,500 in thirty miles of driving as they started south across the dry plains toward Ngorongoro Crater.

For two days we camped in the bottom of this huge crater, a game preserve, photographing

water birds and various game and the friendly Masai. Then came a day at Lake Manyara where the near shore of the lake was solid pink with about half a million Lesser Flamingos. From there we went back into Kenya, through country that resembled parts of our Southwest -- dry, flat, land with mountains jutting up from the plains. Here, of course, were still more new birds and new mammals such as Gerenuk and Fringe-eared Oryx.

The last stop before returning to Nairobi was Amboseli National Reserve near the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. My introduction to the area was a dust bath as we drove across dry Lake Amboseli. The two days here were devoted largely to photographing rhino and elephant, plus the majestic mountain, of course.

The three-week safari, most rewarding part of the sojourn in East Africa, terminated June 23. (Our lion total was 136 individuals.) Four days in Nairobi were spent in part readying film for mailing to the U.S. for processing (44 rolls of movies and many stills). Also I was busy writing letters, having cameras cleaned and repaired and planning the itinerary for the remainder of my time.

Gorillas in Uganda

Lewis accompanied me as far as Kampala, in Uganda. Thereafter, I was on my own. I rented a little car and drove to Kisoro, a village in the extreme southwestern corner of Uganda. There high on the slopes of several extinct volcanos, still live a few mountain gorillas, one of Africa's rarest animals. With two native trackers, I made a grueling four-hour climb up Mt. Muhavura in a bleak hope of glimpsing a gorilla. Not only did we see a pair with two young, but were able to watch them, 300 feet away across a ravine, for two hours. I had not carried up any telephoto lenses, so missed getting good pictures. The sight alone, however, was worth the tortuous struggle to keep up with my guides.

Leaving Kisoro, I drove north along the Congo border over back country roads to Queen Elizabeth Park, a decided anticlimax but still very worthwhile. After viewing a bit of this part of Uganda I returned to Nairobi by train.

July 8-17 I spent in and near that city in the company of John Williams, the Coryndon Museum's ornithologist, and enjoying the company of Myles North, another Nairobi bird student. I spent some time too with my friend Burt Monroe who was in Kenya on an expedition for Louisiana State University. Much of my activity centered around the museum, but Williams and I devoted a couple of days to another rewarding afternoon with Warden Stephan Ellis in Nairobi's unique

WILDLIFE IN EAST AFRICA

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national park, where I finally secured one picture of a bushbuck, one of the shy forest antelopes.

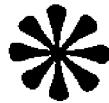
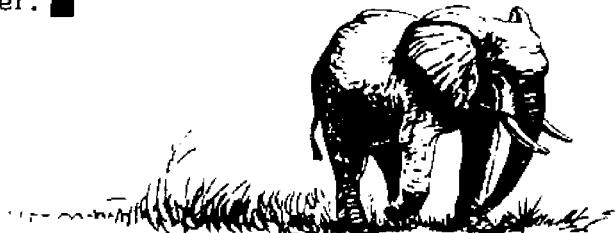
African Weather

A word about the African weather may be of interest. Nairobi's elevation is about 6,000 feet -- the same as ours here in Silver City, N.M.-- so despite its proximity to the equator, its temperatures are moderate. I found it cool at night and in the early morning, pleasantly warm during the day. It was seldom as hot as spring in New Mexico. Most of Kenya and northern Tanganyika were in the midst of a severe drought when I was there. It rained only a few times during my seven-week stay. It was cloudy and foggy in the mountains around Ngorongoro, and there it was unpleasantly cold at night and until mid-morning. It was very cold in the volcano region of the Congo-Uganda border country where I saw the gorillas.

500 New Birds

New birds for the trip came to an even 500 species (some 65 or 70 of which were photographed satisfactorily), and there were scores of others which were viewed too poorly to identify. I saw representatives of 30 bird families of the 36 possible new ones in that part of the world. Had this been primarily a bird-finding adventure, I would have seen an even greater percentage of the 800-odd possible species at that time of year. (Burt Monroe, concentrating on birds, saw 750 species in nine weeks, without entering Uganda!) I passed up not a few new birds in favor of the big game photography. Photographically the trip was highly successful, despite frequent over-exposure on the highly reflective, tawny, grass plains and some shutter trouble. I exposed over 2,300 35 mm. stills, a few black-and-whites, and about 4,800 feet of 16 mm. movie film (color). Of this, only about 10 percent was no good; perhaps 30 percent of the slides and movies were of professional quality.

I arrived in Detroit on July 18 after a speedy trip home, having trod on three continents in less than 24 hours and picking up some 30 new birds in England. One of my first comments after rejoining my family was, "I can hardly wait to get back there!" But next time, if there is one, we hope to go together. ■



CONSERVATION

NEWS

from FRANK LITTLE

The Tule Elk are threatened again! A proposal to shoot 60 of the 313 free elk has been made, and on Saturday, May 12, 1962 at Independence, California a hearing on the matter was held. The Executive Board of the Los Angeles Audubon Society passed and forwarded to the hearing a resolution opposing this or any other Tule Elk hunt at the present time. The Fish and Game Commission, which conducted the hearing, will probably give its decision sometime in the early summer (the decision may already have been made by the time this is received). Observers at the hearing said that the general climate at the hearing was much improved over that of previous hearings; it is difficult to say whether this is indicative of a favorable decision or not.

Most conservationists feel that 313 is too small a herd to justify reduction--a natural disaster, such as a flood, fire, famine, epidemic, etc., could easily wipe out this number and thus add one more species to the list of extinct animals. We still feel that the best solution to the problem would be the creation of a great natural park in Owens Valley which would provide permanent sanctuary for the Tule Elk.

Advice to those planning to bird Bixby Slough in Harbor Park--do it now! Mr. Anacker of the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks informed us that, as a part of the improvement program for Harbor Park, the slough will be allowed to dry up this summer. Don't be alarmed, this is only temporary.

It seems that the fish presently inhabiting the slough are infected with a parasite that not only affects them but also any predator feeding on them. Thus mammals and birds that eat the fish can become infected and further spread the parasite. By allowing the slough to naturally dry out this summer (the Department normally adds water to maintain a predetermined level) the infection can be eliminated. Furthermore, while the slough is dry the Department plans to clean out the junk (which is considerable!).

Mr. Anacker, a true friend of conservation, has carefully planned the operation so that the slough can be refilled in time for the fall migration. According to his calculations, the slough should be completely dry by September or October (depending, of course, upon the weather). By working quickly, the Department should have the slough ready for filling by November or, at the latest, December. The refilling will be done by the rains if they obligingly come soon enough; if not the Department will purchase the water to fill it. About half of the slough will be left in a natural state as a sanctuary, the other half will be developed for such recreation as boating, fishing, picnicking, etc. ■

Audubon Activities

by RUSSELL WILSON

The Cinnamon Bear sailed with a full complement for our pelagic trip Sunday, May 13, and although the storm warnings were no longer up, we were to have a rather rough day. The trip had been billed as an opportunity to see Sooty Shearwaters in their northern migration and it lived up to all advanced publicity. About half way to Anacapa Island we found ourselves surrounded by thousands of shearwaters, the first of several such movements we were to be in the midst of during the day. At almost any time if one trained his binoculars at the horizon, he would see literally thousands of the birds moving northward.

Lunch was enjoyed in the shelter of Anacapa where we saw Black Oyster-catchers, Wandering Tattlers, Brandt's, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants, and a Peregrine Falcon. Because of the strong wind, Arnold decided we should not continue in the direction of Santa Cruz Island, but instead turned eastward along the second leg of a triangular course which would bring us back to port. Several times we found ourselves quite close to a number of pilot whales, some of which broke water less than two hundred yards from the boat. Numerous small flocks of Red Phalaropes were seen at close range. As they were in breeding plumage, they were almost like a new bird to those of us who have seen them only in their drab winter coloration.

Among the thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, a very few Pink-footed and Manx were seen, as well as Kantus Murrels, Rhinocerous Auklet, Pigeon Guillemot, Black Petrel and a single Jaeger. Many of the latter were not seen by all. One of the most satisfactory observations was of a number of Fulmars. As they came gliding in against the strong wind they sometimes hung almost motionless behind the boat and at such close range that their tubed nostrils could be seen without the aid of binoculars.

On Saturday, May 19 the second Botany Trip, (which will be scheduled regularly as an Ecology Trip on the third Saturday of each month throughout the year) was held in Fern Dell, Griffith Park. Twelve persons arrived eager to learn about native plants and trees. An interesting part of the trip was a visit to an area which had been burned years ago, to observe the degree of natural recovery. After lunch several persons visited the breeding-bird census area. Others wishing to visit this area may contact Hugh Kingery, 528 S. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, DU 3-6282.

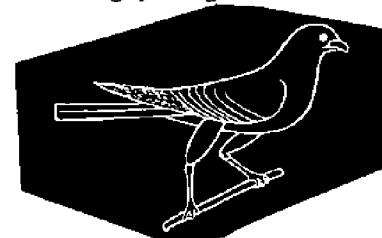
Olive Alvey reported very good attendance at the Thursday meeting, May 24, and also con-

siderable interest in reviving the mid-week field trips, which have not been provided during the current year for want of someone to manage and lead them. If you have an interest in the resumption of these trips next fall, please let it be known by contacting Olive Alvey, NO 1-8036.

The morning's program was provided by Mr. Paul Lindau and daughter Virginia, who presented their 16mm color film "Birds and Their Babies". The film concentrates on four types of birds and portrays the remarkable hereditary behavior they show in nest building. The sound track included bird songs as well as narration and music. Mr. Lindau also showed moving pictures of flowers, insects, animals and spectacular sunsets.

The field trip to Tapia Park on the 26th of May, proved to be very successful under the expert guidance of Warren Blazer who was joined by 26 enthusiastic members and friends including a new member Mr. Roy Albright and members Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Vanetta who have just returned from a year in Mexico.

Flooding damage along the stream bed, due to heavy winter rains, has denuded the area of vegetation which provided habitat for the Yellow-breasted Chat and may account for this species not being found here recently. Among the 51 species seen the best finds were the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hutton's Vireo and adult Lark Sparrows feeding young.



Just an even hundred were in attendance at the Society's annual dinner Tuesday, May 29. After an excellent steak dinner a number of special guests were introduced. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Furman, (Mr. Furman is Recreation Superintendent of the County Department of Parks and Recreation), Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, Recreation Director of Plummer Park, Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Black, (Mrs. Black is editor of Golden Gardens), Mr. Burton Oliver, Supervisor of Thrift and Conservation in the Los Angeles City Schools, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Capwell, (Mr. Capwell built the beautiful new display cases for Audubon House), Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gach, (Mr. Gach is President of Sea and Sage Audubon Society), Mr. and Mrs. John Hopper, (Mr. Hopper is President of San Fernando Valley Audubon Society), Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sanders, (Mrs. Sanders is President of the Pasadena Audubon Society), Mrs. Mary B. Salmon who is President Emeritus of Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mr. and Mrs. William N. Goodall, who need no introduction in these pages. Mr. Goodall spoke briefly, after telling one of his inimitable jokes, of progress toward the selection of a new home for

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Southern California



BY ARNOLD SMALL

Birds

With the approach of summer, birders begin to think of vacation time again. Those who are planning trips away from southern California can make their trips doubly enjoyable by planning around both scenery and birds. Happily, the two often go hand in hand. Desert birding in southern California during the summer months has but little to offer, except in the very early mornings near oases. We are blessed, in southern California, with very good birding all along the coast at this time of year. Summering shorebirds are numerous in each of the summer months, and by July, southbound phalaropes (many still in nuptial plumage) should be swarming in the coastal lagoons.

Offshore, the birder will find much of interest. If a trip is taken to San Clemente Island, one should have an excellent chance of seeing a Black-footed Albatross, and certainly Black Petrels can be found on a steamer trip to Catalina Island. Our local mountains should be at the peak of the breeding season during July, and a trip to some of the higher areas (such as Sugarloaf Mountain and Moonridge, near Big Bear Lake or the summit of Mt. Pinos) should produce such montane species as Mountain Quail, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Clark's Nutcracker, and perhaps even Williamson's Sapsucker. It might even be possible to locate some Black Swifts in the higher San Bernardino or San Jacinto Mountains. There is even a chance of finding Evening Grosbeaks in some of our local mountains.



Further afield, Yosemite offers much to the birder. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, Townsend's Solitaires, Blue Grouse, and Great Gray Owls may be found in the Hudsonian Life Zone above 8000 feet. And if the birder is willing to hike into tundra country above timberline, there are excellent chances of seeing the Gray-crowned Rosy Finches. Sequoia does not provide the Great Gray Owl, but the other mountain birds are there, and in addition, there are numerous Black Swifts in Kings Canyon. Monterey always has good birding, as well as extraordinary scenic attractions.

The birder going away from familiar territory would do well to consult Olin S. Pettingill's "A Guide to Bird Finding -- West of the Mississip-

pi". In fact, consultation with this excellent book should perhaps influence vacation plans. In it, the author gives an excellent ecological and scenic account of each area described.



For those interested in still further extending their knowledge of this country, its scenic wonders, and its birds, I can personally recommend Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier National Parks, the Pacific Northwest, North Dakota (especially near Kenmare), the Black Hills of South Dakota, the Colorado Rockies, or any of the countless other areas in the mountains west. As for the Smalls, we are going to try our luck in northern Michigan and Minnesota and finally to Hawaii. With this last issue of the current series, I wish you a good summer filled with blue skies and bright birds. ■

Audubon Activities

(Continued

from page 85)

Audubon Camp but had nothing to announce as of now.

President James Huffman presented the officers of the Society and thanked them for their faithful and tireless services during the past year and introduced the new officers who will assume their duties July 1. President-elect Arnold Small was "pinned" with the president's lapel button. The beautiful floral pieces prepared by Mrs. Olive Alvey were raffled off and were won by Mrs. Hanlon, Mrs. Copping, a new member, and Mrs. Furman, who thoughtfully presented her floral piece to Mrs. Salmon.

A special award was presented to Mrs. Mary V. Hood in the form of a handsomely engraved plaque in recognition of many years of service to the Society. Beginning with her first membership in 1939, she has held many offices in the Society, including that of President from 1947 to 1950. She has spoken to innumerable groups, has worked closely with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls Councils, organized together with the City Recreation and Parks Department a Youth Leaders Workshop, is on the official board of Nature Conservancy and other civic groups.

Program for the evening was provided by Dr. John D. Goodman, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Redlands. Dr. Goodman and his wife, who holds a Ph. D. in Ornithology, spent a year in Uganda doing field research and recording the sights and sounds of this high lake country. In addition to fine scenes of large mammals, we were treated to many excellent sequences of the birds of Africa and of the African people. With Dr. Goodman's fine narration together with the recorded sounds, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. ■