

The Western Tanager

NORTH and SOUTH FROM

MACKINAC

By ARNOLD SMALL

The Straits of Mackinac (pronounced Macki-naw) cleave the state of Michigan into two neat halves. But recently these two portions (called respectively, the Upper Peninsula or U.P., and the Lower Peninsula) have been brought into closer contact by the completion of the impressive Mackinac Bridge which arches across the Straits and speeds hunter, fisherman, tourist, and naturalist alike across this "water wonderland." Michigan can rightly claim this title by virtue of having the longest shoreline of any state except Alaska. Bounded on the east by Lake Huron, on the west by Lake Michigan, and on the far north by Lake Superior, Michigan is also replete with hundreds of lakes of smaller size and countless ponds, rivers, streams, and creeks. This lovely green state is a refreshing change from the virtually seasonless climate of southern California. With its prosperous farms, extensive forests, abundant water, vigorous climate, and rich and varied avifauna, the Wolverine State has much to offer the birder.

Michigan weather is capricious. Although summer weather is agreeable it may range from very warm to very cool, from sunny to cloudburst, from calm to tornado - and all within a single day. This is often said by natives - "If you don't like our Michigan weather, wait a few minutes." Abundant summer rainfall makes possible the growth of deciduous-coniferous forest ecotone in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula. A rank and riotous growth of weeds in the summer is also characteristic of this climate.

Michigan claims the dubious distinction of retaining the smallest amount of virgin forest of any state and the forests one encounters there now are largely second growth. Michigan owes its present landforms, shoreline, and soils to recent continental glaciation. Large parts of the state are covered by sandy soils and other glacial debris which overlays the bedrock to depths of from 700-1400 feet in the Lower Peninsula. Everywhere are evidences of recent glaciation - terminal moraines, tillplains, kames, eskers, drumlins, outwash plains, and the like. Even Saginaw Bay, which separates the "thumb" of the Lower Peninsula from the rest of the "mitt" is the remnant of a receding glacial arm of Lake Huron. Only on the perimeter of the Lower Peninsula and in the U.P. does one encounter sedimentary bedrock. The only mountains of note are the Porcupines of the western portion of the U.P. and while quite attractive, they fail to live up to the westerner's expectation of mountains. However, nestled high in the ridges of the Porcupine Mountains lies the lovely Lake of the Clouds which is surrounded by the largest extant forest of virgin beech-maple-hemlock in all of Michigan.

Birding in Michigan comes in three distinct flavors. The oak-hickory-sassafrass-paw-paw woodlands of the southern portions of Lower Michigan offer a birding flavor more typical of the mid-central United States. Along the slow-flowing watercourses as near Kalamazoo and Battle Creek may be heard the loud boisterous song of the Prothonotary Warbler. Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers are ubiquitous birds among the woodlots of the southern tier of counties. Rolling

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LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN WILDLIFE FEATURE OF NEW TELEVISION SERIES

One of our own Los Angeles Audubon Society members, Dave Rolapp, is President of North American Wildlife Productions which has begun production on a new television series on American wildlife that will, it is hoped, enjoy a wide distribution.

Paul Howard, Director of the Audubon Center of Southern California, whose qualifications are well known to us, has been selected to act as host and narrate the film portions of the weekly show which is to be called THE WILD AMERICANS. The series will deal exclusively with the wildlife of North America and will be presented in color.

In discussing the show, Mr. Howard described it as a documentary which would, "...bring to bear all of the fascination of the wild in a true, factual presentation". He went on to say, "Our presentation will be a completely authentic one, letting the animal's existence be the story rather than attempting to create any artificial story.

"The show will have two concepts: first, that the animals and birds which we shall examine are unique entities in themselves and as much a part of our American background as the stagecoach or the pony express; second, that these animals are here, close at hand, to be explored in person, rather than exotic creatures found only in Africa or other distant lands."

The scripts for these programs will be approved by the National Audubon Society. Some forty episodes are anticipated and it is hoped that the first of these will be ready to be premiered at the National Audubon Society Convention in Corpus Christi next month, with a western premiere at Asilomar next spring. The first program is to be entitled THE BEAVER PEOPLE.

Members who are interested in viewing this fine show in our area, it is suggested, should write to local television stations calling attention to this fine series, and expressing their interest.

Wyoming Location for Audubon Camp of West

We have just received word from Bill Goodall, National Audubon Society Western Representative, that there WILL be an Audubon Camp in the west next summer. This will be an Audubon Camp of the West, however, not of California. It will be located at Trail Lake Ranch, Dubois, Wyoming. This is in the Wind River Range of western Wyoming, only seventy-five miles from Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks.

Three two-week sessions, from June 23 through August 2, 1963, are planned. For full details write: AUDUBON CAMP, P.O. Box 3666, El Monte, California.

THE WESTERN TANAGER OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA
HOLLYWOOD 7-9495

FREE TO MEMBERS OTHERS \$1.50 ANNUALLY

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Art Editor Bob Sandmeyer
Audubon Activities Elizabeth Rose
Conservation Frank Little
Field Notes Arnold Small
Calendar Marion Wilson
Typing Helen Sandmeyer
Caroline Adams
Folding & Mailing Betty Jenner

★ Something new has been added to the committee of hostesses of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

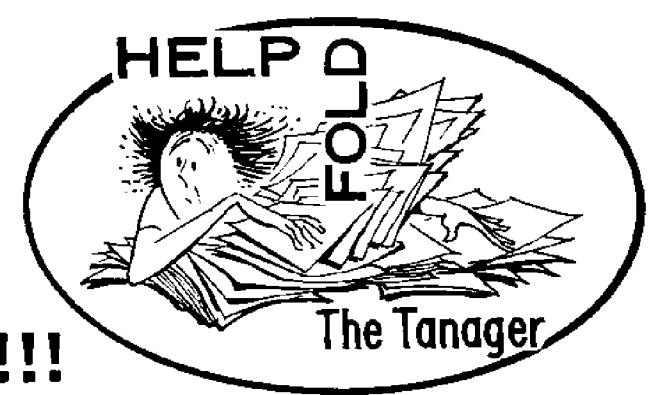
A communication service has been initiated--a service to acquaint you with the various activities of this group.

We may contact you by phone or by mail. However it is done, you will know we desire your presence or your cooperation.

The very efficient chairman of this new group is Mrs. Elizabeth Fulton. Anyone who has time at home to help, please call Mrs. Fulton at CA 5-4093.

Olive Alvey

DON'T MISS THIS
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM
TUESDAY EVENING MEETING
Nov. 13th DEAN FISHER



Help in the production of the greatest little paper in the west--the WESTERN TANAGER, naturally. If you can give one evening a month to join others in folding and mailing, please call Betty Jenner -- RI 8-7510 or Marion Wilson -- HO 7-9495.

we invite you

Audubon Activities

One of the Audubon House Scrub Jays hopped in the back door and peered around at all the bright colored beads the Bazaar Workshop members were stringing for the Christmas sale. "Unusual peanuts", he probably thought. Gudrun Pepke gave him a real peanut from Marian Wilson's birdseed supply corner. He might have been startled, too, to see the life-like red cardinals that Elsa Schwartz and Nurtha Dunn were making for a Christmas tree; or completely baffled by the sparkling things Lucille White was making by snipping tin cans.

All the workers joined the jays at lunch time or coffee and cake "break" while seated on the benches in the yard under the lovely trees looking toward the feeders and the bird bath. With all his bird fun and pleasant gathering, Olive Alvey manages to put everyone to work, even if it's counting unwinding bands from MJB for the new coffee maker. (The report now is that only thirty-three more points are needed.)

Countdown of the A.O.U. checklist by co-leader Dave Robison had just begun on the Sunday, September 23, trip when a White-faced Ibis, taking its time so that everyone could see its taffeta feathers, flew over Bixby Slough at Harbor Park. Here, in the afternoon, the trip, which had started at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro, was coming to a halt. The partially drained muddy area had proved very rich in birds. Both the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were there to be compared. There were several Snowy Egrets posing in the reeds. Many American Avocets were "sweeping" the area. And, fluttering groups of swallows varied to include the Violet-green, Rough-winged, and Barn Swallows.

Twenty-two members and guests were on hand for the early morning registration at Cabrillo Beach. During the time spent on the breakwater, several species of gulls, terns, and shorebirds were observed. Then, to confirm and answer any questions one might have had about them, the group studied the fine bird exhibits in the Museum when it opened at ten o'clock.

The car caravan then stopped at several places on the coast until Point Fermin and lunch time were reached. Hannah Walker, who spotted a Northern Phalarope from the Point Fermin cliff, explained how its characteristic "spinning top" movement had brought it to her attention. L.A.S. members were pleased to be able to show Texas Ornithological Society guests, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Moyer, a total of fifty-two species for the day. New enthusiast Stephen Braitman, protege of co-leader Russ Wilson, and youthful leader Richard Milne, prompted everyone to be on alert for "life birds" for them.

The setting for the Sunday, September 30, annual Tea was superb. The home and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. William Hood offered a lovely combination of sun and shade. Social chairman Olive Alvey had arranged several beautiful floral

BY ELIZABETH ROSE

pieces, some of them using the hostess' garden speciality, succulents. Several members had made tasty sandwiches, and others of the food committee had brought cookies. There was tea, coffee, and punch presided over by several of the Society's illustrious members. Helen Sandmeyer and Caroline Adams were part of the committee which worked a long time behind the scene. Rose Bussey kept the guest book. President Arnold Small, relaxed and talkative, was there to greet members. It was a wonderful place to be to "meet new acquaintances and renew old" as the Tanager Calendar stated. There was only one trouble. Only a small percentage of the almost nine hundred members took advantage of it!

President of the Los Angeles Audubon Society Arnold Small will represent its nine hundred members at the National Audubon Society Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas, November 10-14th.

At this fifty-eighth annual meeting problems and projects concerning the Bald Eagle, the Sandhill Crane, and the status and needs of forms of wildlife will be discussed.

Authorities from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, biologists, professors from universities working on wildlife management and Audubon research directors will be among the speakers to be heard.

Highlight of the trip will include an all day field trip to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Many of the thousands of members expected to attend will also have the privilege of a day at King Ranch.

The Christmas Census alert was sounded at the Tuesday evening, October 9, meeting of the Society when President Arnold Small called on Chairman Hugh Kingory for a report. Hugh asked, first of all, for participants in the Sunday, December 30, count. He emphasized that both kinds and individuals are important to show changes from year to year. Everyone can contribute by reporting on individuals in his own back yard, he said.

Several problems and questions were brought to the attention of the membership: the state of the Wilderness Bill in Congress, the Charter Amendment B, to be voted on in the November election, and local problems concerning a development at Ocean Park, and a question of neglect at Griffith Park Bird Sanctuary. The President indicated that he and his staff would cooperate with the presidents of other Audubon organizations and influential authorities in investigating these matters.

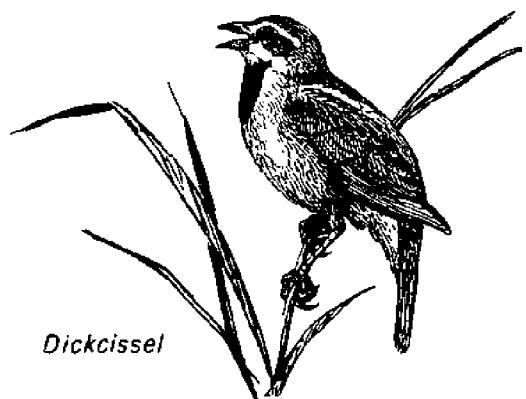
A small but enthusiastic audience then "Met Mr. Jones", Mr. Howard L. Jones, Instructor of Photography at Santa Monica City College, and Mrs. Jones both of whom had just returned from a year in Israel under the sponsorship of the United Nations. Program Chairman Russ Wilson had met this fellow Audubon member while "birding" throughout the country. Mr. Jones talked informally while Mrs. Jones ran the projector showing slides which they titled, "Wild

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NORTH and SOUTH from MACKINAC

(Continued)

farmlands with scattered woodlots dominate the scene as far north as a line drawn east and west through Clare County, and among the hay, alfalfa, and vetch meadows are heard the lisping songs of the Henslow's Sparrows. Further south Dickcissels are common roadside birds, and that bird fluttering



Dickcissel

ecstatically over the meadow and literally bubbling over with exuberance: is doubtlessly a Bobolink. The cheery notes of the Bob-white echo from the brush in the early mornings. Here is a species which has recovered from previous serious setbacks and seems to have adapted well to living in close proximity to man. The meadows offer homes to the Upland Plover and the Eastern Meadowlarks, but birds of prey are not often seen. The Red-eyed Vireo seems to inhabit every standing woodlot, and his rarer cousin, the Yellow-throated Vireo, vanishes as you travel to the north. Among the wood warblers, the southern part of the state is populated with Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Prairie, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Yellow Warblers.

Near Kalamazoo is to be found the new Kalamazoo Nature Center of the Michigan Audubon Society. Funds for its purchase were raised largely by the Michigan Audubon Society and it encompasses a rich stand of virgin woodland in famous Cooper's Glen. It is devoted to conservation education of youth, and its able director is Dr. Charles Mohr, former director of the Audubon Camp of Connecticut. Kalamazoo Nature Center epitomizes what an inspired community can do for the education of its youth when guided by the energies of a dedicated man like Dr. Sam Batts of Kalamazoo College, who almost single-handedly raised the necessary funds for its inception. The Shiawasee National Wildlife Refuge near Saginaw Bay is devoted primarily to the management of waterfowl and its large marshes host rails, herons, Black Terns, bitterns, and Long-

billed Marsh Wrens. The Short-billed Marsh Wrens inhabit sedge meadows throughout the southern and central part of the state, and finding the ball-like nests of these mites can be a tiring affair.

The forest changes in the central part of the Lower Peninsula to a climax of beech-maple-hemlock with a scattering of oaks, ashes, and "popples" (Large-toothed and Trembling Aspens). Scarlet Tanagers, Ruffed Grouse, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Crested Flycatchers, Indigo Buntings, Eastern Wood Pewees, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Black-capped Chickadees, and Wood Thrushes are commonly-found species in a morning of birding. Common Grackles walk about the lawns much as do our Brewer's Blackbirds. Blue Jays and Robins are common garden birds in all the villages and Chimney Swifts circle endlessly overhead. Michiganers love their Purple Martins and one sees martin houses erected in even the poorest of farmyards as well as among the prosperous homes in town. North of Clare, the flat farmlands give way to the rolling moraine country of the northern half of the Lower Peninsula. Large areas of sandy soil dotted with glacial lakes support vast stands of Jack Pines. It is here only, in an area of about one hundred fifty square miles, that the Jack Pine or Kirtland's Warbler makes its home. A survey of these birds conducted in 1960 concluded that the total population numbered a little more than one thousand birds. The Kirtland's Warbler also has the distinction of being the only Passerine bird which is managed by a state department of conservation. Since this species has narrowly defined requirements for nesting among young Jack and Red (Norway) Pines which are shorter than about twelve feet and are interspersed with some open areas, the Michigan State Department of Conservation maintains such areas among the fast growing uniform-age stands of Jack Pine. Fire-prevention and reforestation of this area have been so successful that the necessary areas of young Jack Pines are threatened with growing to maturity. Clearing of Jack Pines to ensure re-growth of the proper sized trees has been essential in the management of this bird. Before searching fruitlessly among thousands of square miles of featureless Jack Pine plains, I inquired of the Conservation Department and received a detailed map of the best areas (west of Higgin's Lake in Roscommon County) where known colonies were extant. In addition, on the same map were marked the best places for locating Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie Chickens. During late May and most of June the Kirtland's Warblers are easy to find - once the proper habitat has been located. The males usually sing their loud, distinctive songs from the tip-top of the very Jack Pine under which the nest is situated on the ground. I made repeated trips into the Jack Pine country knowing that the opportunity for studying this unique warbler would not come soon again.

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HEADQUARTERS, NATURE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE,
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November 1962

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Nov. 1 THURSDAY WILDLIFE FILM 7:45 P.M., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Place, Los Angeles. "THE LONG FLIGHT BACK" by Kenneth Morrison. The last-ditch fight to save our vanishing wildlife. Heartbreaking journeys of the Whooping Cranes.

Nov. 3 SATURDAY EXTRA FIELD TRIP 8:30 A.M. at Audubon Center of Southern California, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., turn right, continue to San Gabriel Blvd., turn left to Durfee and left again to 1000. This is an opportunity for members to visit the conservation and education facilities of the National Audubon Society. This is the best place to see cardinals in California. Take lunch, binoculars and coffee if desired. Hot tomato soup will be served.

Host: Mr. Paul Howard, Director of the Center

Nov. 10 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP - 8:30 A.M., Santa Barbara, Goleta Slough, University of California at Santa Barbara, Nojaqui Falls Park and Lake Cachuma. Group will meet at Bird Refuge on east Cabrillo on the left side of Highway 101 as you enter Santa Barbara. Last year 62 species were logged including white-tailed kites. Several more species should be found at Nojaqui Falls Park and Lake Cachuma. Camping Saturday night at Lake Cachuma.

Leader: Dave Robison PO 1-0217

Nov. 13 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING -- 8:00 P.M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. Dean Fisher, who has just returned from a 37 month odyssey which took him through 84 countries, will show colored slides and relate some of his adventures in Africa south of the equator under the title "Cape to Kilimanjaro". For fifteen years ornithology has been Mr. Fisher's hobby and he has studied and identified more than 3,600 species in the field.

Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

Nov. 15 THURSDAY MORNING MEETING - (NOTE CHANGE TO 3rd THURSDAY, this month only) 10:00 A.M., Long Hall, Plummer Park. An excellent series of slides on our deserts, made by the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club will be shown.

Chairman: Catherine Freeman CL 7-7038

Nov. 16 FRIDAY BAZAAR WORKSHOP 10:00 A.M., Audubon House. This will be an all day session as it will be the last workshop before the Bazaar, Dec. 8. All members with a talent for handcraft are urged to help in this project.

Chairman: Olive Alvey NO 1-8036

Nov. 25 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Bolsa Chica to Buena Vista Lagoon - Meet at 7:00 A.M. south of the traffic circle at Pacific Coast Highway and Lakewood Blvd. Shorebirds, wintering ducks, herons, burrowing owls, white-tailed kites should be seen with a possibility of least bitterns.

Leader: Laura Lou Jenner RI 8-7510

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CALENDAR

CONTINUED

Nov. 29 THURSDAY WILDLIFE FILM - 7:45 P.M., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Place. "ISLAND TREASURE" by Walter J. Breckenridge. Dramatic history of an island wilderness: caribou, white-tailed deer, bald eagles, horned owls, snowshoe rabbit, cottontails, song birds, game birds, animal and plant life common to the United States and Canada.

Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner RI 8-7510

Dec. 1 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS Call John Peebles, HO 7-1661 or Bill Watson, NO 5-0745.

Dec. 1 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP - (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE TO 1st SATURDAY) 7:00 A.M. at the first Tip's Restaurant on Highway 99, south of junction with Highway 126. We will explore the area between Highway 99, Highway 6 and Highway 138. Bring lunch.

Leader: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

Dec. 8 SATURDAY - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND BAZAAR 1:00 - 4:00 P.M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. Christmas decorations, tree ornaments, Christmas cards and many wonderful items for your Christmas shopping. Program and refreshments.

PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

On December 30 the Los Angeles Audubon Society will confound the general public by conducting the Christmas bird census. We invite all members and friends to join in the count-- and to join 10,000 other bird-watchers in the USA and Canada in this massive mid-winter project for bird-study and fun.

We will prowl along the beach at Playa del Rey, plow through the thick chaparral in Griffith Park, telescope our few reservoirs such as Hollywood, Stone Canyon, Silver Lake, and Echo Park, scour our city parks, and explore for as many birds as we can find in the city.

We need all the help you can give, whether for all day, half the day, an hour, or a walk around the block. Last year we had only two-thirds as many observers as five years before, and therefore we recorded half the number of birds.

On the Christmas Census we try to count not only as many species as we can, but as many individuals of each species, within a circular area with a 15 mile diameter. The L.A. count centers at the intersection of Pico and La Cienega. Within this we cover the city from Elysian Park to Playa del Rey and from North Hollywood to Inglewood.

With the burgeoning population and the building boom the count in recent years has tended to dwindle in variety and numbers. Nonetheless, Los Angeles last year counted more species than any of the 10 largest cities in the country. Our northern neighbor, San Francisco, came closest with 128 different species (but more individuals), ten less than the 138 found in Los Angeles. Across

the bay Oakland counted 164 species, but that city's population does not rank with Los Angeles' millions.

As far as numbers go, we fortunately cannot compete with Washington D.C., where they counted 242,539 birds--of which 209,746 were Starlings! We counted only 13,073 individuals last year.

Editors of Audubon Field Notes, which publishes the Christmas Counts, perform the arduous task of finding which of the 661 censuses found the highest number of individuals for each of the 508 species found throughout the nation. Five years ago Los Angeles had the highest count on the continent for ten species. Last year we had high count for only two species. We should lead the country for the most common garden birds here--Mockingbird, Scrub Jay, Brown Towhee, Hummingbirds, and Wren-tits. More observers will help us obtain that more thorough coverage we need for better and more accurate totals.

To conduct the count we divide the area into territories for each party to cover. Limited by the number of observers, we actually cover only

small portion of the area, of necessity ignoring most of the residential area. In the latter, part-time observers can help. If you are busy that Sunday but have time to walk around your block, or several blocks, or walk to church, or take a spin through your backyard, and will count the birds you see--the common city birds--like Mockingbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds, and English Sparrows, Los Angeles will turn in a better count.

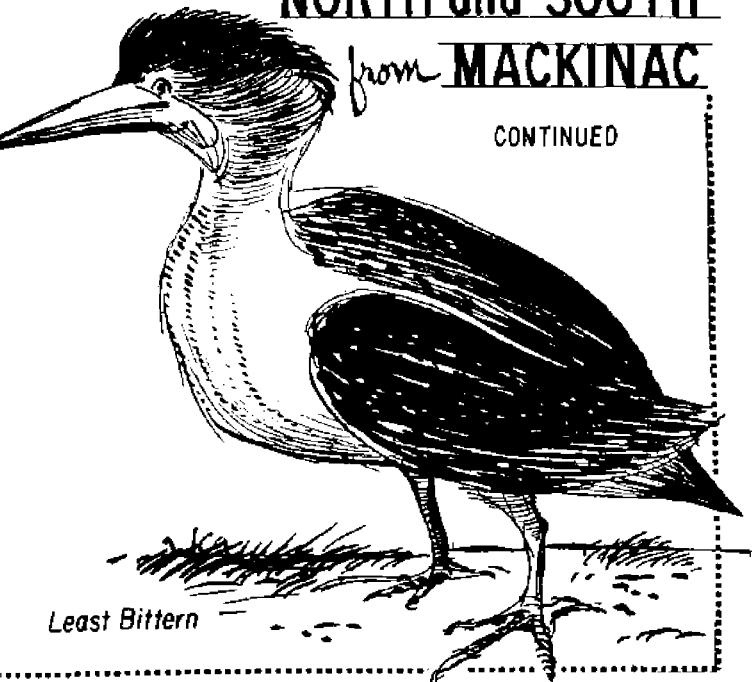
If you see an unusual bird in your rambling through the city which you think we might be able to find on December 30, tell this to Census Chairman Hugh Kingery or the Audubon House.

Anyone who can participate in the census at all is urged to contact Hugh by phone, DUnkirk 3-6282, or post card, 528 South Harvard, L.A. 5-

NORTH and SOUTH

from MACKINAC

CONTINUED



Least Bittern

Amongg the hemlocks and maples bordering the arger lakes of central Michigan live a host of warblers. Blackburnians, Black-throated Greens, Black-throated Blues, Black and Whites, Ovenbirds, Northern Waterthrushes, American Redstarts, Magnolias, and Canadas in the denser woodlands, Chestnut-sides in the brambly, blackberry borders, and Jashvilles among the Tamaracks in the bogs. Parulas buzz their songs from hanging lichens at Wag-jushance Point at Wilderness State Park, Broad-winged Hawks circle low over the denser forests, the breezy songs of the Veeries sound from damp woodlands, and at dusk Barred and Saw-whet Owls voice their presence from the deep woods. A memorable highlight of our visit south from Mackinac were the times spent at the great Dead Stream Swamp near Houghton Lake. The Dead Stream Swamp is a lake and swamp created by the damming of the Muskegon River for the purpose of wildlife management and is dotted with the gnarled stumps of drowned trees. Here nested at least eight pairs of Ospreys, a pair of Bald Eagles, dozens of pairs of Great Blue Herons, Tree Swallows, Common Goldeneyes, and Common Mergansers. In the great swamps east and north of the lake were Least Bitterns, Common Gallinules, rails, Black Terns, Green Herons, and other marsh birds. At first visit, we engaged the services of an airboat for exploration. The guide made it his business to know the whereabouts of birds' nests, and it was a revelation to roar through and over the swamp vegetation, slam into a patch of cattails, and find ourselves within a foot of a Least Bittern's nest - with the adult bittern still on the nest amidst all the commotion! A blind erected ten feet from the nest of a pair of Ospreys provided a real thrill to study and photograph this wonderful bird. Later, after we had learned the marsh better, it was more suit-

able to take a canoe at leisure into its depths, and explore and photograph. An evening in early summer spent near almost any woodland nearby will reward the patient birder with the flight song of the Woodcock. Although the aerialist is invisible in the mounting dusk, his distinctive "peeenting" is unmistakable. Similarly, the winnowing flight "song" of the Common Snipe can be heard near almost any suitable marshy meadow.

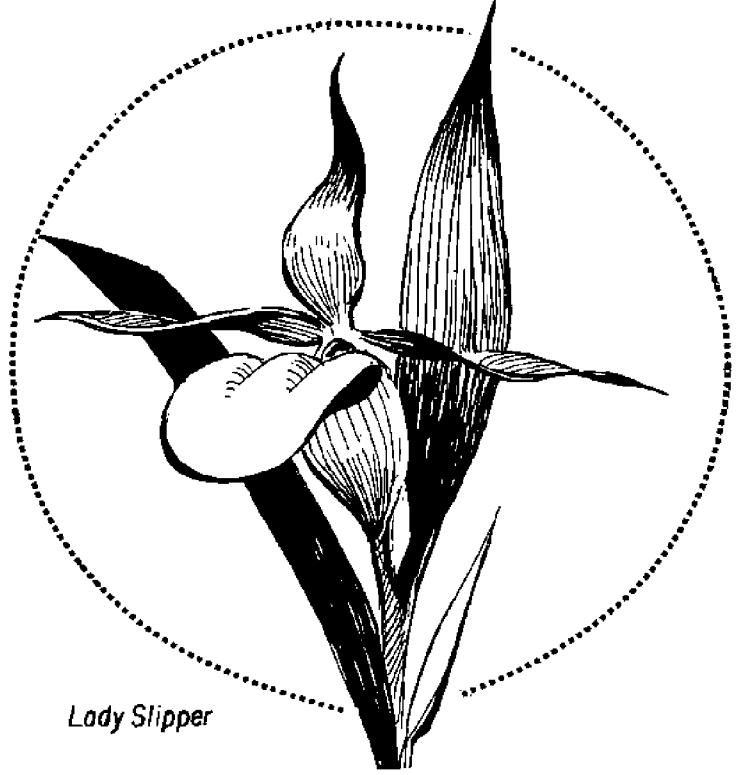
One of the most delightful areas in all of Michigan for the birder is at Wilderness State Park on the shores of Lake Michigan near the Straits of Mackinac. A walk along the unspoiled beach to Waugoshance Point, while not particularly rich in bird life, should produce Caspian and Common Terns, perhaps an Osprey or a Bald Eagle, Black-throated Blue and Parula Warblers, and certainly Piping Plovers. Along the nature trails in Wilderness State Park birding is especially good during June. We found Pileated Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, while Winter Wrens sang their incredible songs from the depths of the Black Spruce hollows, and Veeries choralled their inimitable renditions from even boggier places. The birder who strains his eyes upwards may not see the Yellow or the Showy Lady's Slippers, in some places growing in incredible profusion deep in the Spruce forests. Wild blackberries, strawberries, partridge berries, and several kinds of blueberries were everywhere for the gathering. This area has a distinct flavor of the "north woods" taiga, and here and there along the borders of some of the larger lakes, or tucked away deeper in the forest are the characteristic spruce bogs of the north. A few hours spent just wandering about in such a place is unlike any other experience. If one ventures out onto the floating mat of sphagnum which girdles such bogs, he has a sensation similar to what it must be like to walk across a swimming pool full of stale gelatin. Jump up and down, and even the large trees quake. Cedar Waxwings seem to be everywhere, and the flute-like notes of the Hermit Thrush can be heard from the depths of the surrounding forest. But botanizing is more fun here than birding, for the plants of the spruce bog, with their narrow tolerance for survival, grow nowhere else. Cottongrass, bog laurel, bog cranberry, several species of orchids (such as the exquisite Arathusa), tamarack, many kinds of ferns, and along the borders in the drier places, more kinds of mushrooms and other fungi than I had ever seen before. But the most sought-after plants of the spruce bog are the insectivorous types. Two forms of carnivorous plants thrive here. The large pitcher plant, replete with funnel-like traps and leaves and an array of tall showy flowers, grows in profusion. Each trap has a pool of rainwater at the bottom, and the unwary insect, possibly lured by an inviting scent from the lips of the trap, makes its way into the mouth of the leaf. Once inside, the unlucky insect cannot as easily clamber out, as it finds on the glassy smooth walls of the trap no purchase for its feet. Even should it suc-

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ceed in reaching the upper end of the leaf, it finds an array of down-pointing hairs barring its way. Eventually the insect falls into the pool, is drowned, and eventually is consumed by the plant. Much smaller, but even more dramatic are the sundews. These tiny plants, with bright red leaves clothed in fine hairs each with a glistening drop of sticky fluid at its tip, react positively to the ascent of a small insect. The "glue ball" holds the insect fast, and very slowly the leaf closes itself about the unlucky Arthropod, and remains closed until the insect is digested. It has been suggested that such insectivorous plants grow in nitrogen-poor soils (such as in bogs) and to supplant their requirements of nitrogen



they have adapted to the situation by evolving methods of obtaining their required nitrogen from the proteinaceous bodies of insects. No visit to the north country is complete without a visit to a spruce bog.

During very cold winters it is said that an automobile may be driven across the Mackinac Straits, and some harrowing tales of cars going through the ice have resulted. A much pleasanter path lies across the Mackinac Bridge now. This route takes the traveler into wilder country than he found south of the Straits, and the birds found here have more of a flavor of the far north. Ravens, Boreal Chickadees, Gray Jays, Spruce Grouse, and Golden-crowned Kinglets are some of the more boreal species encountered. Goshawks are here, and Broad-winged Hawks nest commonly in the forests. Tahquamenon Falls State Park in the northeastern portion of the U.P.

includes a magnificent stand of virgin beech-maple forest which harbors Pileated Woodpeckers. Most of the virgin forest of Black Spruce and Norway Pine has been removed from this part of Michigan and the devastating fires which consumed the slash incinerated the rich loam of the forest floor. The country is slowly coming back, and here and there, towering above the surrounding second growth, may be seen patriarch pines somehow overlooked by the loggers, and reminding us of what this forest was one hundred years ago. Near Seney, on the U.P. the state of Michigan attempted to make use of some of this ravaged land. In conjunction with the federal government nearly one hundred thousand acres was declared as the Seney National Wildlife Refuge, and although the forest could not be restored, a new use was found for the land. Dikes and spillways were built, water was impounded, roads were constructed, and today a magnificent waterfowl and waterbird refuge with extensive second growth forest and marsh has been created in place of the original pine forest. Here nest Common Loons, Common Mergansers, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Ospreys, ducks of all kinds, and myriads of marsh birds. In some of the larger sedge marshes can be found the elusive LeConte's Sparrow, and the even more elusive Yellow Rail. Canada Geese breed on the refuge and act as living decoys to attract larger migratory flocks until the water freezes over. Most of the refuge is still wild and roadless with sphagnum bogs, cedar swamps, beaver ponds and spruce forest. The moose may eventually be re-introduced to this area from Isle Royal Park. Moose, of course, are regularly found at Isle Royal and occasionally make their way to the mainland across the ice in winter. Black Bear are here, as are otter, mink, marten, and fisher, but wolverines probably never occurred in the state which bears their name.

► ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The naturalist afield in Michigan will find a rich bounty of subjects for study. The botanist will find biome stratification exemplified by the major forest types and plant associations. The geologist finds a classic example of landscape modified by glacial activity. For the ecologist, there is a profusion of ecotypes and soil complexes in addition to classical examples of plant succession in the burned-over and logged-off areas, and in the sand dunes bordering Lake Michigan. For those interested in plant specialties, the forest harbors many species of orchids, mosses, liverworts, and fungi of innumerable variety. The limnologist will find much to study in the hundreds of lakes, ponds and streams. Insects enough to gladden the heart of any entomologist, and amphibians and reptiles (especially turtles) of great variety are there for the herpetologist, while the ornithologist and nature photographer cannot find enough hours in the day for study. In short, Michigan is a great natural laboratory in which nature's plan can be studied in the great outdoors. ■

CONSERVATION NEWS

from FRANK LITTLE

The Board of Supervisors has unanimously endorsed the placement of Proposition B on the November 6th ballot which, if approved, will provide a logical and effective method for acquiring, developing, and maintaining a system of regional recreation areas. Such regional recreational areas are a vital link in an overall system of parks. They help remove much pressure from state and national parks by providing adequate local parks for the many who are now forced to go farther to find the outdoors they seek.

The Executive Board of the Los Angeles Audubon Society has passed a resolution favoring the measure; many other worthwhile organizations, including Nature Conservancy, favor it.

This amendment is not a bond issue, nor is it a tax increase. It merely charters the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Parks and Recreation and insures that all funds budgeted for recreation will remain in the Park and Recreation fund and if not spent one year

There have been some requests for resumption of the charter bus trips formerly scheduled on the third Thursday of each month. Those who would be interested in attending these, if resumed, are requested to call or drop a postcard to Audubon House, Plummer Park, letting us know of your interest.

There is also an urgent need for a leader, or leaders, for this group; any qualified member who would be willing to serve is also requested to contact Audubon House.

About the Author...

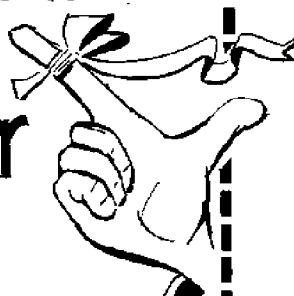
Arnold Small, President of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, is a teacher of biology at Palisades High School. He was born and brought up in New York City. He, too, gives credit to the Boy Scouts for introducing him to the world of birds at an early age. He has made his home in California since the late 1940's. It was while attending the University of Southern California that he met Mimi, his wife. They, with their two children, now live in West Los Angeles. Arnold has been active in the Society for several years. Besides leading many field trips, he started the evening meetings which have proven so successful, and guided them for their first three years. As editor of the WESTERN Tanager, he was responsible for the "face-lifting" which it received a little over a year ago. He is regional editor of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES for the Southern Pacific Coast, and is widely respected as an authority on the birds of this area. He is exceedingly generous in sharing his knowledge with others. Arnold is a member of the A.O.U., of the Cooper Society and of the Linnean Society of New York.

will be available for the next. This allows for long range planning and overall efficiency.

Of much concern to conservationists is the growing use of motor scooters in the "back country". The National Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, the National Parks Association and practically every other conservation organization is opposed to this rapidly growing trend and is trying to halt it.

Unfortunately, right in the middle of this fight to save our wilderness from the scooter, there appears a new wilderness-menacing gadget, the gas powered camping buggy. An article appearing in the Los Angeles Times recently gave a glowing description of these terribly ingenious buggies, stating that the "bumpier the trail, softer the ride". Equipped with low-pressure, rolling-pin shaped tires, these vehicles can easily take a person camping "off the beaten path". There's a joke! It may not be a beaten path before the buggy arrives, but what kind of a path will it be when the buggy goes? Many of these things and all we'll have is a wilderness of "beaten paths". We earnestly hope that the back country can be reserved for the hiker and horse-carried camper and not be torn apart by scooters, buggies, and other terribly ingenious gadgets of the monoxide era. ■

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Remember

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8th. --

NEW **MEMBERS**

Mr. C. E. Brooks

2028 1/2 Dracena Dr., L.A. 27

Mr. & Mrs. William W. Bruck
2163 Cedarhurst Dr., L.A. 37

Miss Virginia Dawson
622 S. Harvard Blvd., L.A. 5

Mr. D. B. Hummel
2614 Nipomo Ave., Long Beach 15

Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. Kroenlein
1285 Hill Dr., L.A. 41

Mr. George L. Tong
1104 E. Peck St., Compton

Mr. J. Clair White
4547 Saturn St., L.A. 19

Southern California



BY ARNOLD SMALL

Birds

The feature note of this column for November is eastern warblers! Why eastern warblers in southern California? This question as yet has not been resolved--we only know the what and the where, but not the why.

It all started when Guy McCaskie (the irrepressible bird-finder) began visiting the Tia Juana river bottom south of Nestor in San Diego County. Spring visits to this unimposing agricultural area with its groves of tamarisk trees, chaparral-covered hillsides, and stands of (and most important) Tree Tobacco, were not fruitful. The area began to yield dividends of great significance in mid-September this year. In the course of repeated series of visits he found an incredible total of twenty-one species of warblers there! Twelve of these were the expected western warblers; eight of the others were distinctly eastern types; the other was a Rocky Mountain species which just barely extends into California. This latter species, the Virginia's Warbler is found in this state only as a sparse breeder in the White Mountains and probably on Clark Mountain in eastern San Bernardino County. Elsewhere in the state it is strictly accidental. Eleanor Pugh of Silver Strand found the first one, and on McCaskie's first visit to the Tia Juana river bottom he found at least thirteen. We found at least seven on our visit there. In addition, on his early visit, he found a Tennessee Warbler and a Painted Bunting.

Sparked by his initial success, he intensified his visits and by October 5 of this year he had recorded the following additional eastern warblers from this area: Black and White, Blackpoll (possibly as many as 7 birds), another Tennessee, Palm, Prairie (first Calif. record), Chestnut-sided, American Redstart, and Parula. One other area in California can qualify as such a trap for warblers--the Farallon Islands. There, similar flights were encountered, but in the spring of the year. To date, the only explanation that can be offered for this phenomenon is that many of these birds are moving south from their breeding grounds in western Canada and Alaska; but how about the Prairie and the Parula Warblers? Bowman's spring work on the Farallons suggests the possibility of springtime northward movement as well.

I have dwelled at length on this subject for several reasons. First, it illustrates how concentrated effort in the field in one locality can yield astonishing results (it must be admitted, however, that there exists the possibility that the Tia Juana river bottom is ornithologically unique--but why this should be so, we cannot as yet know). Second, it suggests that coastal areas--particularly with thickets of Tree Tobacco, should be studied thoroughly between early September and mid-October. Third, is that most of these birds were in the so-called

"confusing fall plumage", and this suggests that it is imperative that the observer know what to look for. Have these birds been overlooked in the past because of their somber plumage? Should we not pay closer attention to the fall migrants--especially the warblers? And lastly, more time should be spent in the desert oases during spring migration. Mist nets set up at strategic points in these oases, if Don Bleitz's results are any clue, would be most rewarding.

There are doubtlessly other areas like the Tia Juana river bottom, and time will tell whether this phenomenon was peculiar to this fall migration, or whether it is an annual affair. If it is an annual affair, it is then difficult to believe that it is limited only to that piece of territory, which doesn't seem to have any special feature to make it so attractive to migrating warblers.

Almost as an anti-climax to these affairs, was the finding of a male Scarlet-headed (Streaked-backed) Oriole there on Sept. 22 by McCaskie, Small, and Clarke. This represented the third sighting of this species in California (the others were also in San Diego County) and probably the fourth for the U.S. Earlier in the day we had seen the Ruff (really a Reeve) found the day before by McCaskie at Solano Beach; this was the second sighting of this species in southern California within the year!

The fall migration of shorebirds was fairly good, with really excellent concentrations at south San Diego Bay--especially of Knots. I received well-substantiated reports of a pair of Bar-tailed Godwits at Upper Newport Bay early in September but we failed to find them in several attempts. North of San Diego the flight of Elegant Terns was only spotty and the offshore flight of jaegers improved in early October. Southbound waterfowl should be reaching us in numbers soon, and hopeful signs for another wet winter are ahead. ■

Audubon Activities

CONTINUED...

Flowers of Israel". There followed a profusion of wild flower prints: red anenome, cyclamen, wild tulips, poppies, crocus, morning-glories, lupin, bachelor buttons, forget-me-nots, lilac, and others all very beautiful. But he told through his pictures another story too. His landscapes were full of rocks which showed what a tremendous survival problem this young state had had. The colorful flowers themselves told of the water problem. This year they were profuse because it was the first rain in four years. Pet goats, instead of pet dogs, spoke of the utility each thing must have. Mr. Jones said he particularly liked to photograph children everywhere he went because he felt that in their faces could be seen the whole story. And, the children in Israel seemed to be happy and healthy. His pictures pointed up his remark that this is a land of extremes: camels and Cadillacs, the old and the new. A land where it is well if the bus driver can speak seven languages. There were more slides but unfortunately time ran out. ■