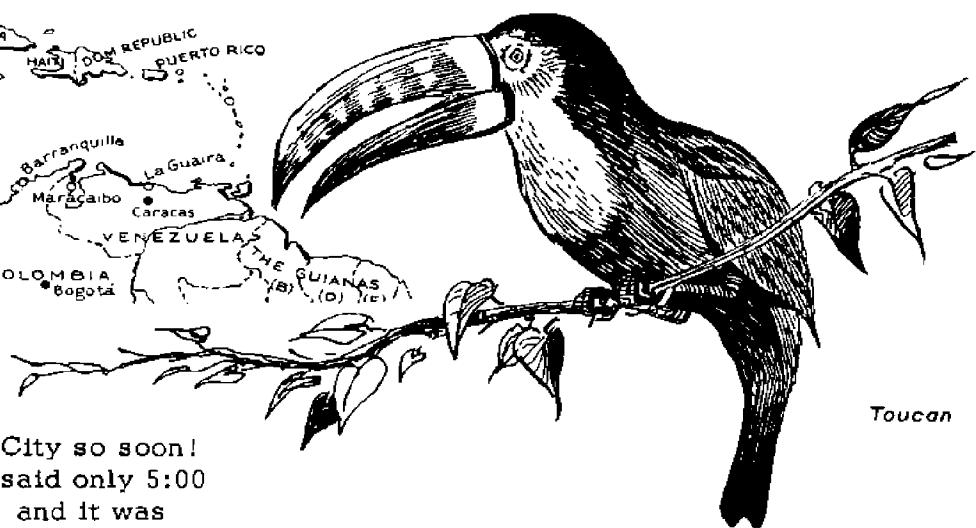




# BIRDWATCHING IN PANAMA



Toucan

By MAE WILSON

**S**urely this could not be Panama City so soon! But yes, it was. Although my watch said only 5:00 p.m., we had lost an hour in transit, and it was really 6:00 p.m. Below us was Panama Bay, while off to the left stretched, like a shining silver ribbon, the Panama Canal. An hour later, having dinner in the beautiful Panama Hilton, I began to anticipate the ornithological tour of Dr. Ernest Edwards, which was to begin two days later. The other four members of the tour would be arriving soon.

Next morning after breakfast, on starting to explore the grounds, I noticed a young woman with binoculars, and rightly judged her to be a member of the tour. She was Dr. Joan Criswell of Washington, D.C. It seems that brains do count for something, because during our ten-day field trip, she took excellent notes on every new bird, transcribing, by the Saunders method, the song as well. Later, by looking at her notes, she could reproduce the song so that it was recognizable.

We spent the next two hours, before the sun got too hot, in birding the hotel grounds and a

small park nearby. Very noticeable was the large number of Magnificent Frigate Birds, lazily soaring overhead. Also in the air were many Black and Turkey Vultures. Sitting on her nest in a tree, almost within hand's reach as one went up the stairs, was a Blue-gray Tanager. Apparently this was the most common tanager in Panama. Another beautiful tanager was the Crimson-backed Tanager, whose shades of velvety red gave it the common name "Sangre del Toro" "Blood of the Bull. Other birds seen were: Clay-colored Robin, Boat-tailed Grackle (both very common), Variable Seed-eater, Yellow-bellied Seed-eater, Blue-black Grassquit, Thick-billed Seed Finch, Yellow-faced Grassquit, and the Red-crowned Woodpecker.

Two days later, on June 25, our party having assembled, we checked out of the Panama Hilton after an early breakfast, and drove across to Colon, on the Caribbean side, where we remained three days. Since the rainfall there is more than twice that of the Pacific side - average 150 inches

Continued on page 78

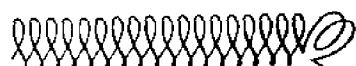
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See the enclosed Special Reservation Form

# BIRDWATCHING IN PANAMA

CONTINUED



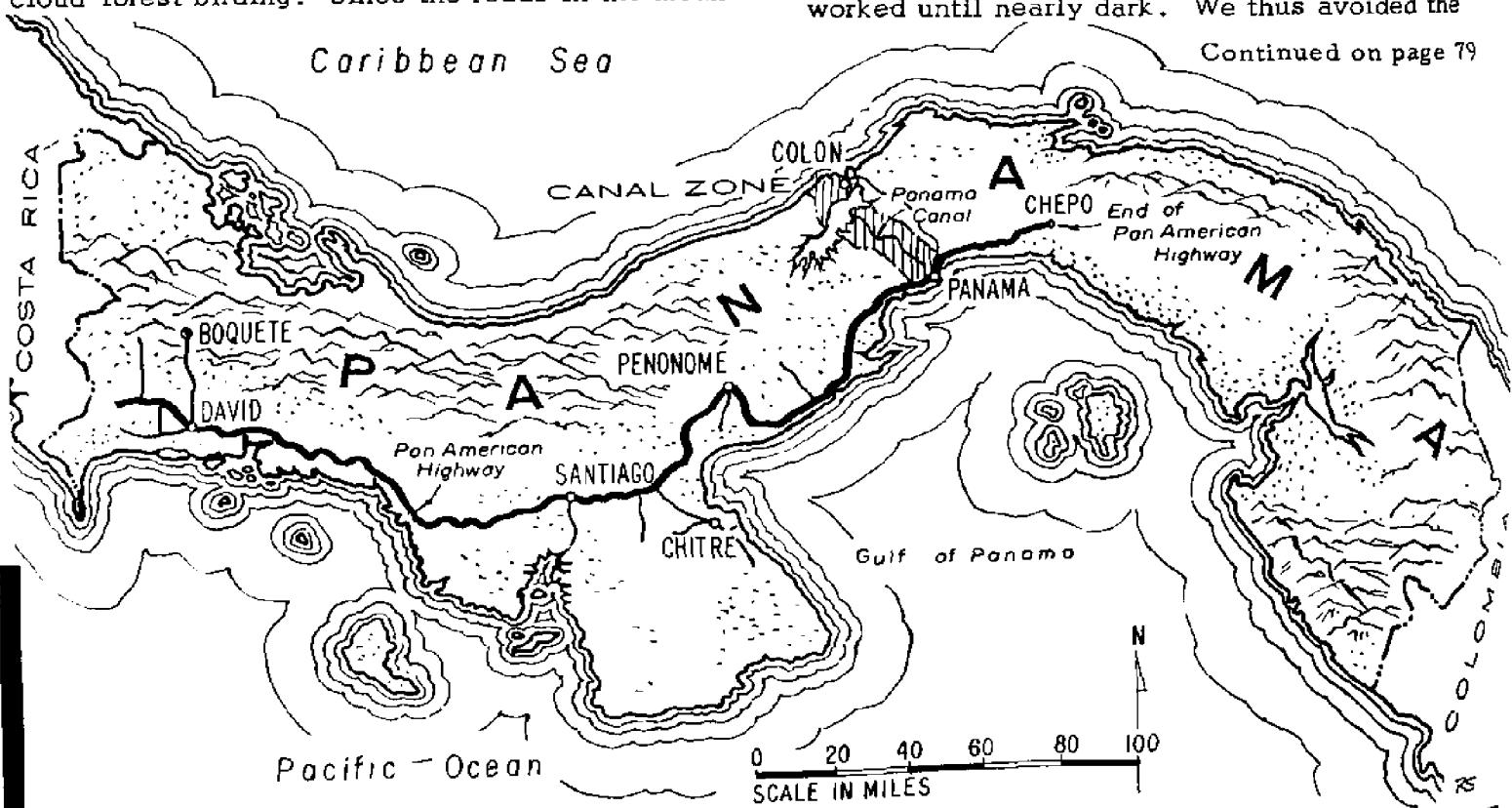
per year - vegetation was lush. The excellent highway which we took across the Isthmus was just east of the Zone, and ran through the rain forest. Our first main stop was at Madden Dam, the overflow of which is used to fill the Canal. Standing along the edge of the rain forest, we saw, in rapid succession, such exciting birds as the Keel-billed Toucan, the Collared Aracari (a small toucan), Masked Tityra and Purple-throated Fruitcrow (both cotingas), the Blue-headed Parrot, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, the Blue Honey-creeper, and many, many others. Out of 61 species logged that day, 42 were life birds for me. Of course, after that first day the number of life birds seen daily would gradually decrease, because some would be repeats.

We worked the Caribbean side for three days, then drove back to the Panama Hilton, which was our headquarters for several days while we took trips into the tropical lowlands east and west of the Canal and into the mountains up to a few thousand feet. One interesting bird of the savannas was the Red-breasted Blackbird, very conspicuous with its scarlet breast. On the seventh day we flew to David in northwestern Panama, and from there drove to Boquete in the Chiriqui Mts. for cloud-forest birding. Since the roads in the moun-

tains were muddy and sometimes almost impassable, we used a driver and jeep with four-wheel drive. In the cloud forest, we saw many birds that were not found at lower altitudes. Since we were now in Quetzal country, Dr. Edwards would constantly whistle its call - two notes slurring downward, "Who-oo, who-oo." Finally, on the third day we saw four of these gorgeous birds - one female and three young males! They remained in a tree for several minutes while we watched them.

A still rarer bird seen at Boquete was the Three-wattled Bellbird, with a range confined to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and western Panama, chiefly in the highlands. Even for Dr. Edwards it was a new bird. It was a plump bird, rufous with a white head and breast, with three fleshy wattles hanging down from its head.

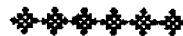
Perhaps it would interest you to know how the tour was organized. It was so expertly handled that no one became over-tired or ill during the ten days of rather intensive birding. Since there were only five of us, we could go in one car, which Dr. Edwards drove. Every morning at 5:30 we were downstairs having coffee and a small snack before starting out. About daylight we were out in the field, where we heard some wonderful morning choruses, sometimes a dozen species singing at once. Some mornings we had a picnic breakfast out in the field while listening to this music. On other days, we returned to the hotel for a late breakfast, about 10:00 or so. After lunch and a rest period, we went out again about 2:30, and worked until nearly dark. We thus avoided the



midday heat. By the way, the heat was less than I had expected. Of course, the high humidity made it somewhat oppressive. I was surprised to learn that the temperature varied very little all year.

For protection against mosquitoes and sun, we wore slacks and long-sleeved cotton shirts, and either a visor or broad-brimmed hat. For the mosquitoes, we carried insect repellent at all times. Although it was the rainy season, the rains were not a problem. Nevertheless, we carried rain-coats and galoshes in the car for use if needed. Food and water were safe at the three hotels and one motel that we used: Panama Hilton, the historical old Hotel Washington at Colon, the Panamonte Inn at Boquete, and a new motel near the airport of Panama City.

The hiking on the field trips was not strenuous. For the most part we walked along roads on the forest edges, or sometimes along trails that penetrated the jungle for a short distance. As Dr. Edwards explained, within the jungle we would see less because of the deep shadows and because we could not see the birds in the highest treetops. As I remember, only once did we plunge off into the tangled under-brush, and that was for only a short distance. The side excursion was to see a Green Hermit Hummingbird - a large one with down-curved bill. It was perched on a branch, at about eye level, and was saying, very peeishly, "Screech! Screech!" over and over again. Possibly that meant, "Gringo, go home!"



Our trip list contained 250 birds. Of these, 185 were life birds for me. Only about half of the birds seen were in Blake. The other half were not, since they were Central or South American species. Besides Blake's "Birds of Mexico" we used the check list by Eisenmann, "The Species of Middle American Birds" and Dr. Edwards' small book, "Finding Birds in Panama." If you went down there, not on a tour, to identify many species, you would have to take good notes, then on your return go to the Los Angeles County Museum or to the Moore Laboratory at Occidental College and try to find the skins.

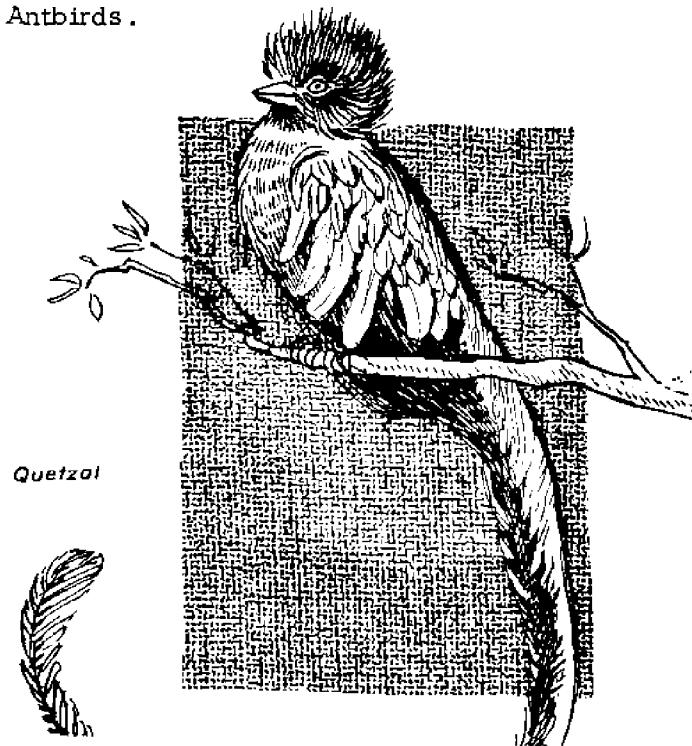
Dr. Edwards' excellent ear added greatly to our enjoyment. He could recognize every bird call or song, could imitate it perfectly, and could sometimes coax out from their hiding places such shy birds as antbirds or wrens.

We saw few shore birds or warblers because the migrants had gone north. That was all right with us. It was the resident birds that we had come to see. Since space does not permit a dis-

cussion of more than a few of the many birds seen, I shall touch only upon some of the more spectacular or typical tropical families.

The toucans, because of their oversized bills, attract everyone's attention. You would think that these bills would be very clumsy to manage, but it is said that the bills enable the birds to reach fruit some distance away. We saw five species: Swainson's, with a bill nearly as long as its body; also the Keel-billed, the Collared Arapari, and the Blue-throated and the Yellow-eared Toucanets.

The antbirds, though not showy, were very typical of tropical America. Rather thrush-like in color and behavior, they skulk about in the forest's under-story. Seldom do they eat ants. Instead, when the army ants march through the jungle, they are camp followers. When the myriads of insects scurry out of the path of the ants, the antbirds find easy pickings. According to their special characteristics, they are called antshrikes, antthrushes, antpittas, antvireos, or antwrens. Those that lack personality are called simply antbirds. A few that we saw were: Slaty Antshrike, Fasciated, White-flanked, and Black-faced Antbirds.



Puffbirds fit their name perfectly. They will sit for long periods of time on an exposed perch with their feathers fluffed out. Because the bird can often be approached within close range, the natives have a name for it - "bobo," meaning "stupid." We saw two species - the White-necked and the Pied. Both had large heads, short necks, and conspicuous black-and-white markings on stout bodies.

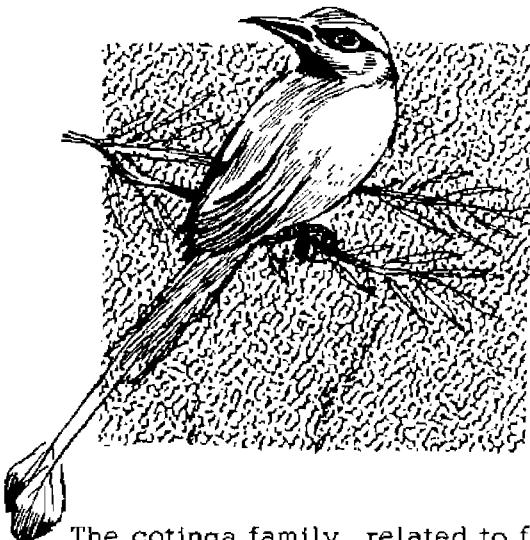
Continued on page 80

# BIRDWATCHING IN PANAMA

CONTINUED

Among the most beautiful birds are the trogons, of which Panama has eleven species. We saw six, including the Quetzal, Massena, Orange-bellied, Violaceous, and Orange-breasted. They have brilliant reddish-orange or yellow breasts, and long tails marked or barred below with black and white. Lethargic in their habits, they will remain quietly on their perch in the deep forest for some time.

While the trogons are more common in Panama, the motmots are less common. They are large and beautiful birds, in soft shades of blue-green, turquoise, or russet. The bird nibbles off the barbs of the two long central tail-feathers for an inch or so near the end, leaving two little "rackets." Why the bird does this, we do not know, but presumably it has a reason for such behavior. Motmots will sit quietly for long periods, the only movement being an occasional twitch of the long tail. We saw two species - the Blue-crowned and the Broad-billed.



The cotinga family, related to flycatchers, contains some unusual birds which are, however, difficult to see because they remain in the tree-tops. They are fruit-eaters, mostly. This family includes the Three-wattled Bellbird, the Blue Cotinga, the Purple-throated Fruitcrow, and the Masked Tityra. The latter reminded me of a shrike, but with a larger head and stouter bill. Natives call it "little pig" because it grunts like one.

Manakins are related to cotingas but do not resemble them, being goldfinch size with short little bills. The males, bright-colored and noisy, make peculiar snapping sounds. We saw two species the Red-capped and the Lance-tailed Manakins.

As for the parrots, somehow I expected that we would see them perched in trees, fairly near at hand. Such was seldom the case. They feed in flocks, in early morning or about dusk, and were often seen flying overhead, against the sky, call-

ing our attention by their raucous voices. Such things as size, shape of tail, voice, and manner of flying were a help in identification. Parrots may be divided into three main groups: macaws, large with long tails; the medium-sized, short-tailed parrots, some of which can be trained to talk; and the small, sharp-tailed ones called parakeets. We saw seven species including the Sulphur-winged and Barred Parakeets, the Blue-headed Parrots. The latter is a very popular cage bird in Mexico as well as in Panama.

The honey-creepers are small, bright-colored birds resembling warblers somewhat, but with down-curved bills. Nectar feeders like the hummingbirds, but their manner of feeding is different. Instead of hovering they perch or cling to the blossom, puncturing it near the base, then sipping the nectar with their brush-tipped tongues. The predominant color of the males is blue. Because of their beauty, they are often seen as caged birds. The male Blue Honeycreeper excelled them all. It was sapphire blue with turquoise cap, black wings and tail, yellow wing linings, and red legs. Others seen were the Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, and the Slaty Flower-piercer. The females are a dull olive-green. Honeycreepers, besides being nectar-sippers, will also eat ripe bananas and small insects.

The flycatcher family in Panama is enormous in number, comprising 86 species. Needless to say, identification of many was difficult. Both the hummingbird and the tanager families have a bewildering array of beautiful birds. Of the 56 species of hummingbirds in Panama, we saw 25. Of the 51 species of tanagers, we saw 21. The tanagers vary considerably in size, from the tiny euphonias and slightly larger chlorophonias up to the tanagers of regulation size. Of these 51 species, only four visit the United States. Three of the most beautiful tanagers were the Bay-headed, Golden-masked, and Silver-throated. The only one seen that was not at all colorful was the Plain-colored Tanager, in shades of dull gray.



Although our attention was concentrated on the birds, we could not help noticing other interesting life of the rain forest. The Beefsteak Tree, a member of the pineapple family, had fruits that looked exactly like thick steaks, ready for the grill. Big blue Morpho butterflies occasionally floated by. In a tree, squeaking like birds, would be a family of Marmosets. One of the most memorable sights of all were the long sleeve-shaped pouch nests of the Oropendolas, largest members of the gaudy black and yellow Icterids. Being colonial nesters, sometimes there would be fifty or more nests in one

Continued on page 86

# Los Angeles Audubon Society



## CALENDAR

HEADQUARTERS, NATURE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE,  
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MRS. RUSSELL WILSON, Executive Secretary

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PO 1-7635--Tues., Fri.

May 1963

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# May

May 2 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.

May 4 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Brand Park Mission Trail. For information call Ed Anacker: HO 7-1661.

Note: The Junior Naturalists are sponsored by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Membership is open to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 12. Parents are welcome on all field trips. Annual dues only 50¢.

May 11 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 7:15 A.M. Tapia Park. Meet in parking lot left of entrance. Birds of oak and riparian woodland, with emphasis particularly on late migrants, warblers, vireos and finches, identification by song and call.  
Leader: Warren Blazer BR 2-8598

May 14 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Dr. Kenneth Stager will speak on the subject of "The Role of Olfaction in Food Finding in Vultures". Dr. Stager is senior Curator of Ornithology at the Los Angeles County Museum.  
Program Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

May 18 SATURDAY BOTANY FIELD TRIP Griffith Park 8:00 A.M. Meet at Fern Dell Nature Museum near the Western Avenue entrance. Group will study native plants in the park. For information call Audubon House.  
Leader: Bill Watson

May 23 THURSDAY - MORNING MEETING 10:00 A.M. Long Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. John V. Fredericks will show slides of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and the Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona and of Morro Bay. Mr. Fredericks is a long-time member of the Society and has a large collection of excellent nature slides.  
Program Chairman: Mrs. Catherine Freeman CL 7-7038

May 26 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Irvine Park, Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neill Park. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the entrance to Irvine Park. To reach Irvine Park take Santa Ana Freeway to Chapman Avenue, Santa Ana. Take east turnoff through Orange to Irvine Park. Black-chinned and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, hummingbirds and others.  
Leaders: Gene and Elizabeth Rose GL 4-0191

May 28 TUESDAY ANNUAL DINNER AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS - 6:30 P.M. The NIKABOB, 875 S. Western Avenue. Dinner will be roast prime ribs of choice eastern beef. Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Bakker will present their fine film "Sunroof Safari". Price \$4.00 per plate, including tax and tip. Send reservations to Mr. Hugh Weiser, 3749 Shannon Road, Los Angeles 27, California. Checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society, Inc.  
Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

# Calendar

CONTINUED

June 1 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neill Park. For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661.

June 6 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.

June 8 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Buckhorn Flats and Chilao. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the parking area at the entrance to Buckhorn Campground on the Angeles Crest Highway beyond Upper Chilao. Many birds should be nesting, including Purple Martins. Black-chinned Sparrows should be back. Those wishing to camp may do so at Buckhorn or Chilao.

Leaders: Russ and Marion Wilson PO 1-7635

June 11 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. Allen Ryan, Chairman of the Natural Science Section, Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, will present a slide and sound program on the Channel Islands National Monument.

Note: This is of especial interest in view of the recent introduction in Congress of bills to create a Channel Islands National Seashore, of which the present Monument would be a part. Mr. Ryan will no doubt discuss the implications of this.

Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

The following program is not an official Los Angeles Audubon Society activity, but it was felt that many members would be interested in attending it.

May 13 MONDAY 7:30 P.M. Palisades Playground, 851 Alma Real Drive. Laurel Reynolds of Piedmont, California will show her film "The New World Rediscovered" for the Palisades Garden Club. Donations will be taken at the door to defray the cost of the program.

## PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT TO HONOR JOHN MUIR

A Board of Directors representing the John Muir Association of California, and the Contra Costa Historical Society, holds options to purchase the Muir Acres for the above designated purpose. The Muir Manor is at 4440 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez, and is occupied by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sax, who are restoring and beautifying the place.

The Martinez Adobe is owned by Mr. Louis Stein of Berkeley, who has granted a similar option.

A bill, H.R. 439, was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman John F. Baldwin in January, 1963--"To provide for the establishment of the JOHN MUIR NATIONAL MONUMENT".

The Muir Manor...was the home of John Muir for twenty-four years. Here he wrote many of his famous books and magazine articles. And

here he entertained noted guests from various parts of America and the world.

Here Muir planted trees and shrubs gathered from distant parts of the earth. The house stands on a little knoll on the outskirts of the county seat town of Martinez in the San Francisco Bay area.

The house was built of redwood and stone and is in excellent condition. The builder was Dr. John Strentzel, Muir's father-in-law, a notable physician and horticulturist. It stands on Alhambra Avenue at the junction with State Route 4.

On the Muir ten acres stands the historic adobe built by Vincente Martinez, member of a pioneer Spanish family. This is a sample of early California architecture. The Strentzels and Muires lived in it at times. This adds much interest to the Muir property as a National Monument.

For favorable action on H.R. 439 write your congressman and also the following:

Hon. Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D.C.

Hon. Wayne N. Aspinall, Ch., Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; and Hon. Thomas G. Morris, Ch. Subcommittee on Nat. Parks House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C.

The John Muir Association

# SPECIAL REPORT ASILOMAR CONFERENCE

BY ELIZABETH ROSE

Registration, Saturday, April 6. Upon entering the Administration Building, we immediately saw the Wilsons, Russ and Marion, and Carolyn and Don Adams with son, Kit, then the Venattas and the Daywalts. Started to keep a list of Los Angeles Audubon Society members we met: Betty and Laura Jenner, Gudrun Pepke, the Mahaffies, Mae Wilson, Margaret Spalty and Bill Watson. Everyone setting up in different housing, with Olive Alvey, Bess Hoffman and others in Surf and Sand. Los Angeles also had representatives in Toryhouse, Guest Inn, Scripps and Hilltop. More members appeared: Eleanor Fevog, Madeline Glidden, Esther Johnson, and Virginia Lee. The total was somewhere near thirty.

From the first moment on it was busy time. Rush for meals, remember your green meal ticket! Meals were excellent, especially the breads. Everyone played hide-and-seek with the rain. William N. Goodall, Bill Goodall, president in charge of all the affairs, handled all the business beautifully, and his humorous remarks lightened every occasion. The program was varied so that there was something for everyone. One of our members was heard to remark that the talk by Dr. Cadet Hand on "Our Seashores' Silent Struggles", was worth the entire trip. The International Nature Slide Exhibition included everything from Hepaticas to Sea Anemones. A Snowy Owl with a Mona Lisa "smile" won the audience's applause. Carl Buchheister, president of the National Audubon Society, shocked with accounts of bird slaughter in "Birth of a Heritage". A new film by Eben McMillan graphically portrayed the rape of the land. We served hot cider and cookies, wonderful on a rainy night, when the Los Angeles Audubon Society played the host for refreshments at an "informal Social Mixer".

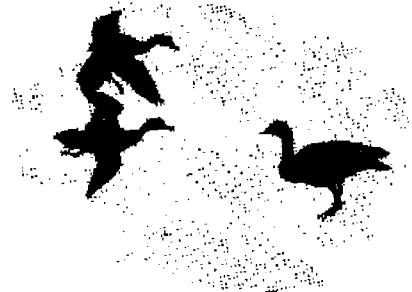
After the first day it was impossible to keep track of everyone. You would see friends on a road at Moss Landing or looking off the rock-bound coast anywhere near Monterey. Everyone was excited about sea otters. Most of the Los Angeles group boarded the Grey Ghost for the pelagic trip and were rewarded with the albatross. Farther and wider the birders spread, from Point Lobos where they saw a Bush-Tit's nest, to Big Sur where the Dippers had a nest by the stream. A back yard near Lover's Point yielded an Orchard Oriole. Daily bird lists reached one hundred and many added several to their life lists. One enthusiastic birder said, "I've had fifteen new birds since lunch".

Looking at birds, then dashing to meetings, looking at birds, then dashing to meals became the order of the days. The strong conservation theme of all the meetings was reinforced by the beauty of the surroundings. The program may have "bogged" in places, but the contacts with other birders, old and young, reaffirmed one's faith in the Audubon Society as an outstanding organization.

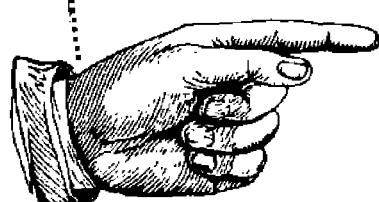
## CONSERVATION NEWS from FRANK LITTLE

We are pleased to be able to report the opening of a new bird sanctuary in Los Angeles County. Fittingly enough, the County dedicated its first and only "Bird Conservation Area" on the first day of spring. It is located in the northeast corner of the new Marina Del Rey between Washington Blvd. and Admiralty Way. A number of our members were present at the dedication ceremonies, among whom were Carolyn Adams, Liz and Gene Rose, Bill Watson, and Marion Wilson.

The area is small (only 10 acres), but it is well fenced off to exclude dogs, cats, vermin and small boys with sling-shots. Moreover, the planting has been designed solely for the birds: the plants will provide the final screen for the area as well as food and cover for passersines who will, presumably, by their very presence attract shorebirds, terns, ducks, etc. The army engineers erected 16-ft. high moles around the pond as a buffer from the more urban sights and sounds.



While we, as naturalists, would have preferred that the Marina area remain in its primitive state, we are pleased that the County did at least provide this small pond as a sanctuary. This is not the first sanctuary that Los Angeles County has established: five other wildlife sanctuaries are already in existence in Antelope Valley. These county sanctuaries, which are rare in this country, have been created partly as a result of efforts of the Nature Conservancy; this Marina sanctuary came largely as the result of one particular member, Roland Case Ross, past chairman of the Conservancy. Roland Ross, professor of nature study at Los Angeles State College, worked for six years with the county, the U. S. Engineers, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, conservation groups and others in creating the bird resting place. We owe him our hearty congratulations!



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# HIKING AND RIDING TRAILS New Legislation

Bills of vital interest to all organizations interested in outdoor recreation were introduced recently in the State Legislature.

They are Assembly Bill No. 1877 and Senate Bill No. 1004 which spell out changes urgently needed to speed development of the lagging State-wide riding and hiking trails program.

The identical bills would accomplish two things:

- (a) Make the riding and hiking trails a part of the State Park system.
- (b) Give the State Department of Parks and Recreation the right of eminent domain, permitting condemnation proceedings on land needed to complete the trail system.

The Assembly bill was authored by Carl A. Britschgi of Redwood City, and the Senate bill by Senator John F. McCarthy of San Rafael. Sixteen Assemblymen and eight Senators joined Mr. Britschgi and Senator McCarthy in sponsoring the bill.

The bills were referred to the Assembly and Senate Natural Resources Committees which will soon be holding hearings on the proposed changes.

The bills were introduced at the request of the San Mateo County Hiking and Riding Trails Committee, representing eight hiking and riding and youth organizations. Commenting on chances for the bills' passage, George M. Dean, Trails Committee chairman, said:

"We appreciate the support we've already received, but we'll need a lot more if we hope to get the bills passed and put new life in the State's trails program. The best way to get that support in the legislature is for every individual to make known their views to their representatives in Sacramento."

Dean suggested that members of interested organizations write letters as soon as possible to these members of the legislature:

- (1) Each person's own Senator and Assemblyman, and
- (2) To the members of the Assembly and Senate Committees on Natural Resources.

These letters would demonstrate to the legislators the widespread interest in the State Trails Program. He offered the following background on the Program as evidence that new Legislation is needed:

"Inability to exercise the right of eminent domain has cost the State Trails System and the taxpayers a lot of time and money. In the 18 years we've had the program, nearly \$800,000 has been spent and we have only about 1,000 miles of trails in the entire State.

"This is a far cry from the original conception of a 3,000-mile trail network proposed at the time the California Riding and Hiking Trails Law was passed in 1945. Many public-minded citizens, including city and county officers, have supported the trails program from the start and have granted easements and permits. In some cases, however, the State has been unable to secure rights of way through private properties, thereby largely nullifying the effectiveness of the trails system.

## THE WESTERN TANAGER OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY



7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA  
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Editor.....	Robert E. Blackstone
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Art Editor.....	Bob Sandmeyer
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	Bill Watson

"Repeal of Section 5077 of the State Resources Code which prohibits the use of eminent domain in the trails program will remove this bottleneck and we will be on our way to completing the trails system."

Dean added three reasons that could be used to urge legislators to actively support the legislative changes this year:

(1) Present outdoor recreational facilities for our young people are inadequate. A complete hiking and riding trails system would be an important addition to available facilities for our fast-growing population.

(2) This rapid population growth also means that needed trail and camp rights of way will be harder to get and more expensive if further delays are encountered.

(3) Now is the time to move ahead on this Program while there is widespread interest in the physical fitness program all over the country.

"I hope the leaders of each organization will join in urging their members to write Senators and Assemblymen and ask them to support this bill," Dean said. "When the bill becomes law, the Park Department will be able to develop a trails network worthy of the number one state in the Nation."

All letters, including those written to committee members and to individual legislators, should include the bills' numbers, AB 1877 for the Assembly and SB 1004 for the Senate, for proper identification.

Fred S. Farr, Ch. Senate Natural Resources Committee, Rm. 2048 State Capitol, Sacramento

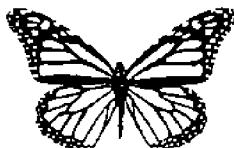
Frank S. Petersen, Member Senate Natural Resources Committee, Rm. 2074 State Capitol, Sacramento

Aaron W. Quick, Member Senate Natural Resources Committee, Rm. 4057 State Capitol, Sacramento

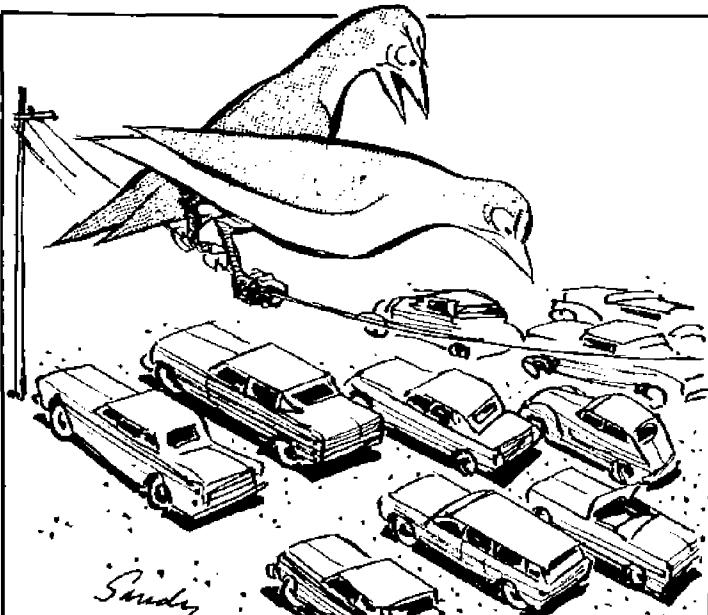
Edwin L. Z'berg, Ch. Assembly Natural Resources, Planning and Public Works Committee, Rm. 4144, State Capitol, Sacramento

## Audubon Activities

Real excitement on the Sunday, March 24, field trip to the Los Angeles Arboretum was caused by ducklings, signets, and the unbelievable baby Coots. As one writer on birds suggests, there must be something bright and beautiful in the somber Coot's past as the little creatures' heads are surrounded by fluffs of red and orange feathers and are altogether gay looking. Much time was spent by the group, lead by Hannah Walker and Irving Goldhaber, watching the young of these various species being fed and feeding. Several warblers were spotted in the course of the morning but did not cooperate as well as one particularly beautiful Purple Finch. The Purple Finch sang lustily while being viewed. Approximately 58 species including a Chipping Sparrow were listed. In order to have lunch together, the crowd of almost fifty people drove over to picnic tables at Legg Lake where additional birding was done in the afternoon. This lake is becoming a fine place to view ducks and other water birds.

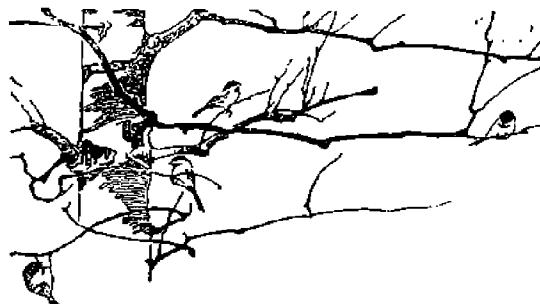


Seeing the wild flowers of southern California, in all their beauty, was the happy experience of those attending the Morning Meeting, March 28. Katherine Freeman showed some of the very fine pictures she had taken, in the high Sierras, the chaparral, desert and coastal areas. Pictures of vast fields of golden Poppies, and fields of purple Lupine, were breath-taking in



"Which car is Hitchcock's?"

their beauty. Sand Verbenas mingled with Evening Primroses. Others shown were: Indian Paint Brush, Scarlet Bugler, Monkey Flower, Sunflower, Thistle Sage, Coreopsis, Daisies, Asters, Brodiaea, Buttercups, and many, many others, including the rare and beautiful Snow Flower of the pine areas. Some of the heavier growths shown were the Yuccas, the desert Joshuas, Fremontias, Lilacs, and many species of cactus.



In spite of the absence of many of our active members due to Spring Vacation, there were some seventy members and guests who turned out for the Evening Meeting on April 9 to see Walt Disney's "White Wilderness" presented by fellow member Norman McGary. Among the guests present were Mr. and Mrs. A. Mel Crawford and Mary Crawford, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, parents and sister of Mrs. Robert Blackstone. Many of us were seeing this film for the first time, though it was produced several years ago. It was one of the first and the best of the Disney nature films, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. An added treat was provided by artists Norman McGary and his friend, Bill Lorenz, with a portfolio of their work which they had brought along, and which members were privileged to view after the film. The portfolio included illustrations for books and magazines, cartoons and designs for greeting cards.

### Welcome to NEW MEMBERS --

- Mr. James L. Bussey  
3507 Hollydale Dr., L. A. 39
- Mr. Ernest C. Hoyer  
2030 N. Hoover, L. A. 27
- Mr. Alan B. Meyerfeld  
9309 Denker Ave., L. A. 47
- Mrs. Betty Bee Meyerfeld  
9309 Denker Ave., L. A. 47
- Miss Lillian M. Oehrli  
251 Tranquillo Rd., Pacific Palisades
- Mr. Ronald E. Somerby  
5561 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach 5
- Mr. Terry Winnick  
333 N. Formosa, L. A. 36

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



BY ARNOLD SMALL

## Birds

Happily, the long-needed rains arrived in southern California in time to stimulate the spring growing and greening season. Although total rainfall figures since July 1, 1962 are still less than 50% of normal, rainfall in March was well above normal for that month, and light rains in early April added further to the beneficial effects. And although the winter season was essentially very dry, the rains were well enough spaced and of sustained nature to stimulate growth and flowering.

The spring migration was somewhat slow during late March and early April, but the coastal flight of loons and shorebirds appeared to be very good. Swallows had arrived in very good numbers by the third week in March and several large flocks of White-throated Swifts were reported from along the coast. No reports of substantial flocks of Cedar Waxwings were reported at all, either during the winter or the spring, and the flight of Robins, similarly, was very poor.

A Winter Wren was found by Woldman and Pearson in the Morongo Valley in mid-April. Mrs. Alice Lewis found a very rare Harris' Sparrow among the White-crowns at her feeders on March 20. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen by numerous observers at Pilgrim Place in Claremont on March 27. This appears to be the third sight record of this species for California.

From Guy McCaskie (whose personal tragedy grieved us all) in San Diego came the following reports: 2 male Summer Tanagers came to a feeder at Point Loma from late February to at least mid-March; a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak also came to a feeder at Point Loma during the same period; in addition, a Black-headed Grosbeak was also reported there--and this is especially rare during the winter months in southern California. Other reports from McCaskie at San Diego included a Louisiana Heron which remained at Imperial Beach from Dec. 9 to at least Feb. 9; a single American Brant on South San Diego Bay March 16-18; a European Widgeon near San Diego, Dec. 7-Feb. 17; the Harlequin Duck was last reported from there March 18; a Glaucous Gull at Sweetwater Reservoir March 10; and 1 Lapland Longspur on Point Loma, Dec. 13. Russ and Marion Wilson found a European Widgeon at Ramer Lake Feb. 23, and Russ is convinced he flushed the ultra-rare Black Rail from the shores of that same lake.

Orioles were beginning to arrive in fair numbers by the second week in April, but no Western Tanagers were reported by April 14. By the first week in May the spring migration should be in full swing, and again I reiterate

the necessity for close examination of all warbler flocks. It would be wise to acquaint yourselves with the plumages of some of the eastern species before going into the field.

Among the large flocks of shorebirds in May, look for the uncommon Baird's Sandpiper and the Pectoral Sandpiper as well as things like Ruffs and Bristle-thighed Curlews. Offshore, the spring flight of shearwaters should reach a peak during early May.

## BIRDWATCHING IN PANAMA

(CONTINUED)

tree. They selected, always, a tall, isolated tree with a clean trunk which the monkeys or other enemies could not climb.

On your next big birding trip, why not try Panama? It seems to me that there is no other place, within a reasonable distance, where you can see so many tropical American birds in a small area. Not only that, but while seeing them you can enjoy good roads and good hotels. At present, to reach Panama you'd have to take a plane or ship. However, if that stretch of Pan-American Highway in southern Costa Rica ever is finished, we can all drive there!



### About the AUTHOR

Miss Wilson sent a little note along with her article in which she said, "If it is 'illegal' to publish an article without a little squib about the author, you could say something like this about me:

"The author, a former high school biology teacher in the Los Angeles City system, has delved into the study of many phases of natural science, including marine life, insects, minerals, botany and birds. Of them all, though, she likes birds the best. Now that so many members of the Society are travelling far and wide, she is becoming increasingly interested in birds of the world."

In deference to her wishes, we shall only add to this to remind you that Miss Wilson is active as our Youth Instruction Chairman, speaking to groups visiting Audubon House and doing counseling. She is a member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and a local member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.



### Binoculars ?

anyone

As a service to his fellow members, Mr. Larry Sansone, Jr. has offered to obtain binoculars, scopes and other Bushnell products for members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society at a 20% discount. Interested members may contact Mr. Sansone by calling UP 0-6400.

YOU ARE INVITED

Los Angeles  
**AUDUBON**  
Society

7<sup>th</sup>

ANNUAL  
DINNER

## AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1963

6:30 P.M.

NIKABOB RESTAURANT

875 So. Western Ave. (9th and Western)

Roast Prime Ribs of Choice Eastern Beef

\$4.00 including tax and tip.

Free parking at the Nikabob

## PROGRAM

Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Bakker will present their color film "Sunroof Safari" which they made in Africa last year. Close-ups of over 65 African birds will be shown, including the weaver birds weaving their nest, Africa's only penguin, storks, flamingos and many others. Mr. Bakker is a Professor of Biology at Los Angeles City College and Mrs. Bakker teaches in the Los Angeles City School System. They have travelled widely in Europe, Alaska, Central America, the Far East, Australia and Africa.



CUT ON DOTTED LINE

Important

Mr. Hugh Weiser  
3749 Shannon Road  
Los Angeles 27, California

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me  
at the Annual Dinner, May 28, 1963.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

servations must be  
by Wednesday,  
May 22nd.

I enclose my check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_

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