

The Western Tanager

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NOVEMBER 1963

NUMBER 3



Everybody Counts

By
BILL
WATSON

The Annual Christmas Bird Count has proved

to be an enduring activity for bird-watchers on this continent. When Frank M. Chapman proposed the first Christmas Bird Census in 1900, I wonder if he dreamed that this activity would prove to be as impressive a phenomenon as it has become?

In the 63rd Christmas Bird Count, reports were received from all fifty of the United States and all the provinces of Canada. The Christmas Bird Count editor, Allan D. Cruickshank, estimated that "If one included all who participated in the count this year: official observers, plus their children, friends, neophytes, and window-feeder watchers, it is safe to say that over 15,000 people took part in the Sixty-third Christmas Bird Count." There were 672 reports received for that count, each being a compilation of the birds counted in as many fifteen-mile-diameter circles.

When we contrast this achievement with the first Christmas Bird Census held on Christmas Day, 1900, when only 27 observers sent in 25 reports, we can see that this is an activity that is a firmly established annual event.

There must be something in this somewhat strange activity that can cause so many people to devote one entire day in the dead of winter to counting every bird they can see or hear. These people are not all scientists or ornithologists. Most of them are amateur bird-watchers. This is one activity that you can participate in as a hobbyist and still have your findings accepted as of scientific value. I find it difficult to think of any other scientific endeavor that can make so much use of the amateur's observations. Perhaps in the field of astronomy there is still room for the amateur, too.

But I wonder how many of us who have counted birds in past Christmas Bird Counts think of this at the time we are counting birds? I never do. I go out and seek for every bird I can find just as wide-eyed as can be, enjoying myself fully. I cannot be alone in this either. Every other bird-counter must simply enjoy bird-counting on that important day; and isn't it great that there is a use for our work?

(Continued on page 21)



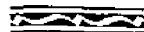
conservation

NEWS

By NORMAN McGARY

The opposition of the National Audubon Society and other conservation minded organizations has once more proven to be a valuable force in controlling careless proposals, such as the transferal of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, from Federal government jurisdiction to that of the State, and bringing them under closer scrutiny. In a letter of September 21, to President Carl W. Buchheister, Director Kermit Gordon of the Bureau of the Budget, acknowledged the protests of the Society. Prompt action by the Society and its member organizations has insured a reconsideration of the proposal. Secretary Stewart Udall has also recommended a further study of the situation and plans to meet with Director Gordon personally in the near future.

Conservationists across the nation have been faced in recent years with the continual and almost unchecked increase in pollution of our national water resources. Recently there has been submitted to the Senate an amended version of the Musky Bill, S. 649. This bill was approved in its original state by the Senate Public Works Committee on October 1, by a vote of 16 to 1. We are hopeful that the full Senate will also see the value of such a bill and vote for its ratification. If this bill is passed it would establish a separate office or "administration", within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The responsibility of this office would encompass the enforcement, comprehensive planning and a host of other key development areas in the water pollution control program. The institution of such an office will surely effectuate the proposal of new and more restrictive laws than are presently in existence and consequently be of benefit to both man and nature, in this and future generations.



The United States Senate has passed a six billion dollar agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1964. Of this six billion dollars the Department of Agriculture's pest control program was allotted a total of \$66,821,500 for the control and eradication of the gypsy moth, white-fringed beetle, grasshoppers, fire ant, and other species of insects considered pests by its authorities. The U.S.D.A. will institute similar programs through the various state agricultural agencies as provided in the appropriation.

DUE DATE SET FOR ARTICLES MADE FOR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Wednesday, December 4th.

Members and friends contributing handmade items to be sold at the Audubon Bazaar, Saturday December 7 are requested to bring them to Audubon House no later than Wednesday, December 4. If this is not possible please call one of the numbers listed below so that suitable arrangements can be made:

Helen Sandmeyer	842-9328
Olive Alvey	661-8036
Audubon House	876-0202



**Saturday,
December 7th.**



LOS ANGELES
AUDUBON
SOCIETY
**Christmas
BAZAAR**
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK

Everybody Counts

CONTINUED

Even war does not quench the bird-watcher's desire to get out there in any weather at Christmas-time and count the birds for National and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Christmas Bird Counting has easily survived two World Wars. World War I saw Major Allan Brooks sending in a report from Jauche, Belgium. Americans in France sent in reports, too. Francis Harper and Remington Kellogg sent a report from Is-sur-Tille, Dept. of Cote d'Or; Thomas D. Burleigh, A.E.F., counted the birds in Sore, Dept. of Landes; even Ludlow Griscom, 2nd Lieut. Inf., U.S.A., reported from Chaumont, Dept. of Haute Marne (the valley of the Marne River), doing his counting in overcast weather with frequent showers.



World War II produced a number of interesting reports on its own. Christmas Bird Counting in 1941 was reminiscent of the War of 1812 when Alexander Wilson, for whom the Wilson Ornithological Society is named, was apprehended as a spy by some soldiers near Haverhill, New Hampshire. He was only doing a little innocent bird-watching and field work.

Two bird-counters in December, 1941, wandering along the Potomac River on the Naval Torpedo Range near Washington, D.C., were just on the point of identifying a Brown-headed Nuthatch when they were picked up by Coast Guardsmen. Identification proving that they were actually government employees with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Biological Survey, etc., did them no good. The Coast Guardsmen had even less sympathy for their chagrin over losing their Nuthatch. One said, "Oh yeah? Well, it's the 'booby hatch' for you guys!"

Clinton G. Abbott, Director of the Natural History Museum in San Diego, wrote:

The annual bird count was this year affected in more ways than one by the war clouds that hang over the San Diego region. Not only were large areas along the coast closed to the census takers, but the observers themselves were halted no less than five times on suspicion of being saboteurs or spies! Nine persons traveling in three cars, were questioned either once or twice by soldiers who acted on reports turned in to them.

Frustrating as all this must have been to the participants, it can still bring a smile to us today. But another letter received in New York for that same count was less amusing. It brought the war home to Audubon Field Notes. From Honolulu came:

There will be no Christmas Bird Count from the Honolulu Audubon Society this year. Owing to traveling restrictions, we are unable to carry out our plans for today.

So we were at war again, and bird-watchers went into the services, too. Reports began to come from other parts of the world. Robert Arbib, Jr., reported from East Anglia, England, in 1942.



In 1943, unable to give their exact whereabouts, soldiers sent in reports anyway. Pvt. Milton L. Siebert (Oakland, California) sent in a

(Continued on page 22)

Everybody Counts

CONTINUED

report from "Italy. He must have been counting under a great deal of difficulty. Here is his list, compiled on only one acre on December 19:

Kestrel, 2; skylark (sp.?), 30; magpie (sp.?), 1; chickadee (sp.?), 4; winter (?) wren, 1; European robin, 8; English sparrow, 15; finch (sp.?), 20; goldfinch (sp.?), 50.

Sgt. Edward J. Reiman (Philadelphia, Pa.) reported from "Somewhere in Northern Ireland." Even his weather statement was censored!

In 1944, Lt. (j.g.) James O. Stevenson, USNR, managed to get ashore on January 4 and count the birds "offshore, gardens, and hedgerows of town" at Tinian, Marianas Islands. He commented, "Observations made under adverse conditions."

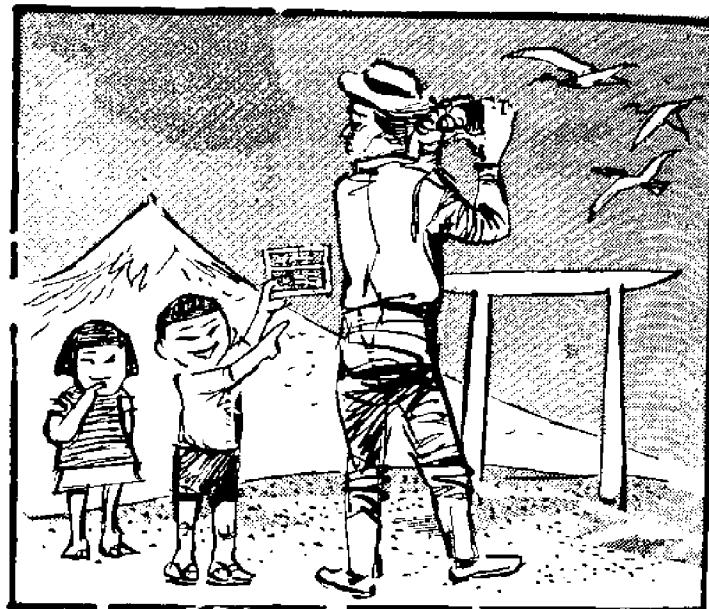
Christmas Day, 1944, found Pfc. Milton L. Siebert counting birds again. His report was from "Eastern France." Nineteen forty-four was also the year that saw the first transcontinental, "ocean to ocean," bird count accomplished by Arthur A. Allen and party. They counted the birds all the way across the Isthmus of Panama!

But even this was outdone in that same year by the indefatigable and apparently ubiquitous Lt. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., United States Army Air Corps. On December 17, he helped count in San Francisco; On December 23, he counted birds in Palo Alto; December 25 found him counting birds in Mill Neck, Long Island, New York; finally, on New Year's Eve, he helped with the Bronx-Westchester Region, New York, Count.

Then in 1945, Ben Coffey, now a Captain, sent in two reports from India. One was from Calcutta; the other was from Karachi.

Sgt. Edward J. Reiman showed up again in 1945. Last heard from "Somewhere in Northern Ireland," he sent in two reports this time. One was of a count he made on December 1 in the Camp Philadelphia Region, Mourmelon, France. With this he included another report on the birds he counted on December 8 at Camp Twenty Grand near Rouen, France. Other reports received in 1945 were from Salzburg, Austria, made by Lt. Alfred E. Eynon; and from Myitkyina, Burma, made by Sgt. Charles L. Gardner, Jr.

Somehow, it seems fitting to end this little record of wartime bird-counting by mentioning that our own Robert L. Pyle (First Edition "Annotated Field List of Birds of Southern California;" "Birds of Hawaii," June '62 Western Tanager), along with Nobusuke Taka-Tsukasa and Tatsujiro Owikawa as fellow observers, sent in a report from Tokyo, Japan, that was of a count they made on December 22, 1946.



But wars have their aftermaths, and World War II was no exception. Pfc. Jerome J. Carroll counted the birds of Frankfurt, Germany, on December 21, 1947. His closing comment speaks for itself:

The Germans have no doubt killed a great many rock doves for food. The decrease in the number of doves is very noticeable in large cities such as Frankfurt.

All of this indicates the hold that Chapman's great innovation has on bird-watchers. But what is of scientific value in the Christmas Bird Count is the year-after-year counting done on the continent of North America. This is where the real service is rendered by amateur bird-watchers. There have been many dedicated persons who have contributed their abilities and time to the Annual Christmas Bird Count.

There were those lone individuals in 1941 in Anchorage and Mountain Home, Alaska, each of whom counted 6 and 5 species, respectively. Later there was a group in College, Alaska, which even counted 10 species of birds in temperatures ranging from 5 to 15 degrees below zero!

(Continued on page 25)



HEADQUARTERS, NATURE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE,
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, 876-0202

ARNOLD SMALL, *President*
MRS. RUSSELL WILSON, *Executive Secretary*

Open Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat. 2-4 P.M.
Youth groups by appointment 3-5 P.M.
Open before and after each meeting

November

november 1963

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3	4	5	6
10	11	12	13
17	18	19	20
24	25	26	27
	28	29	30

Nov. 2 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Audubon Center of southern California. Meet at Headquarters Building 8:30 A.M., conclude about noon. The Center will provide tomato soup. Each person bring own lunch. Other branch societies are being invited to share the same day. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., left on San Gabriel Blvd. to Durfee--1000 N. Durfee Avenue.

Nov. 2 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Los Angeles County Arboretum.
For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661.

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

Nov. 9 SATURDAY - SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - 8:30 A.M. Santa Barbara, Goleta Slough, University of California at Santa Barbara, Nojoqui Falls County Park and Lake Cachuma. As you enter Santa Barbara, turn left off Highway 101 at Cabrillo Blvd. and meet at the Bird Refuge. Camping Saturday night at Fremont Campground near Lake Cachuma.
Leader: Dave Robison PO 1-0217.

Nov. 11 MONDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., between Santa Monica Blvd. and Melrose Ave. (See map page 26). Dr. John W. Hardy will give an illustrated talk on "The New World Jays" Dr. Hardy's previous program on "The Orange-fronted Parakeet" was outstanding.
Program Chairman: Don Adams FR 2-5536.

Nov. 24 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Lake Norconian. Meet at 6th and Milliken Ave. in Norco at 8:00 A.M. Take San Bernardino Freeway to a point about fifteen miles east of Ontario. Take Milliken Ave. south to Norco. An alternate route would be the Santa Ana Freeway and Riverside Freeway (91) to Corona, then north to Norco. We expect a good display of wintering ducks and water birds.
Leader: Jim Huffman FR 2-7124.

Nov. 25 WILDLIFE FILM "The Living Wilderness" by Walter Berlet of Casper, Wyoming. 7:45 P.M., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Place.

Dec. 5 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.

Dec. 7 SATURDAY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 1:00-4:00 P.M., WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., between Santa Monica Blvd. and Melrose Ave. See announcement on page 20.

Dec. 7 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS.
For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661.

Dec. 9 MONDAY - EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M., WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK. President Arnold Small will give a program on "Africa", illustrated with color slides taken while on a camera safari there this past summer.
Program Chairman: Don Adams FR 2-5536.

AUDUBON

WILDLIFE FILMS

THE LIVING WILDERNESS

In display of some of the most extraordinary close-up photography of wild mammals ever taken. Walter Berlet of Casper, Wyoming, brings to Audubon audiences spellbinding story of life in the heart of the Rockies. More than eight years in production. *The Living Wilderness* covers the three states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Viewers are given new vision into the life histories of many different mammals—all of which are threatened with extinction, for various ecological causes. In scenes of drama and action, we watch buck pronghorn forming and driving his harem, and defending them ferociously against intruders in the high plain country. We visit the original home of huge bison, and learn how they must continue to struggle for survival in large, ranging herds. Bull elks, belligerent in their breeding season, fill the screen in startling close-up shots, and spines will freeze as a giant bull charges straight into the Berlet camera. Exposure to real wilderness is dramatized by trips afield with Olaus Murie, one of the country's greatest naturalists and conservationists.

A highlight of *The Living Wilderness* is the stalking of a cougar. The camera follows this majestic feline as Walter Berlet explains its important role in wildlife management, and how it actually strengthens the species of animals on which it preys.

In beautiful time-lapse photography, we watch the Chinook wind, blowing down from the mountain peaks into the valleys, raising the temperature by

30 to 40 degrees in a matter of hours, and see its life-saving effect on the near-frozen wild creatures.

The Living Wilderness is one of the only films of its kind that shows in compelling clarity the vital need for conservation of wild animals and their habitat areas. Mr. Berlet's narration is inspired by his conviction that we must be ever watchful and act positively to guard our great wild American heritage. This presentation will be long remembered for its beauty and convincing message.

Walter H.

Berlet

The great out-of-doors and all the living, growing things which are part of the natural world have always been an inspiration to Walter Berlet of Casper, Wyoming. He was born in western Ohio, where he spent many of his boyhood years, and later graduated from Ohio State University.

Walt Berlet served for four and half years as a Tank Officer with the 1st and 2nd Armored Division, U. S. Army, in Europe and Africa. Upon completing his tour of duty, he became established in retail business in Casper, and owned and operated three prosperous retail stores in the Rocky Mountain area. In time he felt the need for a greater challenge, and began to devote more and more time to conservation education. Convinced that motion pictures and television offer one



Monday,

November 25th.

of the best means for teaching, he has recently abandoned his retail operations to spend his full time producing films for television and lectures.

Walter Berlet's work with the Boy Scouts and many conservation organizations has given him a good knowledge of the problems facing our wild heritage. His writings and zealous efforts supporting our wilderness areas have received national support. For the last three years he has narrated and produced a weekly television show, and has recently completed a wildlife film for the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Co. entitled "Wildlife of the 49th State."

Besides his extensive photographic treks in the United States, Walter Berlet has photographed in Mexico, Canada, Africa and Europe. As an Audubon speaker, he is a member of the National Audubon Society and the Canadian Audubon Society. He also holds membership in the Photographic Society of America, the Wyoming Audubon Club, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society. He has developed and invented the Berco Lens Attachment, and has worked with different manufacturers on special telephoto lenses.

Walter Berlet's dedication to the conservation and preservation of all living things is a powerful force in his life. Audiences who see his pictures and hear his lecture will know that he is expressing not only the knowledge in his mind, but the love in his heart as well.

Tickets are obtainable from:

Miss Laura Lou Jenner
639 W. 32nd Street
Los Angeles 7, California
RI 8-7510

SEASON TICKET

(5 Audubon Wildlife Films)

\$4.00

Single Admission

\$1.00

John Burroughs Junior High School

600 S. McCadden Place

7:45 P.M.

Everybody Counts

CONTINUED

Apparently, bird-counters will go to any lengths to find a rare species on their count day. In 1955, the group that counted the birds at Cape May, N.J., resorted to the use of a setter named Huckleberry Coman in order to locate and identify a European Woodcock.

Christmas Bird Counting has its extremeists, too. In 1956, Audubon Field Notes says:

Joseph Beatty and Roger Troutman probably set a record for enthusiasm and endurance by participating in 12 counts: 4 in Ohio, 2 in Pennsylvania and 6 in Maryland. During count period they traveled over 2000 miles by car, walked more than 50 miles, and got by with a minimum of sleep. They feel it was an exciting and memorable experience, but admit the end of the period found them exhausted, and declared they will never try it again.

Most recently, from Cohoe, Alaska, Eugene and Mary Smith have been going out to count the birds. They even manage to count the birds of Homer, Alaska, each year, too. Alan and Jean Craig have been reporting from Kodiak, Alaska. Imagine, all this in that north country and in the depths of winter!

Then imagine yourself getting out of a warm bed early in the morning in freezing weather to count only six or so species of birds in an entire day.

Compared to that how enjoyable it has been in our own Los Angeles to get up on a (usually) bright, sunny morning, with temperatures in the sixties and seventies, and help in counting well over a hundred species of birds. If you are a veteran bird-watcher, you can spot the rare species, or identify your birds by voice alone. Even for neophytes, rank beginners, such as I was on my first Christmas Bird Count four years ago, this is a great activity. You do not even have to be a bird-watcher. Who, in Los Angeles, is unable to count "blue jays?"

By this time, I hope to have assigned all my group leaders to their areas in our fifteen-mile-diameter circle in Los Angeles. If they are doing their parts well, they will even now be scouting out their areas, keeping themselves alert to every bird that is available in their areas. There are

some twenty-five of these leaders. They will want and need all the assistance they can get on the official count day. Anyone and everyone can help them.

You remember the great job Hugh Kingery did for us last year as Christmas Bird Count compiler. Here is what Allan Cruickshank had to say about him and us in the April '63 issue of Audubon Field Notes:

Los Angeles led the state with manpower, putting 80 observers in the field while 20 more watched home feeding stations. To organize and direct such a large group, as well as collect and analyze reports, is a monumental task and Hugh Kingery, compiler for this count, deserves great credit. It is remarkable indeed that 135 species can be found in a day in such a highly urbanized area.

Hugh deserves every word said here. He was a very able compiler and organizer. The 99 others, however, did the work spotting and tallying the birds without which there would be no count to compile.

In 1961 Los Angeles only had 45 observers in the field. Last year we had 80 observers in the field. We ought to be able to put even more observers into the field this year. Perhaps we can never again lead the nation in number of species observed. But last year, only Washington, D.C., outdid us in manpower. This year, if you all join

(Continued on page 26)



Everybody Counts

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up to make this next count the success it should rightfully be, no other group will be able to touch us in manpower in the field.

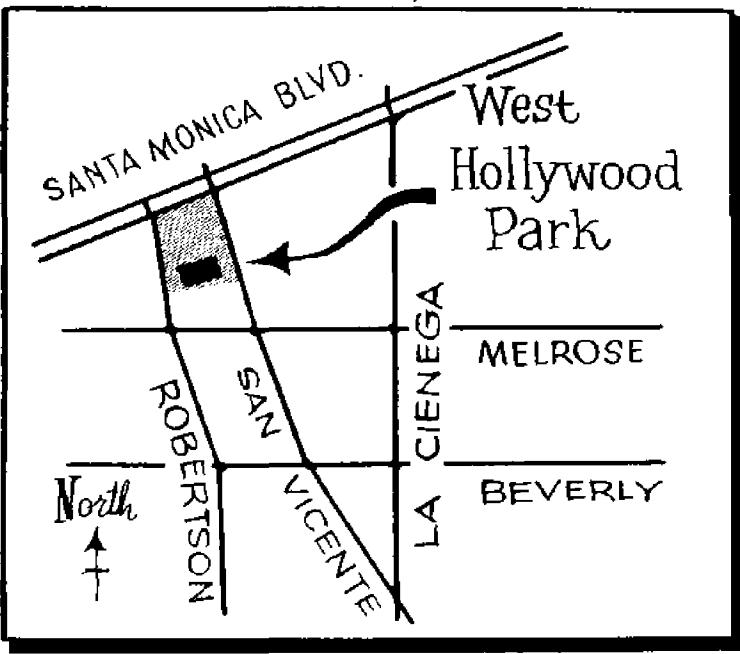
We may be only the third largest city in the country. I am convinced that there are some worthwhile ways in which we can lead the country. One of them is in doing our utmost to get out and help make the Los Angeles Audubon Society's next Christmas Bird Count the success that I, for one, am determined it shall be.

(All quotations taken from Audubon Field Notes.)

About the Author.

Bill Watson was born and brought up in New York City, coming out to live in southern California in 1955. His interest in birds goes back only some four years, or to about the time he joined the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Bill was living close to Griffith Park and this, he says, aroused his interest in nature and made him want to know more about wildlife and plants. When the Society needed a librarian, he stepped into the position, where he has done, and continues to do, an outstanding job. He has also served in many other ways, helping organize the TANAGER mailing parties, for instance. Bill says he has always had a passion for historical research, and this talent he is now turning to good use in work such as this article. He has now taken on the job of Christmas Count Chairman, in addition to his other activities, and is determined to make the 1963 Count the greatest ever for Los Angeles.

Where is West Hollywood Park?



GEORGE T. HASTINGS

HONORED BY PLAQUE IN SANTA MONICA PARK

George T. Hastings, Editor Emeritus of the Western Tanager and long time Audubon member has been honored by the placement of a bronze plaque in Santa Monica's Palisades Park. The plaque, unveiled on October 10, 1963, Mr. Hastings' 88th birthday, was contributed by some of his friends in the bay area including the Santa Monica Park Department, Chamber of Commerce, the Santa Monica Nature Club and many individuals. Matilda Rogers was originator of the plan to honor Mr. Hastings for his many years of service in the field of nature study.

Mr. Hastings came to Santa Monica more than twenty years ago as a retired school teacher, published an authoritative book on local trees, and has made an immeasurable contribution to the Santa Monica Nature Club and the Los Angeles Audubon Society. For many years he was editor of the Western Tanager and is still a contributor. The plaque is a further testimony to the affection, admiration and respect held for Mr. Hastings in this community.



LOOKING FOR THAT UNUSUAL GIFT?

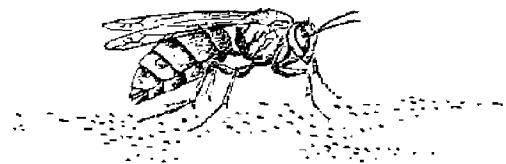


AUDUBON

Activities

by Elizabeth Rose and Marion Wilson

More than forty people gradually assembled at Malibu Lagoon, Saturday, September 14th to see, once more, what this area had to offer. Bob Blackstone was the leader. Many members had set up scopes on the sand dunes and were rewarded by views of herons, plovers, egrets, willets, Ruddy Ducks, grebes, Coots and many others. The most important birds spotted were the White-faced Ibis and the Knot. In addition to water birds this area always has many other birds around the bridge and brush, hummers, Savannah Sparrows, warblers, swallows, and the kingfisher. Dorothy Pool and two young helpers from the Robert M. McCurdy Nature Study Center were there as observers of the field trip. Different areas often bring out different people as well as different birds. Among the less familiar faces were Joe Lieb, Ray Fisk, Laurel Feuerer and Colin Cantwell. Later in the morning the group drove up the coast, to an excellent irrigated field area near Pt. Mugu. This area, probably, could be given longer attention as it yielded much, such as the Black-necked Stilt, the Marsh Hawk, Yellow-breasted Chat and many others in the brief time there. Many of the crowd, finally, made it back to Tapia Park for lunch. The birding was quiet as compared to the springtime but there were many busy bees.

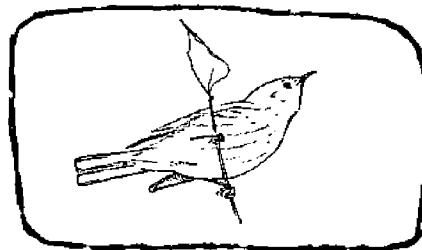


Despite some confusion due to the change of day and place, there was a good turnout for the Evening Meeting of Monday, October 7. President Arnold Small read a letter from Dorothy Pool telling of their need for volunteers to lead bird walks at the Robert M. McCurdy Nature Center in Eaton Canyon. Bill Watson spoke of a threatened encroachment on the Descanso Gardens of new freeway links.

Among interesting field observations was a reported sighting of a Little Blue Heron at Bolsa Chica. Russ Wilson reported on the October 5 Pelagic Trip out of Monterey. This was an ex-

cellent trip which yielded New Zealand Shearwaters and a Skua, to mention only the highlights. Guy McCaskie continues to amaze with the rare aves he turns up in the Tijuana riverbottom. His latest most amazing find was Connecticut Warbler.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed Herb Clarke's highly amusing account, illustrated of course with his splendid color slides, of the Clarkes' trip to southern Mexico this last summer in company with Jim and Mary Clements and their two sons. It was an adventurous journey, not without its hardships. These the Clements and the Clarkes took in their stride, and made a lark of what might have been an ordeal to some. Herb was assisted by his charming wife, Olga, at the projector.



The old story is going the rounds again. There is an inner circle of birders who are privileged to see Condors. Herb Clarke, the leader of the Oct. 12th expedition into Sespe Canyon, tried his "darndest" to show a Condor to all thirty-seven present but three birders slipped away on another trail and saw two Condors flying. However, the day was a beautiful one to be out and the list of birds was longer than the people list which is very good for that area. The White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were back. There was a Road-runner and quail. The visiting was good with people like Lucille Innes, M. Blisset, newly arrived from England, and Robert Pyle from Washington, D. C., to name a few.



The Sunday, Sept. 22 field trip at Cabrillo Beach was reported to us by Ray Shoemaker. He said it was a warm day, but still twenty people showed up and there were fifty-one species of birds seen. Some people suggested that this trip may, in the future, have to begin at dawn before the water skiers and boaters take over the area.

(Continued on page 28)



THE WESTERN TANAGER
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
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Audubon Activities Elizabeth Rose
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



BY ARNOLD SMALL

Birds

It is becoming increasingly apparent that in southern California, at least, the Fall Migration is by far the most interesting season to be afield. Not only do we get our most interesting species of pelagic birds and shorebirds, but the appearances of some of the unexpected landbirds have truly been astonishing. At this time of year, it is difficult to decide whether to visit the ocean, the beaches and tidepools, or the coastal canyons and farms in San Diego County. It is also now apparent, that visits to desert oases in the fall are not nearly as fruitful as they were in the spring, and at the same time, birding in the mountains will produce very little that is new and exciting.

There seems little doubt now that the unusual migrant landbirds have a propensity for the coast during the fall migration, and may even follow an island-hopping pathway from Point Conception to the Tijuana River area of San Diego County. Intensive searches conducted in coastal portions of Los Angeles and Orange Counties have failed to yield the sort of birding that has been encountered in the San Diego area at this same time. Mist-netting in the San Francisco and Sacramento areas during the fall supports the view that many of these "eastern" species (mostly immatures) are following a southward route through California, but may not follow the "angle" of the state south of Point Conception.

Reports were received of three Red-billed Tropic-birds off San Clemente Island during mid-September. It was also reported that Black-footed Albatrosses were "abundant" on the "banks" located 40 miles west of Catalina. As usual, jaegers appeared in good numbers along the coast during September and October and the flight of Elegant Terns began to dwindle about the same time. This flight was better than average this year as thousands were present in the San Diego area and at least 600 were at Upper Newport Bay. Pectoral Sandpipers were located at San Diego, Upper Newport Bay, and Malibu and small numbers of White-faced Glossy Ibis were seen along the coast. An adult Little Blue Heron was found by Larry Sansone at Bolsa Chica and an immature was suspected at Malibu Lagoon. The flight of Sabine's Gulls was good, and one bird was present for some time at Newport Pier. A few Tropical Kingbirds were noted among the migrating Westerns and Cassin's, especially along the coast.

Among the warblers, a Northern Water-Thrush was at Upper Newport Bay Sept. 19 and Guy McCaskie et al located the following species in the San Diego area during the fall: Eastern Kingbird, Black and White Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prai-

Audubon Activities

CONTINUED

Jaegers and terns abounded. This is one of the best places for this study short of a pelagic trip. The Dunlin was the most interesting shore bird sighted. For the student from Cal Tech, Mr. Dutton, newly arrived from the East, it was fine first trip.



About twenty of our local birders made the trip to Monterey for our annual joint pelagic trip with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. This event has become so popular that it was necessary to charter a second boat; however, most of our group managed to stay together on the Gray Ghost.

The weather was just about perfect for a day at sea; not a single person became seasick. We had Guy McCaskie on the bridge to call off the birds and were seeing birds from the time we left the breakwater until we returned to port. What more can one wish for?

We had excellent observations of Xantus's Murres and Rhinoceros Auklets which were on the surface not more than forty feet from the boat. At times we were among hundreds of shearwaters, Sooties, Pink-footed and New Zealand. Ten or twelve Parasitic and Pomerine Jaegers followed the boat for twenty minutes or longer and forced the gulls to surrender the chum we were throwing out. A Skua stayed with us a quarter of an hour and provided some with an opportunity to take pictures. There were good looks at Black and Fork-tailed Petrels, Red Phalaropes, Common Murres, and flocks of Sabine's Gulls.

After some late afternoon birding along the shore for Black Turnstones, Surf Birds, Black Oyster-catchers and cormorants we all gathered at the Bamboo Gardens for dinner. Sunday morning most of us met among the pines near Asilomar, where a good movement of warblers was passing through. The best birds here were two Black and White Warblers and a Black-poll.

An added pleasure was to have Bob Pyle with us. Bob flew out from Washington, D. C. on business and managed to get in two days of birding with us. Bob sends his greetings to all his friends in southern California.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th.
WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK

rie Warbler, Black-poll Warbler, Oven-bird, Connecticut Warbler, American Redstart, Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, Dickcissel, Lark Bunting, and Clay-colored Sparrow! Members of the Sea and Sage found: Boblink and two Dickcissels on Catalina Island on Oct. 5. By now the news of the great flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches is known to all.