

THE WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

VOLUME 30 DECEMBER 1963 NUMBER 4

Emerson's Question



By **BILL
WATSON**

A brief recounting of bird counts in the Los Angeles area...

As far as I have been able to determine, the birdwatchers of Los Angeles have been represented in most of the annual Christmas Bird Counts. There was Minnie K. Anderson reporting from La Canada in 1906. Other names follow hers: Elta M. Lewis, Caryl H. Ripley, the Misses Wikon of Pasadena. I haven't been able to learn anything about these people.

When we come to the name of John McB. Robertson, it is a different matter. Mr. Robertson is an amateur ornithologist who lived in our vicinity for many years. He was Treasurer of the Cooper Ornithological Society from 1930 until 1948. An honorary member of that Society, he also participated in the founding of the Western Bird Banding Association in 1927.

In Mr. Robertson we have more evidence that the amateur is of great importance to ornithology. He carried the Rural Mail out of Buena Park from 1922 until 1953. He reported his Christmas Bird Censuses from Buena Park in 1909 and 1910. In August of this year he wrote to me:

My interest in birds started very early and has continued to the present time. In 1909 and 1910 I was trying to identify what I saw, with some rather questionable results. The Buena Park area was a purely agricultural area at that time, no

subdivisions and no freeways. Coyote Creek followed its natural channel and most of my route followed its meandering course.

For all of his modesty about his ability in those days, it is indicative that he noted his weather conditions in this manner in 1909:

Sky overcast with cirrus clouds.

It was in 1915 that the Los Angeles Audubon Society made its first Christmas Bird Census. Unfortunately, the best of intentions do not always produce the best results. Apparently, we had eyes bigger than our stomachs, or something. Our first time out we led the nation in number of species. One hundred and twenty-one species proved to be the all-time record until then. In 1916 we sent in another census, but Charles H. Rogers, grand champion of Christmas Bird Counting, who was the Christmas Bird Count Editor that year, wrote in a footnote:

A list of 105 has since come from Los Angeles, but we fear this covers too much territory to be comparable with our other censuses; last year two of their points covered were 35 miles apart!

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TWO EVENTS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE THIS MONTH

CHRISTMAS

BAZAAR
DECEMBER 7th.



ANNUAL

BIRD COUNT
DECEMBER 29th.

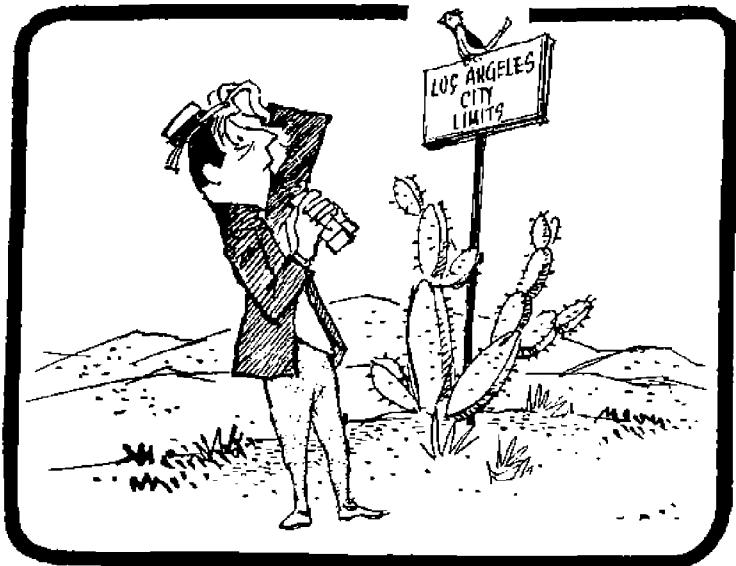
Emerson's Question

CONTINUED ..

This meant that our first two Christmas Bird Censuses were virtually ruled out of consideration. What had happened? Going back to 1915, we find that Mr. Roger's suspicions were well-founded. The Los Angeles Audubon Society reported in that year:

Census taken by members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, in 8 sections, visiting Mt. Lowe, Eagle Rock, Arroyo Seco, Griffith Park, Sycamore Grove, Silver Lake, Rosedale Cemetery and San Pedro, all within 10 miles of the city. Mt. Lowe was reached by cars, San Pedro and Griffith Park by auto, the rest on foot.

The following year when we were questioned again, we reported covering Los Angeles Harbor, San Fernando Valley, Benedict Canyon, Eagle Rock, Silver Lake, Nigger Slough, Sunset Beach, and Hollenbeck Park!



In 1917, not caring to have its efforts discounted any longer, the Los Angeles Audubon Society carefully noted that its count covered an area "within a diameter of 15 miles, including Hyperion, Nigger Slough, and some of the city parks and cemeteries. Still, our count came to 106 species.

In the first party in 1915 were ten bird counters. Harriet Williams Myers, the founder of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, was one of them. Mrs. Robert Fargo and Mrs. F. T. Bicknell, Past Presidents of our Society, were among them. Mrs. C. H. Hall, Mrs. Anna Gurney, and Mrs. S. A. Williams were all active in those early days. Miss

Helen S. Pratt, then our Secretary, was present too. She is the only one of the ladies who is still with us.

Dr. E. A. Dial, an optometrist, Mr. Alfred Cookman, a schoolteacher, and Mr. John V. Frederick were the men who assisted in this Christmas Bird Count. Of these, only John V. Frederick is still with us.

Those who attended our final Thursday Morning Meeting this know that Mr. Frederick presented a fine program of his slides. He is an able photographer and a remarkable gentleman. He built the instruments in use at Mt. Wilson Observatory and he designed the water gauging systems in our canyons for the Department of Water and Power. At his program, Mr. Frederick showed us his slides of a Brown Penguin that he took in Santa Barbara in 1895.

Miss Helen S. Pratt first became interested in the birds during her girlhood in Ohio. She joined the Los Angeles Audubon Society in 1913 and for some years was considered by Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Bicknell, et al., as the "baby" of our Society. Miss Pratt was our Secretary during the years 1914 through 1918. An able disciple of Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Bicknell, she was one of the first members of the California Audubon Society. When the City of Los Angeles opened Camps Radford and Seeley, Miss Pratt was the one who was sent to help set up their nature study programs. Later she was the Junior Audubon Representative for the National Audubon Society in this part of the country. She even had a radio program in Los Angeles in the 1930's. Helen S. Pratt and John V. Frederick are the two members of longest standing in the Los Angeles Audubon Society. They both joined in 1913 and both were on the first Christmas Bird Census conducted by our Society.

It seems as though the Los Angeles Audubon Society gave up Christmas Bird Counting after its first correct Count in 1917. For several years this work was done by others.

It was in 1918 that two fourteen-year-old boys who lived close to Fernell, Griffith Park, first decided that birdwatching would be fun. They knew no one who could help them learn the birds, but they had a bird guide book and the interest. Both were students at Hollywood High School, and on the way to school, they would keep track of how many species of birds they saw each morning. The following year one of the boys was receiving Bird-Lore as a present from his mother, and in that magazine the boys first learned about the Christmas Bird Censuses. Ambitious and, perhaps, precocious, they determined to conduct their own

Continued on page 34



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

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Youth groups by appointment 3-5 P.M.
Open before and after each meeting

DECEMBER 1963						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

December

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.) An opportunity to purchase unique handcrafts, decorations, gift items and baked goods. Proceeds are for the improvement of Audubon House.

Dec. 7 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS. 9:45-11:15 A.M.
For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661.

Dec. 9 MONDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK. President Arnold Small will present his program, "M'ZURI SANA". Mr. Small traveled through east Africa last summer studying and photographing the birds and big game in Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda. For this season's program Mr. Small will feature the birds and wildlife encountered during a camping safari to the major game parks of Kenya and Tanganyika.
Program Chairman: Don Adams FR 2-5536.

Dec. 14 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP . Santa Clara River bottom and Elizabeth Lake Canyon. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the first Tip's restaurant on U.S. 99 (about 10 miles north of the point where the Golden State and San Diego Freeways join).
Leader: George Venatta - FR 8-7421.

Dec. 29 SUNDAY - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT We want as many observers as possible this year in order to make this count as complete and thorough as we can. You do not have to be an expert to be able to help; if you can recognize the common birds, you are qualified to participate. There will be enough 'experts' in each party to deal with difficult identifications. Be sure and contact the chairman if you can be available.
Chairman: Bill Watson Call Audubon House - 876-0202.

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

Jan. 4 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M.
For information call: Ed Anacker - HO 7-1661.

Jan. 11 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Carrizo Plain. Meet at 8:30 A.M. in Maricopa at the junction of State Highway 166 and U.S. 399 (Take U.S. 99 north from Los Angeles to junction with State Highway 166 about four miles north of Wheeler Ridge, go west on 166 about twenty-five miles to Maricopa.) Last year we saw LeConte's Thrashers, Vesper Sparrows, Short-eared Owls, Prairie Falcons, Ferruginous Hawks and Sandhill Cranes. Bring lunch and drinking water and wear warm clothing. Plans are being made for a visit Sunday to the new Kern National Wildlife Refuge near Lost Hills, for those who wish to stay over. See January TANAGER for definite announcement.
Leader: Arnold Small - VE 7-2272.

Jan. 13 MONDAY - EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M., WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. Mr. Ernest J. Willoughby will present a program on "ALASKA, BIRDS OF THE ARCTIC"
Program Chairman: Don Adams - FR 2-5536.

THE AUDUBON SCENE

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

The Marin Audubon Society, with justifiable pride, reports having made the first payment of \$24,750 toward the purchase of AUDUBON CANYON RANCH. They have nine years to raise the remaining \$223,250. Interest on funds remaining in savings accounts will be used for maintenance and operation needs.

THE REDWOOD LOG - November, 1963.

The Tucson Audubon Society reports the finding of a GROOVE-BILLED ANI on their annual field trip to Sabino Canyon, near Tucson, on October 19. It was found in the lower part of the canyon just above the dam. This is reportedly the first record of this species in the Tucson area since 1928!

THE VERMILION FLYCATCHER - November, 1963.

The Paso Robles Audubon Society sponsored a Sea Otter field trip along thirty miles of the north San Luis Obispo County coast on November 2; sixteen Sea Otter were seen. The abalone fishermen are seeking removal of the protection of the Sea Otter, claiming that the animal is damaging the abalone fishery. Eben and Ian McMillan, San Luis Obispo County ranchers, made a plea for opposition to this at a hearing which was held November 19 by a State Senate Fact-finding Committee in San Luis Obispo.

THE CALIFORNIA THRASHER November 1963.

The Sacramento Audubon Society sponsored a definitely different kind of field trip on October 10 when twenty-seven Audubonites took a four and a half hour trip down the American River on three rubber rafts (courtesy of the Sierra Club), starting at Fair Oaks bridge.

THE OBSERVER - November, 1963.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS

BIRD COUNT

Sunday
DECEMBER 29th



TELEPHONE

WE NEED YOUR HELP...CALL NOW!

876-0202

1963 DEC. 1963
S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
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29 30 31

MORE BLUE CHIPS PLEASE

Enough blue chip stamps have been received to fill 15 books. Some were sent in books, but most were sent in loose. Some had the name of the donor, but most came without. Miss Castella Fisher has volunteered to put the stamps in books. Up to the time this issue goes to press the 15 books are filled and ready to use. However, many more books will be necessary before the chairs may be secured. So--thanks to all the kind members who have contributed. Keep the stamps coming.

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Buchea
3532 W. 115th St., Inglewood
Dr. & Mrs. George M. Byrne
4615 Marwood Dr., LA
Mr. Roy C. Fisk
597 S. Pasadena Ave., Pasadena
Mrs. Ormond T. Johnson
5903 Olive Ave., Lakewood
Mrs. Emily Levinson
11837 Washington Blvd., LA
Miss Frances M. Rebman
136 Wadsworth Ave., Santa Monica
Mrs. Raymond J. Stipek
10724 LeConte Ave., LA
Mr. C. Pearl Williams
1863 Shoreland Dr., LA

Announcing



Los Angeles Audubon Society

Annual Dinner

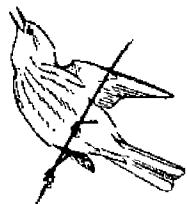


TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 11, 1964

PROGRAM

DR. JAMES CROUCH

Florida



AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

• By ELIZABETH ROSE

A large car caravan with more than forty people attended the field trip to Bolsa Chica and Upper Newport Bay on Sunday, October 27. Many made special effort to be there as leaders Don and Caroline Adams had ascertained that this area is rapidly being "developed" and will soon be closed to birding activities. What is worse, the marshes will soon be lost to the birds, too! It was difficult to visualize just where all the wonderful Great Blue Herons will go when the water skiers and Sunday sailors move in. On the edge of tall reeds, the ordinarily elusive Clapper Rail came out into good view for everyone. And, while studying hundreds of wintering ducks, a White Pelican was spotted. All the while, there was much "visiting" going on, particularly, by Frances Kohn, Betty Jenner and Caroline Adams who were telling excitedly of their proposed trips to the National Audubon meeting in Florida. Caroline attended as the Society's official representative. Enthusiastic birder David Gaines had gotten his entire family, father, mother and sister, out for the Sunday trip. Brand new to this activity were Jack and Nancy Hutton and Mrs. Jan Mills. The "tin can" beach area was as disgusting as usual but resulted in an unexpected gain. Eva Milsap found a dollar there which she promptly donated to the Society.

The Santa Barbara trip, held this year November 9th and 10th, is a great favorite of many. It began with the traditional meeting at the Bird Refuge with veteran leader Dave Robison. Then the group moved on to the University of California campus looking for White-tailed Kites all the way, and one was seen. While looking over surf-battered rocks on the coast there, a lively identification session ensued over a bird. Was it a Surfbird or a Black Turnstone? Then, on to Goleta Slough where the "find" of the day, the Louisiana Heron, was spotted by sharp-scorer Hal Baxter. The bird list mounted. There were not as many ducks back as had been expected but there was a fine group of Red-breasted Mergansers. After the lunchtime break, some of the large crowd, including guests Jeff and Hope Corey, had to return to the city but many had come prepared to camp overnight.

The Wilsons had selected the lovely oak grove Fremont Campground this year in preference to crowded Lake Cachuma. Predicted rain sent some to motels but the night stayed beautiful for the campers. Out on this expedition for the first time were Maurie, Marion and Benny Kamins, Martha Edens, Roy Fisk and Dennis Coskren. That night a group elected to go "owling" Everyone heard the Great Horned Owl, the Long-eared Owl and the Barn Owl. A few saw the first two, and the next morning a few more people were fortunate enough to spot the Barn Owl in its cliff hole home.

Sunday, birding in the same general area, many Lark Sparrows and Bluebirds were seen to say nothing of a Townsend's Solitaire and "Red-breasted" Sapsucker. Motoring on toward Cachuma, a roadside stop yielded an Osprey and Ring-necked Ducks. These were only highlights. The total two day list almost reached two hundred. A nice finishing touch to this trip is the lunch and walk at Nojoqui Falls with the beautiful Yellow-billed Magpies all around.

Departing a little bit from the usual reports, field trips and meetings, meetings and field trips, it is well to be reminded that there is another activity which goes on every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of every week all year. It is Audubon House. The phone rings, "Can you help me? I have picked up a cormorant covered with oil. How can I clean it?" The mail is opened. Someone requests information on "What plants can I grow in my yard to attract birds?" The phone rings again. "There is a bird in my yard which has black and white spots and bright orange feathers. Can you identify it for me?"

Meanwhile, someone enters the Museum. "Why, I didn't even know a place like this existed. Are those all California birds?" A Campfire Girl leader comes in to make arrangements to bring in a group of girls for a class conducted by Mae Wilson. A member drops by to buy a decal and also decides to purchase the Peterson Bird Song record. Some children come in for peanuts to feed the Scrub Jays in the yard. An older couple stop to see the inside of the oldest house in Hollywood. Olive Alvey brings in a few more Christmas things that have been made for the Bazaar. A book is returned to the Library. The House hums with activity. All of this has been set up and is directed by Marion Wilson with only a handful of volunteer help. Wouldn't you like to participate? Wrap up a sandwich for your lunch some day and come in to see what you can contribute to this Audubon activity!

AUDUBON SOCIETY
christmas
BAZAAR

Saturday, December 7th.

WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK

Emerson's Question

CONTINUED

Christmas Bird Census. So, in 1919, Los Angeles was represented by two fifteen-year-old high school boys, Edward Peterson and Richard Starr. They covered Brush Canyon (where Hollywoodland Girls' Camp is), Griffith Park, Silver Lake, and back. At the end of their report they mention that, on December 21, they "saw and identified for certain, a Sandhill Crane, about 25 miles northeast of here.

Richard Starr is a schoolteacher in Los Angeles. At present he and Mrs. Starr are on Sabbatical leave, touring Europe and Africa for a year. An active bird-watcher, even today, Mr. Starr is a member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

Ed Peterson found botany more to his liking than ornithology, though he has never lost his interest in birds. Today he is the Head Gardener at Los Angeles City College. He has been active with the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, and the Theodore Payne Foundation. Obviously, neither of these boys has lost his interest in nature and conservation.

Mary Mann Miller, the daughter of Olive Thorne Miller (who died in Los Angeles), along with seven other ladies, participated in our Christmas Bird Census in 1922. They covered the city parks and noted that:

The birds in Griffeth (sic) Park were few in number, due to the noise and shooting of a movie company making pictures.

Only Los Angeles could have made that claim!



Mary Mann Miller had inherited her mother's penchant for bird study, and she became the first president of the Southwest Bird Study Club that was founded by Dr. John Adams Comstock of butterfly fame at the Southwest Museum.

Another lady who participated in that 1922 Census was Elizabeth Burnell. Elizabeth Burnell was Assistant Supervisor of Nature Study, Los Angeles City Schools, and she must have been working on the book that she and Luther E. Wyman published in 1925, "Field Book of Birds of the Southwestern United States." Her sister, Esther, was the wife of Enos Mills, the great naturalist of the Rocky Mountains. The book "Enos Mills of the Rockies," written by Esther and a friend, Hildegarde Hawthorne, is in our Library.

Luther E. Wyman was the Ornithologist of the Los Angeles County Museum until he died in 1927. He was a great friend of our Society in his time, and participated in several of our Christmas Bird Censuses.

Led by President Mrs. James M. Brennan, the Los Angeles Audubon Society established a center in Santa Monica and produced a census of 122 species in 1932. In 1933, twenty of our people counted 156 species. The last time they made this count they came up with 170 species. Helen Pratt was there.

This lucrative circle was forgotten after these three years, and not until 1937 did we conduct another Christmas Bird Census in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Alma Stultz was President that year, and the Society selected a center located at the intersection of La Cienega and Airdrome Crossing. This closely corresponds to our current center at La Cienega and Pico. Twenty-two of our members and friends made up 10 parties in the field on Dec. 20, 1937. They were plagued by a high wind all day, but they managed to produce a list of 103 species and 10,435 individual birds. Among the observers that day were Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers and Miss Helen S. Pratt, both of whom were in the field on our first Christmas Bird Census in 1915.

This was the beginning of our modern Christmas Bird Count. Ever since 1937, we have always carried out a Christmas Bird Count within this circle, never missing a year. A most impressive record was set up by the loyalty, devotion, and fine ability of Mrs. Caroline Daugherty during this time. From 1937 until 1951 this lady served as our Christmas Count Compiler. Beyond that, Caroline Daugherty has worked as an observer on 24 counts for us. Again, no one else has this distinction, and she was out with us last year, too.

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McCURDY NATURE STUDY CENTER OPENS

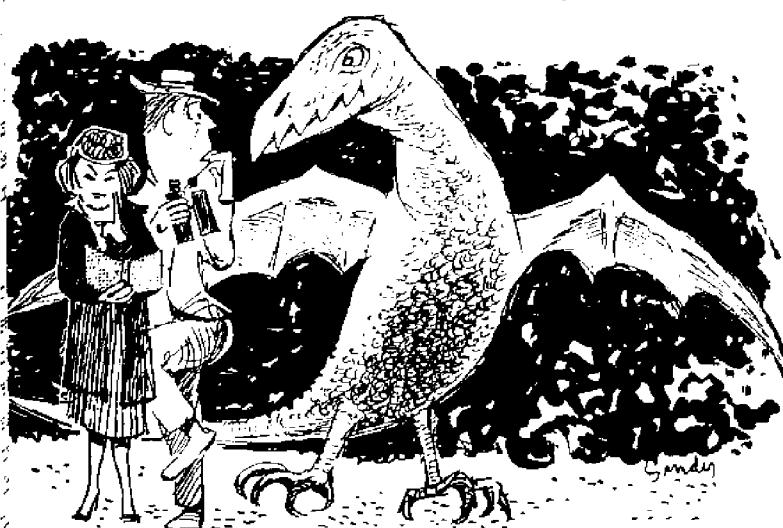
The new Robert M. McCurdy Nature Study Center, located in Eaton Canyon Park, Fox Ridges Section, 1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, California, a facility of Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, was dedicated on Wednesday, October 30, 1963.

The Center is the first of several planned for nature study and youth leader training and is designed to provide for the preservation and enjoyment of our diminishing natural areas. It is located in the foothill and chaparral life zone and provides an excellent example of the plant and animal life found in this wildlife community.

The building consists of nearly 6000 sq. feet. Included in the building are two classrooms, laboratory, a museum-library, an enclosed patio-display area and a 196 seat auditorium. Located elsewhere in the park is a large picnic ground with 50 picnic tables and a fire circle, an equestrian center which leads directly into the trail system of the Angeles National Forest, and a large campground with rest rooms and water for organized youth groups.

Numerous trails are developed within the park which provide first hand contact with local flora and fauna. Naturalists and guides are available for guided tours after school and on week-ends. Youth group leaders are invited to make reservations for assistance on the trails during the week. Reservations are not necessary during the weekends.

Sunday morning bird walks are being planned and Dorothy Pool, full time naturalist and director of the Nature Study Center is asking for Audubon members who know the birds of the area to help with these walks. Anyone interested in helping in this project should contact Arnold Small or Audubon House.



"It doesn't seem to be listed in Peterson..."

Emerson's Question

CONTINUED

Another pioneer in our modern activities was Arthur L. Berry. Mr. Berry passed away only a few months ago, apparently unnoticed by us; but let it be remembered that Arthur L. Berry introduced our first Sunday Morning Bird Walks in 1940.

This innovation made it possible for business and professional people to share in our enjoyment of nature activities. His Sunday Bird Walks were interrupted when he was appointed Chief Writer on the Coast and Geodetic Survey Ship "Pioneer," in 1941. Upon his return a year later, Arthur Berry wrote an article for the Western Tanager entitled "Birding in the Aleutians" (January 1942).

Do you remember my mention of Pvt. Milton L. Siebert's Christmas Bird Count during World War II from somewhere in "Italy" in my previous article? This was the same boy, who, with Arthur Berry, Don Eckelberry, and a fourth boy, engaged in a "pen pal" nature club. They published a little, amateur nature bulletin with wood or linoleum cuts by Don Eckelberry (see illustrations in the Audubon Field Guides). They were high school students at the time. The point is, Arthur L. Berry and Don Eckelberry both participated in our Christmas Bird Counts in the 1940's.

In the October, 1943, issue of the Western Tanager is a notice of Evening Study Meetings, Howard Cogswell, Chairman. Howard Cogswell was then another postman, and an active companion of Arthur Berry. These meetings were held on the second Thursday of each month at Manning's Coffee Shop, 319 West 5th Street. This created another activity that business and professional people could attend and these meetings were the forerunners of our present Tuesday Evening Meetings. This was the place at which our modern Los Angeles Audubon Society began. Arthur L. Berry and Howard L. Cogswell were the ones who started it all.

Howard Cogswell was so interested in Christmas Bird Counting that he even conducted a San Bernardino Mountain Count to encompass coastal slopes, high mountains, and desert slopes in one count circle.

In a recent letter to me Howard Cogswell wrote:

As an amateur, I enjoyed Christmas Counting very much; in fact, still do one count a year or so. The chairman who organizes a really

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Southern California

BIRDS

BY ARNOLD SMALL

Although two brief storms have brought higher-than normal rainfall to the southern part of California, the southward flight of waterfowl was still sparse through early November. Abundant water and feeding grounds to the far north of us continued to attract most of the birds. Small southbound flights of Pintail and Green-winged Teal were noted in late October, but many of these early migrants probably continued on to Mexico. The shorebird migration appeared to be very good, and the greatest numbers assembled on south San Diego Bay near Imperial Beach. Most of the phalaropes had departed by mid-October, along with the Elegant Terns. The coastal flight of jaegers was poor and only a very small number of migrating loons were observed to this date.

In the San Diego area two immature Reddish Egrets, a Louisiana Heron, and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron were all seen during October and at Bolsa Chica, there appeared a heron (either Little Blue or Reddish Egret) whose identity was never confirmed. The fall migration of landbirds, was as usual, exceptional in the San Diego area (notably, the Tijuana River Valley). In addition to the "eastern" warblers previously discussed in this column, at least 30 Bobolinks (with as many as 25 found in one flock by McCaskie), at least 12 Dickcissels, plus individuals of the following species of other "eastern" birds: Indigo and Painted Buntings, Lark Buntings, and Clay-colored Sparrows. Another Scarlet-headed Oriole was found also. A Summer Tanager was also found there, and another was reported by John Goodman from Mill Creek Canyon (Sept. 10). Most interesting was Goodman's report of a Blue Jay, also from Mill Creek Canyon, during the early part of November. White-crowned arrived during mid-October, but Golden-crowned Sparrows have not as yet arrived in normal numbers. Certainly anyone who visits canyon areas this fall will fail to find the Red-breasted Nuthatches, which seem to be most everywhere including along beaches lined with shrubbery.

As the fall season progresses, look for more incoming waterfowl, especially if you hear of storms to the north. The shorebird numbers should stabilize for the winter, and very shortly numbers of Black Turnstones and Surfbirds should be appearing on suitable rocky areas along the coast. Red Crossbills were reported from the lower elevations of the San Jacinto Mountains, and should be looked for in other similar locations. It is too early to say whether we shall have good flocks of Robins and Cedar Waxwings or Varied Thrushes and Lewis' Woodpeckers, but time will tell.

Emerson's Question

CONTINUED

bang-up count has a huge job, however. The biggest difficulty being to get the people to participate on other than a lackadaisical basis. From the scientific ornithological standpoint it is this fluctuation in coverage effort that makes most counts of relatively little value. The ones that are reasonably constant and thorough within an area that is well specified can be used for comparisons in year to year fluctuations of the birds. The Los Angeles count circle is now so thoroughly occupied by residences that I am amazed at the records that still come from it. The diligent work is, of course, what does it.

This is why I have written these articles about Christmas Bird Counting. The more pairs of eyes we have counting birds this year, the more accurate and valuable will be our count.

In Los Angeles, we are living during a time of great changes. Urbanization is not creeping here - it is galloping. It is during this period of continuing changes to our landscape that Christmas Bird Counting is of tremendous value. The information gained from these counts helps us to see in greater detail whatever changes are taking place in the bird populations of this city. If you have eyes and know some birds, you can help us. On Count Day, do try to be counted yourself as one who helped in this important work which is play.

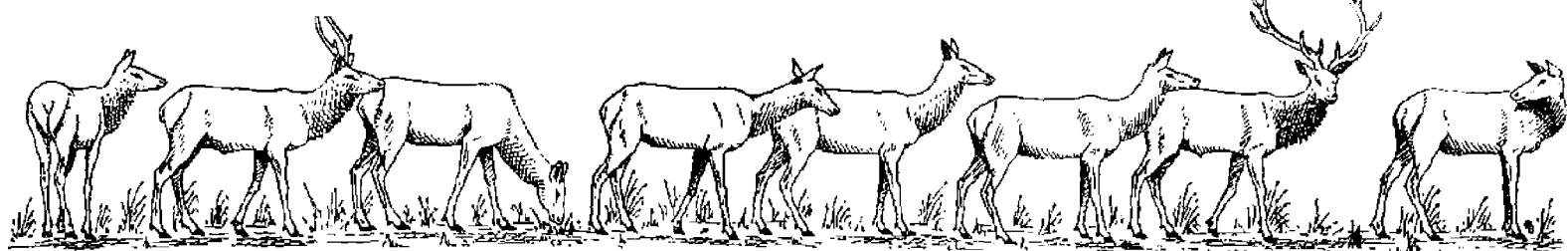
Perhaps this will help you to see how important you are to our Christmas Bird Count this year. Hugh Kingery wrote to me a short time ago and he said:

I don't understand how Florida aced us out on Mockingbirds. We need someone to travel the city streets and astronomicalize (wow!) the count on Mockingbirds. No place could have as many of them as Los Angeles.

You are important to us. Surely you can spend an hour, if only that, to count the Mockingbirds and other common birds of the city, thereby helping us to get more representative counts. If you can spend all day, all the better.

In a few days, you will be receiving a postcard from me seeking to enlist your help on our Count Day. After this coming Christmas Bird Count in Los Angeles, what will be your reply to Ralph Waldo Emerson's question:

"Hast thou named all the birds without a gun?"



COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE TULE ELK

Help Save This Beautiful Animal From Extinction

5502 MARKLAND DRIVE

LOS ANGELES 22, CALIFORNIA

PHONE RAYMOND 3-2924

October 25, 1963

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BEULA EDMISTON
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TASKER EDMISTON
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ROBERT C. MILLER

OLEAUS J. MURIE

KENNETH STAGER

WALTER F. TAYLOR

JACK C. VON BLOEKER, JR.

You helped make the plight of the Tule Elk a world-wide concern.

You helped the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk grow from a mere handful of resolute individuals to a great organization - dedicated to securing a NATURE RESERVE for the Tule Elk in the beautiful Owens Valley on land already owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Many of you are asking when our plea for the NATURE RESERVE will be heard.

The Board of Directors is happy to announce that on Friday, January 17, 1964, at 6:30 in the evening, the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk will hold a Membership Meeting to host a delegation from the Department of Water and Power at a banquet to be held at the Chalon Mart Restaurant, 1919 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California.

Horace M. Albright, dean of American conservationists and former Director of the National Park Service, and devoted native son of the Owens Valley, will be the speaker of the evening. We will see the Tule Elk on a brief screen tour of the proposed NATURE RESERVE.

When Walter Dow, Chairman of this far-flung organization, introduced the Tule Elk to the Owens Valley 30 years ago, he said, "Some day the people of Los Angeles will realize they own the most unique natural park in the world and will set it aside as such."

We agree with Mr. Dow. We hope you do, too. For the sake of the Tule Elk and your own heritage of nature, won't you and your friends join with us on January 17 to hasten the day?

Sincerely,

Beula Edmiston
Secretary

A non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of one of the world's rarest mammals.

Tear Here

Please make reservations as soon as possible.

Herley Gayman, Reservation Chairman
4529 Abbey Place, Los Angeles 19, Calif.

Please reserve me----- tickets for the January 17 banquet
at the Chalon Mart Restaurant, 1919 S. Broadway, Los Angeles,
Calif. at \$3.00 each.

I enclose:

- 1) Check or money order in amount of ----- payable to:
Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk.
- 2) Self-addressed, stamped envelope for prompt return
of tickets.
- 3) Notation of organizations to which my guests or
I belong.

Note:

Plenty of free, off-street parking at Chalon Mart.
Come early for outstanding exhibit.
Should you wish, send ear-marked gift in any
amount to help defray necessary costs of the meeting.