

EDITORIAL

...THAT NO LIVING SPECIES SHALL BE LOST.

By
Robert E. Blackstone

"-----THAT NO LIVING SPECIES SHALL BE LOST"

The above words, from A Statement of Audubon Philosophy, constitute a pledge that is being put to the test more and more frequently. There are many species of birds and animals on our continent, not to speak of "lesser" forms of life, which are today tottering on the brink of extinction. If we are to save them from this fate, a great deal of positive effort is called for on the part of conservationists. Every living thing has a place in the scheme of Nature, and though it is true that species will die out in the natural order of things, even without the intervention of man, we are learning more and more that man does not, and perhaps never will know enough, to take over Nature's role.

One of these threatened species, as I am sure every one of our readers is aware, is making its last stand in the mountains just to the north of us. For obvious reasons the Los Angeles Audubon



Society has taken a special interest in the California Condor for many years. It is "our bird," in a sense, more than the Western Tanager. (The Cooper Ornithological Society changed the name of its Journal to THE CONDOR about 1900.)

The threats to the survival of the Condor appear to fall mostly under the heading of invasion of their territory by man. The species appears to be intolerant of the disturbance attendant on man's activities. This means that their nesting and roosting areas must be protected against such disturbance. To this end sanctuaries have been established in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. One handicap, and a serious one I think, in our efforts to save the Condor, is lack of knowledge. There has been no scientific report on the species as a whole since that of Carl Koford, published by the National Audubon Society in 1953. We have no accurate idea even of the number of Condors surviving nor of their distribution. We cannot say as yet whether the measures we have taken to protect the species are adequate.

(continued on page 57)

ATIONAL CONSERVATION WEEK ... MARCH 7 to 14, 1964

EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS

Thursday, February 6, 1964

The Registrar's Report disclosed that the Los Angeles Audubon Society is now the largest Branch of the National Audubon Society with 923 members. The Board agreed, however, that city the size of Los Angeles should support an even larger membership than this and that we should take positive steps to continue to grow. Definite action on this was deferred to a later meeting.

Purchase of a two-way radio ("walkie-talkie") was discussed. This would be used to coordinate activities on our field trips. Field Trip Chairman Russ Wilson reported that the system showed promise when tried on the Carrizo Plain trip. He was instructed to give it a further test on the Imperial Valley trip.

For several years it has been the custom to regard the office of first vice-president of the Society as a stepping stone to the office of president. The Board discussed this and voted to instruct the Nominating Committee to select the candidates for both the first and second vice-president offices with the view that they will succeed in turn to the office of president of the Society.

The Board discussed the problem of planting the grounds surrounding Audubon House in Plummer Park. Native plants are to be used. Our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Wilson, reported having contacted Mr. Ed Peterson of the Theodore Payne Foundation regarding their help on this, with favorable results.

Bill Watson, Chairman of the Library Committee, requested the authority to purchase a copy of Stewart Udall's "Quiet Crisis" to add to our library. This was granted.

The Board voted to continue to present the Wildlife Films in the 1964-65 season and authorized Wildlife Film Chairman, Laura Lou Jenner to contract for them.



MARCH 7th.
is Conservation,
Bird and Arbor Day

Editorial Note

Write to Your Congressman

Recently, I read an editorial in Saturday Review Magazine written by Norman Cousins. The editorial was entitled "The Default of the Common Man". According to Mr. Cousins, the educated person in our country is astonishingly illiterate about the workings of public opinion. Apparently, the educated person feels that there is no use in writing letters to officials since they will not be read, and, at best, they will only be tabulated. Another objection about letter writing is that officials don't really attach any importance to them.

I am convinced that it takes a certain amount of education, formal or otherwise, to make a conservationist. I also know that there is a sort of lethargy that comes over a fairly well-educated person whenever he thinks of writing a letter to voice his opinions. He could say plenty, and that is what makes it difficult--it takes so much time and effort.

The point is that we must write letters. The other side is doing it. If they were not actively writing letters and getting up petitions, etc., we would have no need to write letters or be on guard--or be unhappy at losing a conservation battle.

One way to support the aims of the Society is to keep up your membership. The more members an organization has, the louder will be its voice. Nevertheless, the National Audubon Society is still a vested interest, a pressure group, everything that our opponents are.

It is only by writing letters as earnest individuals that we can add more weight to the National Audubon Society's efforts. This goes equally as well in our work for our Los Angeles Audubon Society. It is recommended that we do not mention any of our affiliations in our letters. If we mention that we belong to the Audubon Society, our letters will be added to theirs and will not count on their own.

Nor do our letters need to be long treatises. One lady wrote to Saturday Review in response to that editorial to say that she often uses only one word in her letters. In this way she gets many more letters written. What one word? She uses such words as "Baloney!" or "Hooray!" depending upon the occasion. So letter writing need not be the great chore we imagine it is.

We are educated and responsible thinkers, I am sure, and our opinions should and must count. But they can only count if we put them on record.

Bill Watson

Manuscripts of articles, announcements, etc. intended for publication in the TANAGER should be sent direct to the Editor by the 10th of the month, please. Address: Robert E. Blackstone, 10363 Calvin Avenue, Los Angeles, 90025.



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

MARCH 1964

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March.....

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

Mar. 7 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:30 A.M. Audubon Center of Southern California, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., go south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., left to N. Durfee and left to Audubon Center. Bring sack lunch.

Host: Paul Howard, Director

Mar. 7 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS Field Trip 9:45-11:15 A.M.

For information call: Ed Anacker - HO 7-1661

Mar. 9 MONDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. Through the courtesy of the Canadian Consulate General of Los Angeles we are privileged to be able to see "Water for the Prairies" and "World in a Marsh", two 16 mm color motion pictures on wildlife and conservation in western Canada.

Program Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536

Mar. 11 WEDNESDAY - WILDLIFE FILM 7:45 P.M. John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan will present "Our Changing Heritage". This film deals with the changes being wrought by man in our western United States and with the compelling question of preserving our wilderness areas.

Wildlife Film Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

Mar. 14 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP Tujunga Wash. Meet at 8:00 A.M. on the north side of the Foothill Blvd. bridge over the Tujunga Wash in Sunland. Bring lunch.

Leader: Dave Robison 761-0217

Mar. 14 SATURDAY-SUNDAY FIELD TRIP to the Grasslands Area of Western Merced County. The Sacramento Audubon Society has invited birders from all California Audubon Societies to join them in two days of birding at the Los Banos Refuge and adjacent grasslands. Meet at 1:30 P.M. Saturday, March 14 in Los Banos at the Canal Farm Inn. Motel accommodations are available in Los Banos. If you plan to attend we suggest you contact Mr. Howard Leach, 3828 French Ave., Sacramento 21, Calif. Phone 489-1618.

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE WESTERN TANAGER
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Audubon Activities	Otto Widman
Conservation	David DuVal
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Folding & Mailing	Marion Wilson

Mar. 22 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP Irvine Park, Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neil Park. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the entrance to Irvine Park. Take the Santa Ana Freeway to Chapman Ave., Santa Ana. Take east turnoff through Orange to Irvine Park.

Leader: Laura Jenner 748-7510

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

Apr. 9 THURSDAY WILDLIFE FILM 7:45 P.M. John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. "Awake to Nature", presented by Dr. Alfred G. Etter, depicts life working out its designs in a country creek, in the north woods and in the suburbs.

Wildlife Film Chairman: Laura Jenner 748-7510

Apr. 11 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Chantry Flats. 8:00 A.M. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., north to Foothill Blvd., east to Santa Anita Ave., north to the end of Santa Anita Canyon Rd. Bring lunch and come prepared for mile hike to the canyon stream.

Leader: Harold Baxter 355-6300



*...for neither
 bird nor man...*

*If you've been feeling
 panned up lately -
 join in an Audubon activity...
 go on a field trip... attend an
 evening meeting... or help fold
 The Tanager. Open the door
 of your cage... check the
 Calendar... or call
 Audubon House 876-0202*

Wednesday
March 11, 1964

Emerson Scott
"Our Changing Heritage"

Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan, takes us on a tour of our magnificent west as we follow a herd of domestic sheep through their various grazing grounds during the four seasons. What vital changes are being wrought by man? How much and what part of our land should we leave untouched? This film deals with the compelling question of preserving our wilderness areas.

OUR CHANGING HERITAGE

A compelling question facing North Americans today concerns the preservation of our wilderness areas. *Our Changing Heritage* takes us on a tour of three areas of our magnificent west which most tourists do not see on their travels. Eight thousand head of domestic sheep are followed through four seasons of the year, over privately owned and "Government lands" in eastern Utah and southwestern Colorado.

Our journey begins in spring, in the sage brush, scrub oak and aspen covered foothills of the mighty San Juan Mountains. This area, once natural and abundant with many forms of wildlife, is now privately owned sheep grazing land. Lambs are born here during the spring green.

In early summer, sheep are "trailed" over a 50 mile "sheep drive" through scenic mountain terrain. Forty thousand sheep, and nearly as many lambs, pass through a single counting corral, on their way to the high country of the

San Juan Mountains.

In the vast, colorful meadows which sweep up to and along the Continental Divide we trace the scars of glaciers and the scars left by man. For here man has usurped the living space of the cougar, kit fox, coyote, bear and bobcat. Bighorn sheep, elk, and deer are hard pressed to hold their place in the summer sun.

As the embers of autumn burn out in the foothills, beaver scramble among cakes of ice and deer climb the snowy ridges. In winter we enter rugged desert country, which too, has values worthy of preservation.

What vital changes are being wrought by man? How much, and what part, of our land should we try to keep in the natural state, unaltered by man? Emerson Scott of Caro, Michigan, has produced another dramatic film to bring into sharp focus this most important problem upon which so much of our well-being depends.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

John Burroughs Junior High School

600 S. McCadden Place

7:45 P.M.

Emerson Scott

Emerson Scott is an experienced outdoors man and also an especially talented wildlife photographer. Interested in furthering the conservation of animals and birds and the preservation of nature's wild beauty, he uses his color motion pictures to achieve that goal.

In his boyhood Mr. Scott lived on a farm near Caro, Michigan. His travels have taken him over much of the globe, but Caro is still his home, where he lives with his wife. He attended George Williams College in Chicago and later worked for the YMCA, taking time out to make two trips to Alaska.

During the second World War Mr. Scott was an Army sergeant fighting in the European campaigns. After he was wounded in Italy and hospitalized for eight months, he worked for the American Red Cross. Later he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Michigan's Veterans' Trust Fund.

For a number of years Mr. Scott has been engaged in the enviable occupations of traveling, photographing and lecturing. His artistry with the camera combined with his understanding and knowledge of wildlife have made him a popular Audubon speaker.

Editorial continued...

...that no living species shall be lost...

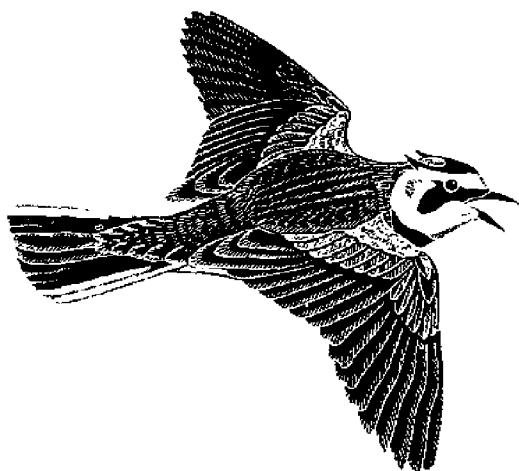
There is of course pressure on the part of mineral and other commercial interests to invade the sanctuary areas - why let a few buzzards stand in the way of progress? However it is hoped that the U. S. Forest Service, backed by the Audubon Society and other conservationists, can hold the line here. It is in the matter of maintaining the Sanctuary, with wardens to guard against trespass by unauthorized persons, that you and I can really do our part. The Audubon Society, by agreement with the U. S. Forest Service, pays half of the cost of this.

This month your Los Angeles Audubon Society is launching its annual fund-raising campaign for the Condor Sanctuary. Many of the important conservation issues of the country may seem remote to us here on the west coast. Here, however, is one which is not in the least remote. You may be sure that the dollars you contribute to the Condor Fund will go to work right here in southern California to help protect "our bird," and whenever you see a Condor aloft in the skies above the Tehachapi, the San Rafael, or the Greenhorn Mountains, you can feel a real sense of personal accomplishment, be your contribution large or small.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

By Otto Widman

Forty-seven members faced the 35 degree weather--beautiful windless weather that warmed later--to count 70 species of birds on the Carrizo Plain, and the Kern and Pixley Wildlife Refuges January 11-12. They were not disappointed, as the Ferruginous and Marsh Hawks, the Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, and the Golden Eagle were seen during the first day. At one spot the Mountain Plover were 20 feet from the road. Le Conte's Thrasher was more elusive but after a while most of the group got to see one. Mountain Bluebirds were with the Robins and thousands of Horned Larks were along the roadside. On this waterless plain Shoveler Ducks were beside the Killdeer Plovers. Short-eared Owls and Burrowing Owls were a short walk from the road. The next day White-fronted Geese, Long-billed Curlews, and Snow Geese were seen at Pixley Reserve; Canada Geese and a female Vermilion Flycatcher at the Tule Elk Reserve; and Long-billed Dowitchers, Water Pipits, and Tri-colored Blackbirds were also on the plains. We welcomed first-timers Mr. and Mrs. Keith Axelson and family.



Monday Evening Meeting (Jan 13) at West Hollywood Park started with a mix-up. Several people attending a freeway protest meeting in the same building found themselves in our meeting by mistake, but this was soon straightened out. Ernest J. Willoughby's "Alaska--Birds of the Arctic" was beautifully done. His close-up camera work was exceptional, all of it done without telephoto lens and much of it by cliff-hanging too. We saw Puffins, Murres, Glaucous-winged (robber) Gulls at work. The land birds were exceptional for their tameness, some even landing on the scientists while at work.

Mr. Eben McMillan presented the film "Land That I Love" Thursday, January 23 replacing Mr. John Taft who was unable to appear. Both have collaborated in an effort to show the land as it has looked for 1000 Springs, and how it has changed in short decades by housing developments, misuse, and mismanagement. The land as we found it had achieved a proper balance in every respect, but our lack of foresightedness in changing this delicate balance has almost destroyed the land itself. Over-grazing, destruction of predators and their prey, pollution of both land and stream has caused a dying of the land, and one is set to wonder what it will look like 1000 Springs from now. The authors have given their audience some memorable scenes in color.

Did you know you could see 58 species of birds by just walking down the paths of our city? Try it any Sunday. The Field Trip group did on a cold January 26. The rare treat of the day happened as we assembled in Fern Dell, Griffith Park. A Varied Thrush moved in and out of the picnic benches; on the other side of the street 50 Pine Siskins fed on the ground. Farther up the canyon female Western Tanagers were near the California Thrashers (in song) and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Chickadees, House, Bewick and Rock Wrens not stone's throw from the road. The Lesser Scaup, so elusive when you are at the beach, fed from your hand at MacArthur Park, and 2 female Ring-necked Ducks vied for bread crumbs. Four kinds of Gulls preened themselves not ten feet away. Pied-billed Grebes were diving farther out. We have specialists in our parks too: those who feed Rock Doves only; those who feed water birds; those who photograph only; those who eye the girls only--all kinds of specialists.

(continued on page 59)



COMING SOON

AUDUBON
WILDLIFE
FILMS

Thursday
April 9, 1964

Alfred G. Etter
"Awake to Nature"

Life works out its designs in a country creek, in the north woods, and in the suburbs. Turtles munch blackberries while herons stalk frogs. Crossbills lick salt and moose parade in the mist of Isle Royale. Horned larks nest by the sidewalk, but robins no longer sing. How much change can man force on nature? This impressively documented film, based on Dr. Alfred Etter's own experiences in Missouri and Michigan, will help you decide.



(Continued)

The Imperial Valley trip (Feb. 8-9) was almost perfect. Unfortunately Mrs. Madeleine Smith became ill during Friday night and was hospitalized in Brawley. Gene and Liz Rose stayed with her until her son arrived from Redlands. We wish her a speedy recovery.

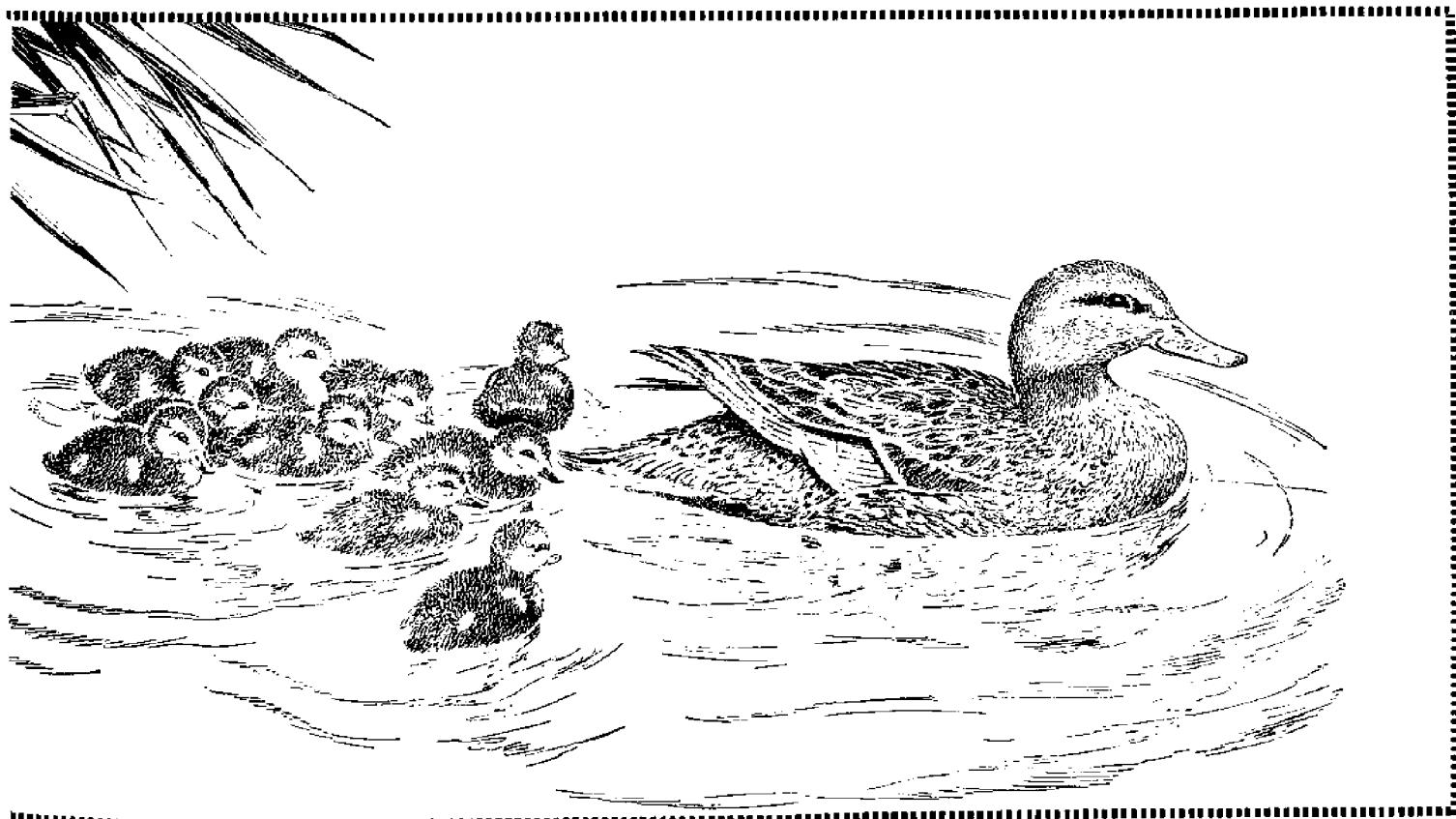
The Wildlife officials whisked the 49 members away from Ramer Lake to south of Niland where we immediately began counting 28 species, among them Snow and Canada Geese, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and a Marsh Hawk. Back at Ramer a Cactus Wren sang for our lunch, but the prize of the day was a Common or Wilson's Snipe and some Stilt Sandpipers--life birds for most of the group. Vultures (22) were seen migrating north; clouds of Blackbirds doubled back and-forth overhead--must have been in the thousands. Black-necked Stilts and Western Sandpipers and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker were quite close. Twenty species were in the immediate vicinity of Ramer Lake. At Finney Lake, the Black-throated Grey Warbler (without a black throat) put on an insect catching act. Here also were Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Sora Rails, Ground Doves and the Yellow Throat. Sunday the Federal Reserve officials took us through the reserve north of Westmoreland. The show here was 1500 Snow Geese that circled several times. A Pintail Duck was rescued from some debris of Friday's blow. Buffle-head, Pintail, Canvas-back ducks

were with an American Bittern and some White-fronted Geese. Farther out were Golden-eye Ducks. Guy McCaskie (San Diego) reported some American Redstarts at mouth of New River. The list is long; 109 species for the 2 days. Just named those above to make you wish you were there. A "walkie-talkie" was tried out on the trip to see if purchase is feasible. Russ Wilson and Jim Huffman compared notes at either end of the caravan with complete success.

Welcome!

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Glen Bickford
#39 2350 W. 250th St., Lomita
Col. L. E. Bogart
258 N. La Peer Dr., Beverly Hills
Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Borough
107 Gillis St., Playa del Rey
Miss Kirsten Erickson
28406 Cayuse Lane, Rolling Hills
Miss Patricia Evans
3107 Ivar Ave., S. San Gabriel
Miss Ruth Nims
4673 Pickford St., LA
Mr. Stephen Pitts
7381 W. 83rd St., LA
Miss Cathey N. Stapleton
324 Paseo de la Playa, Apt. B, Red. Bch.
Mr. Sanford Wohlgemuth
19354 Calvert, Reseda



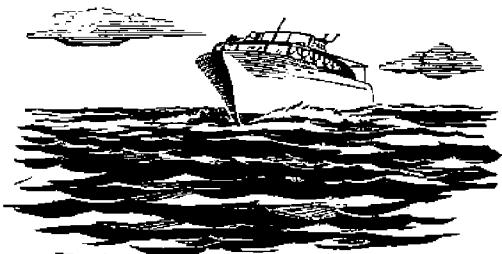
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



By Arnold Small

BIRDS

Dry, windy, smogless days prevailed during late January dispelling any rain clouds and thus hopes for additional precipitation. While temperatures were cool, skies remained clear. Winter birding, nonetheless, was very good. Those venturing offshore found pelagic birds aplenty, and many of them were even seen from the shore. Fulmars abounded at sea, and some even ventured close enough to shore to be identified. In fact, a small number remained in the vicinity of the Newport Pier for some time during December and January. It must have been an excellent year here for Fulmars, since they were seen in Monterey Bay and harbor "by the hundreds."



An excellent short pelagic trip during mid-winter can be had by simply taking one of the half day fishing boats from either Redondo or Santa Monica Piers. These boats venture out some 8 miles and fish for deep-water fish. Those who made this trip early in January were rewarded with numerous Fulmars, a number of Manx Shearwaters, and small numbers of jaegers, Rhinocerous Auklets, Cassin's Auklets, Xantus' Murres, and Red Phalaropes.

Along the coast, at rocky locations, small numbers of Wandering Tattlers were found as well as good numbers of Black Turnstones and Surf-birds. A Rock Sandpiper was suspected at Playa del Rey Breakwater several times, but a satisfactory view was never obtained. Also along the coast, numbers of Western Grebes were down, as were scoters, but Red-breasted Mergansers in stunning breeding plumage were common. Small numbers of Black Brant were seen at Malibu Lagoon and larger numbers were observed at Point Mugu marshes during early February. A single American Brant was found in the San Diego area.

Small numbers of Turkey Vultures were noted in migration during early February and White-tailed Kites were generally scarce, but in the Santa Barbara area a roost of more than 30 birds was located. Louisiana Herons seemed to be

almost everywhere--San Diego, Solano Beach, Newport Bay, and Santa Barbara. The same might be said for Black Rails, alas. Those who see them, seem to be those who've seen them. They were found at Imperial Beach, Solano Beach, and Little Lake (on Highway 395).

The influx of Cedar Waxwings never really reached large proportions, nor did the flight of Robins. The Blue Jay at Mill Creek Canyon was still coming to a feeder there, as was the Broad-billed Hummingbird in San Bernardino. One of the most exciting finds in recent years was the pair of Hepatic Tanagers (possibly the third record for the state) found by David Gaines and Larry Sansone in Hillcrest Country Club, West Los Angeles. It was subsequently seen by many interested observers in the same location where it was found.

Watch soon for migrating Turkey Vultures and White Pelicans, and look for early arriving swallows.

New Checklist Available...

The Field Check List of the Birds of Southern California, published by the Los Angeles Audubon Society has been recently revised by Irwin Woldman and Bob Blackstone and is now available through our Sales Committee. This is designed to be filed in a loose leaf notebook, and is punched for that purpose. It can be obtained either in paper form or cardboard. The price will be two for five cents.

The Florida Audubon Society invited you to send them all used commemorative stamps; these are sold and the proceeds go to the Bald Eagle Fund. Bring stamps to Audubon House or mail to:

Florida Audubon Society
P. O. Drawer 7
Maitland, Florida

California Condor Sanctuary Fund

MAIL
THIS CARD
TODAY!

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

As of February

923

LET'S MAKE IT 1000