

**Some Classifications  
of Classifiers**

**By Douglas M. Dick**

**PART ONE**

**W**ith a respectful bow to the eminent authorities, Messrs. Lyons and Potter, I should like to present a theory of order on the chaos of birding and birders. I would divide us into Classes: Lower Lower Birder, Middle Lower Birder and Upper Lower Birder (these include the naive, the dumbkopfs, and a few spouses who go along as domestic sacrifice), then Lower Middle Birder (lackadaisical tagging along will no longer do), Middle Middle Birder (serious application to songs, Fall Warblers, etc.), and Upper Middle Birder (dedicated and with areas of special knowledge such as nests, eggs and mating rituals), and finally the Upper Echelon--the Lower Uppers (hopelessly addicted and clearly Superior but perhaps with a tin ear or lacking the driving ambition that a really ranking birder must have), the Middle Upper Birder or Penultimate (all the qualifications including Africa, Hawaii, Alaska and Rockport, but unfortunately never mentioned in Peterson's Preface) and finally, the Upper Upper Birder or Olympian, not only in Peterson but an ornithologist and Secretary Udall may sooner or later ask him for advice.

There are many sub- and sub-sub-divisions and these may be re-divided, for instance, Apprentice Lower Middle (or Shaky) status, with instant demotion just around the next bend (one "wait-what-was-that" while smiling and twisting a tweeter behind his back and down he goes). At the other extreme might be the Olympian Birder, Division of Permanent-Security-no-matter-what-stupid-gaff-committed (there are some days when a female Linnet will look like an exotic and that's all there is to it, and if a Reddish Egret is designated a Little Blue Heron, everyone will forgive, if not forget). There is the Assuming Presumptive who assumes a grade above his rightful station and patronizes his True Equal; there are Humble Humilities, Non-combatant Trudgers, Hooked Scoffers,

Continued on page 90



... Assuming Presumptive ...

... Humble Humility ...

... Non-combatant Trudge ...

... Gaping Escapist ...

Gaping Escapists--but special categories and variations are endless and must be beyond the scope of this paper.

We shall try to follow this outline:

- I. Evaluating Fellow Birders
  - A. His knowledge
  - B. His equipment
  - C. Condition of equipment
    - a. Books
    - b. Clothes
  - D. Standards for Life List Inclusion
  - E. Manner and deportment
- II. Opportunities and Pitfalls for the Ambitions Birder
  - A. Things that tend to promotion
  - B. Things that tend to demotion

I. A. Knowledge: Clear lines cannot be drawn but a few broad principles may be stated: A Lower Lower should, even on his first trip, begin to tell gulls and terns from sandpipers and face up to such facts as that weather is changeable, that birds are not always abundant, and that there's nothing the Audubon Society can do about either.

He may begin to disapprove strongly of Rifle Clubs, Motor Cyclists, and Water Skiers.

Shaky Middle Middles often learn some Latin names to drop, but by the time they are True Upper Middles, they have found that the opportunities to drop them are limited and hardly worth the effort it takes to swing the conversation around.

As for the Olympian sphere, it is difficult to state even the kind of special knowledge they have--practically none of which has anything to do with day-to-day bird walking anyway.

B. Equipment: From Aunt Em's opera glasses and a copy of Arizona Highways, insufficient lunch, and open-toed shoes for the January pelagic trip

Through 10 x 50's, Peterson, Hoffman, three volumes of Pough in a fitted satchel, sunglasses, spotting scope, sun-tan lotion, marazine, camera, sufficient lunch for self, spouse and passenger plus some extras (for the Lower who, of course, planned badly and for the Upper who is welcome to it in gratitude for his having come along at all), tweeters and hawk callers (trapped-mouse or maimed-rabbit sounds with practice), extra sweaters, maps and thermoses,

hot and cold--all of which may be organized but should under no circumstances be immaculate.

To a Leica with telephoto lenses, permits to "take," a monograph-in-progress shuffled in with a plane ticket to either a National Seminar or Jungle Safari and a letter from Pettingill asking for local information. Insufficient lunch is optional at the Upper level (see above paragraph about the prerogatives of the aristocracy). In fact, the Upper may very well not bring anything at all if he is so inclined.

#### C. Condition of Equipment:

a. Books: Middle Lower has a brand new Peterson (Arizona Highways) was discarded at promotion from Lower Lower). He may also have one or two books nobody ever heard of, having been badly advised at the book store.

The Middles have a dog-eared-to-mutilated Peterson, a used Hoffman, a cut-down-Annotated, three clean Poughs and a pristine Greenbower(??). Some optionals: Wildflower Guide, "Mammals of North America" (both with original dust covers), "Campsites of California" and, perhaps, "Discover Uranium and Get Rich!" with the pages still uncut.



An Upper may have a brand new Peterson (a Christmas gift from Aunt Em back east and seldom opened). Neither Upper nor Lower can ever find the bird in the book. Lower's clumsy, desperate hurry is pathetic and the Olympian's preoccupied inefficiency is something to be studied by all Middles.

b. Condition of clothing: Middle Lowers have bright new shirts, new white tennis shoes or hiking boots, the open-toes shoes being in the trash with Arizona Highways.

Middles: Disreputable.

Uppers: Deceptive, ranging from ridiculous to nondescript and often cleverly disguised as Tacky Middle or even Abercrombie Lower, his usual aristocratic privilege obtaining.

D. Standards for Life List Inclusion:  
From: Oh-is-that-what-it-was-in-the-top-of-that-tree-great-that-makes-217 (and this is not restricted to Lower Birders only, there are Otherwise Legitimate Lower Middles who have been caught and immediately downgraded on the spot).

Through: "But-I-didn't-see-the-ruby-crown-so-unfortunately-etc.. or "As-a-matter-

Continued on page 92

# Some Classifications of Classifiers

..... Continued

of-fact-I-could-use-it-on-my-American-Continent-List-but-it's-a-trash-bird-in-etc.."

To: The Olympian who has abandoned lists altogether.

E. Manner and Deportment: This is possibly the truest indicator of Class, since in actual practice a crazy Lower could have a station-wagon full of equipment and a True Upper could conceivably have a used Peterson (probably the old edition) but moods and attitudes, like accents in Old England, are infallible.

Lowers often display depression at having missed a silhouetted dot on the horizon, excitement and awe at a red-wing, and are often seen wildly checking, listing, counting and counter-checking. An Upper Lower may make lists according to place, according to season (these are cross-listed) lists of things to take, lists with numbers, numbered lists of numbers, lists of lists and so on. This list mania does not necessarily preclude one from the Middle ranks, but if it persists then the other qualifications and standards must be appreciably raised to offset this peculiar and often lingering defect.

Sometimes an over-humble attitude or a worshipful confidence toward a Lower Middle will be indicative--it's pleasant for the Lower Middle but betrays the poor Lower for the peasant he is.

A Lower should watch such things as incessant pricing of Middle and Upper equipment, he should lose as few pencils as possible, wipe mayonnaise off books and check lists as discretely as possible, for in general, Upper-Lowers have too much uninhibited and undirected fun for the peace of Midd (Uppers are oblivious and, anyway, are on the far hill ahead or two bogs back).

Middles walk with a sort of shambling, energetic doggedness; in the first hours they are sleepy, having neither novelty nor sweet obsession to jar them into the swing of things. In this vulnerable time by the way, one's Class must not be allowed to be jeopardized simply because of a slow metabolism, one must walk with Undoubted Inferiors, Acknowledged Superiors, or with a large anonymous group and say nothing--your True Equal may have gotten plenty of sleep, studied up and have the metabolism of a hummingbird. Later in the day, a really clever Middle may seem a Verging Lower Upper, having conserved energy early and paced himself; he must be watched and parried.

Continued on page 97



# Los Angeles Audubon Society

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY AND NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE  
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46 876-0202  
HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN MRS. LAPRELLE EDENS  
REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS MRS. RUSSELL WILSON



# calendar

ARNOLD SMALL, President  
MRS. DONALD L. ADAMS, Executive Secretary

# June



## JUNE 1965

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			

June 3 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.

June 8 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mrs. Edward (Ruth) Cordner will show a selection from her extensive collection of outstanding slides on nature subjects.  
Program Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536

June 12 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Buckhorn Flat and Chilao. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at parking area near Buckhorn Ranger Station on the Angeles Crest Highway. Many birds will be nesting: Chickadees, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Martins, Red-tailed Hawks. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Russ Wilson 761-7635

June 16 WEDNESDAY CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 P.M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park. This meeting is being turned over to the CONDOR CONSERVATION CORPS. Please note that activity in the Corps is definitely NOT restricted to members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, but is open to anyone who is (and we all should be) interested in the preservation of the California Condor.  
Chairman: Miss Frances Kohn, Director, Condor Conservation Corps 665-0171

June 26 SATURDAY and SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Greenhorn Mountain. This is an over-night camping trip and will involve about 350 miles of driving. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the Rancho Bakersfield. Follow U.S. 99 to Bakersfield, take 24th Street (there is an off-ramp here) and go east about fifteen blocks to H Street. Turn left (north) to the Rancho Bakersfield. Some of us will eat breakfast here and be prepared to leave at 8:00 o'clock. We will caravan to Greenhorn Mountain Park and camp Saturday night at Tiger Flat Campground. Bring warm clothing and warm camp gear, as night may be cold.  
Leader: Otto Widmann CA 1-8973

July 10 SATURDAY - ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER 5:00 P.M. at Ferndell picnic area in Griffith Park (Soroptimist area). Bring: hot dish, salad or dessert; table service; hot coffee or tea if desired. Plan to eat at 5:30. Ferndell is reached from Los Feliz Avenue just east of Western Avenue.

For additional information call Audubon House 876-0202 or 761-7635

## Correction Please

We call our readers' attention to a typing error in R. Dudley Ross' Panama Birding Trip, Part I, in the April Tanager. On page 71 beginning with the next to last line of the left-hand column, the text should read "...Yellow-eared

Toucanet, Lance-tailed and Golden-collared Manakins, White-eyed Pygmy-tyrant...". Our apologies to the author and to our readers. There is no such species as the "White-eyed Toucanet"

# AUDUBON

BY OTTO WIDMAN

## Activities

April 13

Don Adams called the Evening Meeting to order and introduced our guests: Terry Johnson of the Pasadena Audubon Society, Judith Nelson, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pitts, Los Angeles. The recent book on the Condor ("California Condor: Vanishing American" by Dick Smith and Robert Easton) was called to our attention by Jim Denholtz. Les Wood gave us a run-down on the birds seen on the Irvine Park trip and Fran Kohn those seen on the Arroyo Seco field trip. Bill Watson announced that the Conservation Meeting on the 21st of April would be devoted to the organization of the Condor Conservation Corps, under the leadership of John Borneman and Al Ryan. Caroline Adams then read portions of the by-laws regarding the election of officers. Under the heading of field observations: Jim Denholtz reported seeing 12 Black Brants at Point Mugu, Eleanor Pugh an Orchard Oriole at Doheny State Park and Irwin Woldman a Glaucous Gull at Venice Pier.

Don Adams then introduced our speaker of the evening, Mrs. Eleanor Pugh, whose interesting and instructive talk, "Tips on Field Identification of Birds", was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. She pointed out that field observations have made ornithology a part of the "science of life" biology. Accuracy, however, is essential. Overlooking details is a common fault. A thorough knowledge of the field marks of as many birds as possible is the first requisite--a sort of mental index. One should not assume that all of the birds in a flock are the same species nor discount an observation because the bird appears beyond its usual range or habitat. Mrs. Pugh distributed a list of "look alikes" and reiterated her admonition to know your local birds thoroughly and to be alert for the differences which will identify the rarities.

April 23-24

May 1-2

In spite of the threat of heat and wind 64 of the members showed up for the field trip to Morongo and Imperial Valley. Babs Kobaly, who wrote the "Guide to Morongo Valley Wildflowers", and Elwyn and Marie Pollock were guests from Morongo Valley. Those on the first trip saw water birds, counting 57 varieties, the most outstanding being the 500 Black Brant at Mecca. There were Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebes--some Common Golden-eyes were seen. Sandpipers were spotted, Least and Western. Terns were Forster's, Caspian and Black.

The 6 different hawks were Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow. There were also some Golden Eagles. The Imperial Valley always produces White-winged and Ground Doves and Lesser Nighthawks. The highlight among the flycatchers was the Vermilion at Morongo. But not to be outdone, the Summer Tanager was in song in the woods--sounding much like the Black-headed

Grosbeak. Russ Wilson showed his April 24th group 109 species.

Of the 126 species recorded for the two trips the most outstanding groups were the vireos, warblers and finches, although 9 different sparrows were noted. Bell's Vireo was seen in several places as well as the Solitary. On the field check list the only warblers not showing were the Myrtle and Hermit. The Nashville and McGillivray's were seen on the second trip only.

The treat for the May 1 trip was the Parula Warbler that everyone got to see. Some mist-net bird-banders called our attention to the bird and all the westerners added this warbler as rare life bird to their lists. The colorful orioles were the Hooded, Bullock's and Scott's. Western Tanagers were everywhere and hundreds of Wilson's Warblers were migrating.

At Indian Cove where we camped Saturday night, rather than face the heat of the lower valley, we found the desert floor covered with asters, primroses, coreopsis, blue larkspur, and Canterbury bells, matching the sky. There were many others, so abundant you could not walk without stepping on some flower. George Venatta, thinking only of good birding, kept us where we could see the 80 species for the two days.

May 8

Frank Little was in charge of the pelagic trip on this date while others of us were up on the Elizabeth Lake Canyon Road. The boat circled Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands. The highlight of the trip was the sighting of the American Oyster-catcher on Anacapa. Peterson says there is no record in southern California since 1910. (One was seen last May 24 on Anacapa on a pelagic trip of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, and one was present in the vicinity of Avila Beach for several weeks this winter. Ed.) They saw Common, Red-throated and Arctic Loons and Double-crested, Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants. There were also White-winged Surf Scoters. They had a good chance to compare Arctic and Forster's Terns. Of special note was the Pigeon Guillemot seen, and the Wandering Tattler. With this array of birds (a total of 34 species were recorded), this appears to have been a highly successful trip.

May 8

Russ Wilson led us along the Santa Clara River Wash and pointed out some 71 birds to the 34 members and guests. Don and Caroline Adams brought Patti Cummings as a guest. Ursala Mayer made her first trip and a worth while trip it was too. There were Lark, Sage and Song Sparrows and Blue and Black-headed Grosbeaks. There were four woodpeckers: Nuttall's, Downy, Acorn, and Hairy. White-breasted Nuthatches were at Cottonwood Campground as well as Bush-Tits, Wren-Tits, Siskins and a Belted Kingfisher. We were fortunate to see both the Mountain and California Quail on the same trip. Both Vaux's and White-throated Swifts were seen farther up the canyon. Bell's Vireo was at Taylor Camp where we lunched. Warblers were: Wilson's, Yellow, Audubon's and McGillivray's. Several places we heard the Yellow-breasted Chat.

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EDITOR

Robert E. Blackstone  
10363 Calvin Ave. Los Angeles 25

ART EDITOR

Bob Sandmeyer

FIELD NOTES

Arnold Small

CONSERVATION

Bill Watson

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Otto Widman

TYING

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## Buena Vista Lagoon Situation Critical

The long struggle to save Buena Vista Lagoon, one of the few remaining fresh water waterfowl refuges between Los Angeles and San Diego, has reached a crucial stage. This Fall a decision will be made concerning the future source of fresh water that maintains the Lagoon. The community of Oceanside and Carlsbad will decide whether fresh water will continue going there or elsewhere.

If the community realized that the Lagoon sanctuary had great monetary value as a refuge even beyond that of being filled in for a development, the Lagoon could be saved. You can help by visiting the Lagoon now, not only to watch the birds but more important to inform each merchant you may deal with (gas stations, cafes, motels, etc.) that you are there to study the wildlife and if the Lagoon is lost you will no longer make this trip. By this process we could encourage the merchants to support the effort of keeping the freshwater Lagoon as a public park, since it is not only a refuge but an economic asset important to them.

About one-third of the Lagoon has in past years been given to the Nature Conservancy and negotiations are underway to increase the proportion of this holding. However, if the fresh water is cut off the Lagoon will change and probably be lost. The Shoveler and Pintail ducks are among the birds who count on the fresh water as a resting place in their migration.

Postcards will be available from Mrs. Laura W. Shaw, 2034 Lincoln Avenue, Oceanside, Calif.

Always plenty to do

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP AT AUDUBON HOUSE

A cordial invitation is extended to all members who would like to participate in the work of our Society. Dedicated members are now working at Audubon House but they need help.

It has become increasingly important that two members be at the house whenever it is open to the public. Many persons like to visit during their noon hour but with only one member to do necessary cleaning, answer telephone, send out membership information, maintain bird feeder and bath, and various other activities it is impossible to open before 2:00 P.M. The telephone rings, mail must be sent out, files must be maintained even through the 2:00-4:00 P.M. public hours when adults, children and youth groups visiting the park see our open sign and come in to see exhibits, make further appointments and to learn of the work of the Society.

Anyone with even a small amount of time and an interest in conservation and birding can help for a few hours either morning or afternoon (or both) on specific days. Please contact the member in charge of the days most convenient for you: Mondays - Marion Wilson; Tuesdays Shirley Wells; Wednesdays - Elizabeth Rose; Thursdays - Martha Edens; first Saturday Shirley Hallcom; third Saturday C. B. Maynard. These people may be contacted for an appointment by calling Audubon House on the day they are on duty. Week-days from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Saturdays 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. (June 15th to Sept. 1st, 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

Anyone wishing to help with the maintaining of the yard which contains the native plant garden, contact Otto Widmann at Audubon House on Tuesdays.

There is a need for members to help with youth groups from 3:45-5:00 P.M. week-days, either to speak or answer telephone and to help the speaker in any way needed. Contact Mae Wilson 255-3903.

Another activity needing more help and one where members can become acquainted with other members is the mailing of the Western Tanager. Please contact Shirley Wells letting her know which evenings are possible for you.



ornia, which can be left with the merchants who in turn will forward them to the Chamber of Commerce. The cards will contain information of your your visit and ask that the Lagoon be saved.

Huey D. Johnson

Western Regional Director

Wm. N. Goodall

Western Rep.

National Aud. Society



# CONSERVATION

By  
**BILL**  
**WATSON**

In this column I have written about our Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and its current problems. I think that it has been established that these refuges are absolutely necessary to the preservation of our wildlife. But we conservationists have a long way to go before we can be sure that our national wildlife refuges are actually refuges for wildlife. We are not even sure that a national wildlife refuge is permanent establishment.

We must devote ourselves to fighting for more than just the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. All the refuges are presently open for controlled hunting. This is one of the big problems to our wildlife. Their last sanctuaries are no longer true sanctuaries.

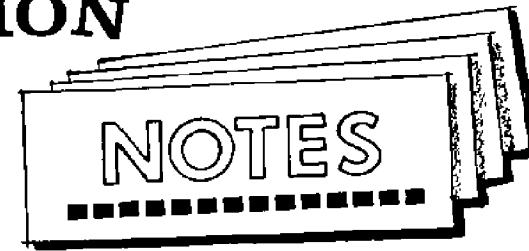
But there are other threats to the refuge system. There is another sort of integration being proposed in Alabama these days. This is the integration of Interstate Highway 65 and the 35,000 acre Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. The Bureau of Public Roads has been ignoring the President's expressed desire that highway location should be governed by the need to preserve natural values of land and the beauty of American scenery. The Bureau is proposing that Interstate Highway 65 be routed through the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has developed the refuge from 1500 ducks in 1939 to 90,000 ducks and 50,000 geese today. There are no other comparable refuges to compensate for the loss of Wheeler. Apparently other agencies are more powerful than the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife because Secretary Udall has been forced to compromise conservation once more by approving an alternative route. This alternative route will still go through the refuge but it would not impair its basic values. I would still call this an invasion of the refuge by inimical interests, however.

This compromise by Secretary Udall is far better than the route proposed by the Bureau of Public Roads. Secretary Udall needs support and encouragement in his defense of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge. His address is: Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Interior Department Building, Washington, D. C., 20240.



Another of our refuges is being attacked in the south and is in danger. This is Horn Island National Wildlife Refuge, off the coast of Mississippi. A bill, S.1223, which has been introduced by Senators James O. Eastland and John Stennis of Mississippi, would require the Secretary of the Interior to sell 2,484 acres of the island for



a housing development. The measure is pending in the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, whose chairman is Senator Henry M. Jackson, (Wash.).

Another senator has spoken out against Budget Bureau efforts to force disposal or transfer of lands at eleven national wildlife refuges. This is Senator Lee Metcalf (Mont.), who has introduced a bill to avert short-sighted give-aways in the future. His S.1816 would require approval of the Migratory Bird Commission before any refuge lands acquired with Duck Stamp funds could be disposed of or transferred to another agency. Senator Roman L. Hruska (Nebr.) joined in sponsorship of S.1816 which is now in the hands of the Senate Commerce Committee.

There is a new wave of conservation sweeping our country. It is my most ardent hope that this momentum will sweep on to assuring the integrity and inviolability of our national wildlife refuges.

Continued on page 98

## Society Officers For 1965-66 Nominated

There being no further nominations from the membership, the Executive Secretary has, in accordance with the by-laws, cast a unanimous ballot for the following slate of officers: President - William Watson; First Vice-president - Donald Adams; Second Vice-president - Miss Laura Jenner; Executive Secretary - Mrs. Donald Adams; Treasurer - Mrs. Herbert Clarke; Registrar - Mrs. Russell Wilson; Recording Secretary - Mrs. Keith Axelson.

## About the Author



If the name Douglas Dick seems to you to have a familiar ring to it, perhaps it is because you have seen it in the cast of one or more of the motion pictures in which he has appeared or on television, since he has followed the profession of actor for many years. Doug is a relatively new birder, having joined the Society in 1960. However, as you see, he has not only become proficient at identifying birds, but has also made some penetrating observations on the foibles and fancies of his fellow birders. We regret that other activities of Doug and his wife Peggy keep us from seeing as much of them as we would like these days.

# Welcome!

## NEW MEMBERS

Miss Gail Gifford Baumgarten  
11990 Laurelwood Dr., Studio City  
Mrs. R. R. Blackwell  
5129 Moore St., L. A.  
Mrs. Thomas Brant  
260 S. Lorraine Blvd., L. A.  
Mrs. Irene T. Burr  
26321 Zephyr Ave., Harbor City  
Louise Bruning Cable, M. D.  
1660 S. Ardmore, L. A.  
Mr. Donald M. Cane  
1073 S. Sycamore Ave., L. A.  
Miss Naomi Caluori  
4343 Maycrest Ave., L. A.

### Some Classifications of Classifiers

Continued...

The Middle Birder enjoys an odd squawk, peep or whoo, but he enjoys calmly. He likes the air, the country or the ocean; he may be interested in rocks or wildflowers (see "Books") but must not be expert. He may be a first rate camper or he may not be, since an Ultimate Birder, Lord knows, can always have been a miserable camper; but Camper as Birder (or vice versa) must be left to a future study..

Uppers manifest quiet dedication, slight deafness and gently condescension. He may say, for instance, to a Lower Middle, "I'll bet you'll be leading one of these groups by this time next year. The answer will be something like, "Oh, well, no--I--really? Do you think so?" He is flattered, re-vitalized and fortunately forgetful. The Upper will leave most of his equipment, if he brought it, unused; needless to say, that ostentatious display is a sure sign of the Bourgeois Birder. Real excitement may be evidenced only on such rare occasions as when a cross-bred warbler has been sighted (probably by some damned sharp-eyed Middle bucking for advancement).

The Upper will see to it that at some point of the day he is the first to leave a comfortably engrossed group as if he were sated, or he will be left behind, engrossed in some mystic and esoteric ritual of his own.

Editors Note: This article will probably be continued in next month's Tanager.

Medea A. Contini  
1451 N. Spaulding Ave., L. A.  
Mr. F. Rigdon Currie  
931 Las Pulgas Rd., Pac. Palisades  
Miss Dorothy P. Farlow  
142 N. LaPeer Dr., L. A.  
Mrs. Betty Green Farmer  
14052 Collis Ave., L. A.  
Mrs. Sylvia Geiselman  
4044 Colonial Ave., L. A.  
Miss Marie P. Girard  
10732 Lawler St., L. A.  
Mr. Julien M. Harwood  
815 S. Highland Ave., L. A.  
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Mr. Arthur Koenig & Family  
Box 689, Topanga  
Mrs. Keith Krueger  
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Miss Nancy M. Lyman  
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6024 Bonsall Dr., Malibu  
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28037 Santona Dr., Palos Verdes Est.  
Mr. R. A. Powell  
218 Tower Dr., Beverly Hills  
Mrs. Anna Rice  
1231 West 161st St., Gardena  
Rene Richards  
11667 Goshen Ave., L. A.  
Mrs. Mary R. Schroeder  
33 Haldeman Rd., Santa Monica  
Miss Barbara Sharff  
8117 McConnell, L. A.  
Miss Jane M. Sharpe  
22020 Pacific Coast Hwy., Malibu  
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9320 Beverly Crest Dr., Beverly Hills  
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245 N. Larchmont Blvd., L. A.  
Mr. Don Tiller  
913 W. Spruce Ave., Apt. 1, Inglewood  
Mrs. Edgar B. Ward  
651 Siena Way, L. A.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Wilson  
5904 S. Datura, #5, Littleton, Colorado  
Mrs. Edith Yerger  
10319 McNerney Ave., South Gate  
Mrs. Gladys Zordich  
16060 Miami Way, Pac. Palisades

### DECEASED:

Mrs. Grace M. Farr Member: 1957-1965  
Mrs. Ralph Cornell Member: 1958-1965

# southern California BIRDS

By Arnold Small

## CONSERVATION NOTES

Continued...

Spring weather produced almost ideal conditions for birding in southern California this year. There were no notable heat waves, the deserts were green with luxuriant new growth and bright with almost unprecedented floral displays. Desert winds, while consistent during May, were not of gale force, the chaparral was as beautiful as I have ever seen it, and the mountain air was crisp and clear. Coastal low clouds prevailed during much of late April and into mid-May, and there were some days when the sun did not succeed in burning off the overcast at all. As witness to the attractiveness of the weather, both birds and birders were evident in force.

The Blue-footed Booby population at Puddingstone Reservoir was reduced by 50% as only a single bird was seen there during the first week in May; the other, with the dangling fishline, having disappeared. The pelagic trip to Anacapa Island and Santa Cruz Island on May 8, while producing very few Alcids, did encounter tens of thousands of shearwaters of several species, migrating loons of three species, some petrels and jaegers, but the best find was an American Oyster-catcher on Anacapa Island. The shorebird migration was about normal, some flocks of Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes were noted along the coast late in April and early in May. The migration of Swainson's Hawks must have been largely missed since no sizable flocks were reported. The same conditions prevailed for the Vaux's Swifts, although conditions along the coast seemed to invite a good migration, the birds were hardly noted at all. Low overcast weather induces the swifts to migrate at much lower levels, but no good flights are reported.

The migration of other landbirds was very good. Big pushes of migrants moved through the lowlands during the first week of May, with the larger flights of Western Tanagers and Swainson's Thrushes coming about May 6 and later. All warblers were present in usual numbers, but the MacGillivray's seemed to have had an exceptional flight. A painted Redstart was found at Morongo Valley about May 1, an Indigo Bunting a week earlier, and a Parula Warbler (male) was seen by scores of birders there on May 1. It was subsequently netted and banded by Jay Shappard.

During June, best birding will be found in the mountains although desert oases will still be worth investigating early in the month.

We know that most Duck Stamps are purchased by hunters because they must buy them in order to hunt wildfowl. I have read in Audubon Magazine that preservationists have purchased Duck Stamps in order to help the program of acquiring lands for the refuge system. This is an excellent idea and one that refutes the theory that only hunters support the program in this way. But it is justifiably claimed that a preservationist is identifying himself as a hunter if he buys a Duck Stamp. It has been suggested that another stamp be made available for non-hunters to buy that would make their donations clearly separate from the hunters' purchases of Duck Stamps. This is another excellent idea and one which we should be working on.

But until there is a conservationists' stamp as a companion to Duck Stamps I have a proposal to make. I propose that all of us who would like to help the refuge program by buying Duck Stamps should band together. In as large a group as possible, we could go to the main post office downtown and publicly purchase Duck Stamps, emphasizing that we are non-hunters. We could notify the press of our purpose and this is the sort of publicity the Los Angeles Audubon Society needs.

I am serious about this proposal. It can be done. I can guarantee the press coverage that would be our assurance that our motives were not misunderstood. The more of us who spent a Saturday morning in this venture, the greater would be our impact. Think about it. It would be your opportunity to help the wildlife by buying a Duck Stamp yourself and not have to be counted as a hunter. It would also prove incontrovertibly that not only hunters contribute to the refuge system.

Everyone who would be willing to make this venture with me can notify me of his or her interest and as soon as we have enough people and hunting season opens again, we can make our play.

We must do everything we can to preserve and augment our national wildlife refuge system. We must get hunting out of the refuges. We must maintain the refuges against all damaging invasions. My proposal is only one way in which this can be accomplished. Expressing your opinions in the right places helps, too. There must be other ideas. Let's think of them and put them to work, too.

While we are still talking "Sanctuary!" let me inform you that the full report on the condor is now available. It is called "The Current Status and Welfare of the California Condor" (Research Report No. 6 of the National Audubon Society), by Alden H. Miller, Ian I. McMillan, and Eben McMillan. Three dollars a copy and you can get it from: National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028.

Have you protested yet?

