

NEW ENGLAND REVISITED . . .

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JANUARY 1966

By Betty Jenner

A dynamic city, as modern as tomorrow -- that is a stranger's impression on seeing Boston for the first time. Only after you've stared at the 52-story Prudential Tower, and at the tall modern hotels and office buildings, do you look around and see the charming old red brick houses, built close together, each with individuality, although alike. Bostonians all seem to be hurrying; students, professional people, shoppers -- all seem vitalized by the tang of sea air and a sense of purpose. From this metropolis our pre-convention bus took us southward for two days at Cape Cod. The surprising aspect of this part of the trip was that the country is covered with trees; pines, oaks, maples, etc., - a restful sight to a Californian's eyes.

The shape of the Cape is likened to a bent arm; at the shoulder, where we left the "mainland," is Cape Cod Canal, a short cut for ships bound for Boston from ports to the south. Bypassing Hyannis, which the native Cape Codders do not consider typical, we arrived at Chatham, at the "elbow," where the real Cape Cod begins. This lovely little town looking east to the Atlantic and south to Nantucket Sound, was the summer home of Ludlow Griscom, to whom followers of the sport of birding owe so much.

Turning northward, past woods and ponds and bays, we arrived at South Wellfleet, where one of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Sanctuaries is located, on the Bay side. Our guides around this charming area were Priscilla Bailey, wife of the Sanctuary director, and Dr. Joe Kenneally (incidentally a top-flight nature photographer). Both of these people are very sharp birders. This is a great help on a trip of such limited time.

It was called to our attention that Cape Cod was formed during the last Ice Age; glaciers carried debris and gouged rock; deep ice formed the depressions that made the numerous ponds. Since most of the streams run from east to west, probably the glaciers forming the Outer Cape lay off to the east. Erosion, melt water, tides, and many other factors formed the land; gradually plants took hold; species of northern, western, and southern origin settled here as they followed climate changes in the wake of advancing and retreating glaciers. When the first explorers arrived, apparently the Cape was covered with black oak forests, and the ground was rich with deep humus.

The Pilgrims, landing at the tip of the Cape near where Provincetown is now, were the first white people to live here, although of course they relocated at Plymouth very soon. As time passed, farmers and shipbuilders, mills and salt works, used up the timber; farmers wore out the land's fertility by over-grazing and poor planting practices. The great whales of the Bay were exterminated, and so, very nearly, were the numerous shorebirds which were ruthlessly killed by market hunters. The GOOD OLD DAYS weren't so good, but there was always more land Out West.

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The Case of DEATH in the ECOSYSTEM

An ornithologist at Amherst, Massachusetts, placed a dead Black-Crowned Night Heron in a container with a colony of flesh-eating beetles. This is a common procedure in preparing a skeleton for scientific use. He discovered some days later that instead of a clean skeleton, the container held dead beetles. The DDT that killed the heron had contaminated its organs. When the beetles ate the contaminated meat, they died.

The heron undoubtedly acquired the DDT by eating fish containing DDT residues. The fish probably acquired the poison by eating stream insects weakened by DDT, or by absorbing it directly from

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Death in the Ecosystem

CONTINUED...

the water through gills and skin. The DDT probably got into the water via wind-drift or runoff from some spray program.

The important factor is: The original target of the DDT was not night herons, nor fish, nor the beneficial stream insects. The DDT had been aimed at something else. But, after its original mission it kept on killing. "Entering the Ecosystem" means that all living creatures that are exposed to a substance such as DDT incorporate it in some manner within their bodies. From there it begins a seemingly endless journey as it is concentrated, re-concentrated, and passed on to progeny and predators.

...MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON NEWSLETTER,
October, 1965

(At the Convention in Boston, after hearing case after case of pesticide tragedy, I asked Roland Clement, "Why can't we stress safe insecticides?" He replied, "There are no safe insecticides, but I will send you a report on our present thinking on the subject." We thank him for sending us the following article ...Ed.)

THE SAFE USE OF INSECTICIDES by

Roland C. Clement, Staff Biologist, Nat.Aud.Soc.

In general, we must remember that nearly all insecticides are poisons and that almost all of them have undesirable effects even when used by professionally trained people. One must now only read the instructions provided by the manufacturer carefully, but must first decide whether an insecticide is absolutely necessary, since these chemicals should always be a last resort.

Despite the tremendous emphasis placed on "reading the directions" and the assurances of safety when directions are followed, this is not enough! A standard dispenser of DDT recommends applying 1 pound of DDT to 800 square feet of lawn, yet this is at the rate of 54 pounds per acre, when we know full well that even only 5 pounds per acre is acutely toxic to birds.

In the "safe" category we can list the botanical-derived poisons, pyrethrum, ryania and rotenone. Dr. Westcott called rotenone "probably the gardener's best chemical friend." It is, however, very toxic to fish and other cold-blooded animals. Its effects last about a week, whereas pyrethrum, though it gives a quick insect kill, especially in warm weather, quickly loses its toxicity.

Nicotine, in the form of nicotine-sulphate spray sold as Black Leaf 40 and under other trade names, and sulphur in various combinations, are two old friends of the gardener. Once again, however, nicotine is a dangerous poison that must be used with care.

Our experience with the new, more potent chemical insecticides which followed the introduction of DDT has served to demonstrate that our knowledge of the effects of most of these poisons has been altogether fragmentary, and that although we have had plenty of discussions of how to use these materials against the insects, relatively little discussion of undesirable side effects has been available largely because such information was never sought for.

Of the chlorinated hydrocarbons (DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, chlordane, toxaphene, BHC, heptachlor) only methoxychlor appears safe enough to use if one is to avoid the undesirable complications of residual action, that is, food chain poisoning such as may cause remote and long delayed effects. The case of robins being poisoned by eating earth worms which have concentrated DDT ingested with the leaves of elm trees sprayed the year before is the most familiar example.

Even such relatively "safe" synthetic chemicals as methoxychlor, malathion, and the carbamate Sevin leave us uneasy until we know much more about the cause of cancer in animals and plants. One school of qualified opinion favors the view that cancer may be caused by the "insult" which foreign molecular substances can cause to replicating cells.

In addition to chemical insecticides, we now have an ally in Bacillus thuringiensis, a bacterial formulation useful against the Lepidoptera (insects with leaf-chewing caterpillars). This is available under the trade names Thuricide, Nutralite and Parasporin.

Remember, however, that the Lepidoptera are the butterflies and moths, and we must certainly use even these new biological agents with due conservatism, and not blanket the countryside with them lest they so depress this insect group that birds will lose an important food supply, and we the butterflies we admire so.

Everyone should be familiar with Milky Spore Disease, another bacterium which has helped control (reduce) the Japanese Beetle in the East. However, so much soil has been turned in developments in recent years, that the bacterium needs to be introduced from time to time.

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New England Revisited

.....Continued.....

After most of the farmers moved on, Cape Cod became a favorite vacationing spot in summer, and a year-round home for those who love the Cape's quiet simplicity. The houses all have the spare, clean lines for which the area is famous.

At Wellfleet Sanctuary, the common bird was the Black-capped Chickadee; there were Myrtle Warblers, Brown Thrashers, White-throated Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, etc. After touring the Sanctuary trails through salt marsh and woods, we went to the dunes of Nauset National Seashore (this is similar to a National Park). We boarded "beach buggies" and rode several miles along the marsh side of the dunes; -- Dunlin, White-rumped Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Dowitchers, Sanderlings, and Semipalmated Sandpipers were to be seen. Little coveys of these last sought shelter from the wind in the shallowest depressions of sand. Here also was the little cabin called Outermost House where nature writer Henry Beston spent a year alone and wrote a sensitive and descriptive book about the changing moods of the Outer Cape.

Driving to the ocean side of the dunes, we gazed at the blue-black immensity of the Atlantic, and the contrasting brilliant whiteness of the breaking waves. An appropriately spectacular bird was here in large flocks, -- the Great Black-backed Gull. Many Herring Gulls were to be seen also.

Death in the Ecosystem

Continued

A new group of silica gels (dessicating agents) appear promising for household insect control in dry places.

One final word: Insecticides should be for emergency use, applied specifically and locally, a shrub here a tree there, not the whole yard. Remember that leaf-chewing by insects is "natural, a part of the normal and constructive cycles that keep the landscape alive. Protect specimen plants you want to show off; let Nature do most of the work otherwise.

And don't let anyone browbeat you into considering that Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was unscientific. You can buy this basic work in paperback form now. Obtain, also, The Use of Pesticides by the President's Science Advisory Committee (15¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402) if you wish to keep abreast of the pesticides controversy.

The following day we returned to Chatham and took speedboat to the northern end of Monomoy a narrow, ten-mile-long sandy island which is a wildlife refuge. Its 3000 acres include salt and fresh marsh, fresh ponds and potholes; dense thickets with ferns and mosses; dunes, and sandy beach. It is almost uninhabited, and has always attracted such ornithologists as Arthur C. Bent, Edward Howe Forbush, and Ludlow Griscom. The checklist numbers 246 species. Since it was a gray, windy day, migrants and resident birds alike were mostly under shelter. Frequent stops of the beach buggy gave us Common Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Mallard, Greenwinged Teal, etc., and when we drove on the ocean side of the dunes we could see rafts of Common Eider, Common, White-winged, and Surf Scoters, offshore. This day the ocean was gray-green because of cloudy skies. By the marshes were Snipe, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and more. Savannah Sparrows were quite abundant. Halfway down the length of Monomoy a wrecked ship can be seen in the ocean; it was the tanker Pendleton, and it caused the death of thousands of ducks from the oil that flowed onto the water when the ship broke open. Strangely, Barn Swallows go out to the wreck and build nests. We could see Double-crested Cormorants using it for a perch.

At the abandoned lighthouse Mrs. Kathleen Anderson was banding birds; a very unusual one that she had mist-netted was a gambel's White-crowned Sparrow.

Space doesn't permit mentioning all the plants; salicornia, bayberry, beach lavender, Iceland moss, reindeer moss, the delicious little beach plum, bearberry, golden aster, high bush blueberry, beach heather, red cedar -- these are only a few.

In addition to Mr. Bailey, our other guide on this trip was Robert Clem, a gifted painter who knows his birds so well that he portrays their characteristics to perfection in his pictures.

Chill wind and rain made the prospect of returning to our hotel in Boston very attractive. That evening we were privileged to see a program of 400 nature color slides; our own member Ruth Cordner had several award-winning slides on this program, which gave us a fine glow of pride.

Serendipity is the word to describe my next field trip, to Concord, Walden Pond, and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge -- since the person sitting next to me on the bus was none other than Helen Cruikshank, whose "Thoreau on Birds" is

Point Reyes Bird Observatory

Many Southern Californians do not know there is an exciting new development in bird observation on the West Coast: a full-time professional non-game bird banding station, the first of its kind in North America, is now operating in the Point Reyes National Seashore. A resident biologist, assisted by qualified volunteers, is carrying out continuous trapping and banding program.

Recovery of birds banded at Point Reyes over the years will help answer some vital questions about the direction, timing, magnitude and manner of bird migration. The Observatory is also developing demonstration program in cooperation with the National Park Service to bring to the public an awareness and appreciation of wildlife in general and birds in particular. The present building includes office, laboratory and dormitory space. More extensive facilities are planned for another location.

The Point Reyes National Seashore is unusually appropriate for bird banding operations. Its remarkable variety of habitats includes surf-battered rocky headlands, protected estuaries and lagoons where waterbirds mass, and highlands with mountains and virgin stands of Douglas Fir and Bishop Pine. Where the Peninsula extends into the Pacific, migrants are highly concentrated in occasional cases of woody vegetation which break the wide rolling

grasslands. More than 300 species of birds have been recorded within the Seashore.

We urge you to become member of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of California. It depends on memberships and private contributions for support. Members are welcome to visit the Observatory; those who are qualified banders or observers may participate in its operations, with the approval of the Director. Limited sleeping and cooking facilities are available at cost to members participating in the observatory program or conducting appropriate ornithological studies. A newsletter and annual report will keep members in touch with all activities.

Member	\$5 annually
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The Western Tanager

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JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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January 1966

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Jan. 23

SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP Lake Norconian. Meet at 6th and Milliken Ave. in Norco at 8:30 a.m. Take San Bernardino Freeway to a point about 15 miles east of Ontario. Take Milliken Ave. south to Norco. An alternate route would be the Santa Ana Freeway and Riverside Freeway (91) to Corona, then north to Norco. We hope for a good display of wintering ducks and water birds. Many Wood Ducks and Black-crowned Night Herons were seen last year.

Leader: Hart Kivett 255-9262

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Always bring binoculars and lunch to field trips. Please, no pets and no collecting.

When unfavorable weather conditions might indicate change in, or cancellation of, a scheduled Field Trip as announced, please call the leader or Audubon House.

Laura Jenner, Field Trips Chairman



NEW ENGLAND REVISITED

CONTINUED

a classic about this area. Walking through the woods and past the ponds on the Borden estate, we had the fine leadership of Mrs. Spencer of Massachusetts Audubon, plus the guidance of Richard Pough, another noted member of our group. To a westerner, the autumn foliage bordering the ponds was breathtaking; red, yellow, pink, orange, all intermingled, flaming reflected in the ponds; and the dark of firs, pines, and spruce for contrast. --Mr. Borden is a famed wildlife movie photographer, and miles of his footage of this area have gone into Walt Disney and other nature films. -- Great Meadows Refuge is one of the best inland waterfowl areas of the state; it is the flood plain of the historic Concord River. The 253 acres include 205 acres of fresh marsh and water, and 48 acres of woodland. This is the end result of a unique citizen's conservation program that amassed key land holdings, and aroused the interest and support of other citizens.

Walden Pond, sadly, was very low; many oaks, too, have been cut down to provide car parking. Heard Pond was another stop of great significance to the devotees of birding. Thoreau began it all: he recorded, in infinite detail, information about the plants, trees and birds of the area. William Brewster picked up where Thoreau left off: from 1868 to 1917, he ranged the Sudbury Valley and compiled the most detailed field notes on bird life ever made in North America. Of course he was a founder of the Nuttall Ornithological Club and the A.O.U. Next came Ludlow Griscom, who made hundreds of trips through the Valley, and did more than anyone else to stimulate interest in sight recognition of birds instead of "shotgun identification." His systems of recognition influenced Roger Tory Peterson to create the books which make possible "birding" as we know and enjoy it.

Drumlin Farm is an Audubon Sanctuary where city children can see firsthand how things grow and what animals are like. You and I don't realize how many children have had no contact with the realities of Nature and growing things. Our last stop was Round Hill where we watched bird banders at work. Under William H. Drury and James Baird, much has been learned about migrants; for instance, they have discovered that the Blackpoll Warbler apparently has a "fat stop" in New England --this is where they "fuel up" for an overseas flight from New England to Venezuela. Here we took a last long look over the countryside with its gently rolling fields, bordered with trees dressed in scarlet, crimson, pale gold, deep gold -- every variation of autumn color.

My last field trip, to Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Plum Island, and Newburyport at the mouth of the Merrimack River, was marred by the bitter cold and wind of the coldest October day of local record. It was worse than the 5-layer weather (the first layer, of course, being thermal underwear.)

The discomfort was balanced by the splendid and good-humored leadership of James Baird, assisted by Sandy Sprunt. They gave most of us life birds in Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Hudsonian Godwit. The day wasn't too productive otherwise except for good flocks of Canada Geese, Black Ducks, Green-winged Teal, and the surprising sight of thousands of Starlings in the thickets of Plum Island. This same trip is described in "Wild America" by Peterson and Fisher, so it is a pleasurable experience for any birder no matter what the weather.

You ask, "Why the title of this article if this was my first visit?"

When I was very young, at my home on the shores of Puget Sound, there was no television, no radio, no color movies, no hi-fi. I didn't feel underprivileged; my parents, each evening, would read aloud from Longfellow, Whittier, Lowell. I knew the "rockbound coast" and the "Wayside Inn" country better than parts of my own state of Washington. This, then, had been a journey to a familiar land.

The last evening I was in Boston, I rode to the "Skywalk," the 50th floor of the Prudential Tower, and watched the sunset. There, against the bright evening sky, was a long, tenuous dark line -- about 200 Canada Geese heading South. How I hoped that they would find their ancestral wintering place intact! Surely we are prosperous enough to be able to afford to let our wild citizens keep their homes.

Surely we can't afford not to.



Audubon Activities

by OTTO WIDMAN

November 13 - SANTA BARBARA FIELD TRIP

Our guest for the day was Dean Weber from Clinton, Maryland. He had 62 species pointed out to him; almost all were life birds a good beginning for one day's outing. Our delight at seeing a Wood Duck was commonplace for him, but not so the many Audubon's Warblers. Dave Robison, our leader for the day, reported seeing a Wood Ibis at Carpinteria. There was the usual run-of-the-pond at the bird refuge until a Red-breasted Merganser was spotted, then a Belted Kingfisher. There were Snowy and American Egrets. On the Campus we saw Say's and Black Phoebes, Snowy and Black-bellied Plovers and Green Heron. In with some Sanderlings we spotted a Long-billed Curlew. By the pier at Goleta Beach Russ Wilson identified a Red-throated Loon; Marion "yohoed" me across the sand and I arrived in time to add this life-bird to my list. There were several flights of Water Pipits along the beach. Overhead were Forster's and Royal Terns. Further down the beach we could see Spotted Sandpipers and Greater Yellowlegs. Our list showed Western, Piedbilled and Eared Grebes. The duck list was varied, but few individuals: Widgeons, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Shovelers, Surf Scoters, many Pintails and others. Among the four gulls were Ring-billed and Bonaparte's. Albert and Florence Myers made the trip and enjoyed the pleasant but overcast weather; this was the day before the deluge. There were occasional spatters of rain that wet nothing. Francis Kohn and Ellen Stephenson came prepared for the rain, which never showed up. We were glad to see Clair and Louise White after a long absence. Pat Powell and Charis Irwin brought our list of participants to 19. Considering the weatherman's threats this was quite a crowd.

I have two Nota Bene: A member of long standing, Dorothy Askin, introduced herself but with her new name. She is our own former Miss Dorothy Groner. I failed to mention that Miss Charis Irwin introduced herself at the November Evening Meeting.

November 17 CONSERVATION MEETING

President Bill Watson was fortunate in getting the film, "Bulldozed America." Willard Tidwell of the San Fernando Audubon Society brought his projector and screen along, so we put the two together to see some scenes of what the bulldozers are doing to America. Whole hillsides, forested and green, are being stripped for mining of near-surface coal in Kentucky - the damage is as great as

hydraulic mining was in our western states. This is a vital industry but the damage is permanent. The lumber industry, also vital and of great proportions, is stripping the land without the replacing necessary for the rebuilding of the land. There were many views of our public parks and campsites, showing the overcrowding, overusing, and abusing of them; then there was the long line of people waiting to get in. Justice William O. Douglas spoke briefly on the theme, "The machine must not be the master," ending on the note, "this land was made for you and me." The message was clear.

The second film was "Islands of Green" which was one answer to stopping the bulldozers. It was the story of Audubon Nature Centers throughout the country, including our own El Monte Center, and what is being taught there. The centers are outdoor laboratories and classrooms where the total annual community is recorded and exposed for all to see and appreciate. These areas that have been set aside are left untouched so that each phase, each section, each life cycle can be shown to the classroom of life--ages 9-90. We should be able to experience the wonders of outdoors, unvarnished, with these specialists ready and eager to point them out to us.

The contrast of the two films was amazing yet instructive; the one showing the tearing down, the other the conserving and building up. The lesson was plain to see.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

November 28 EATON CANYON FIELD TRIP

Before we began our "birding" at Eaton Canyon County Park we were introduced to our guest, Lee Winter, who has done extensive birding around New York. Our other guest joined us later: Ned Oshins. New memt on their first field trip with us were Bob and Bonnie Kennedy. It was a beautiful day and the 33 of us spread out over the canyon floor; the river was still too deep to cross. Of particular note were the wrens; the five different birds were: Cactus, House, Bewick, Canyon and Rock (plus Wrentit). The woodpeckers were Acorn and Downy with many Red-shafted Flickers flying about. An unusual sight was having the Steller and Scrub Jays together. We saw Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees. The Golden-crowned Sparrows sang their way up and down the Canyon walls; the White-crowned joined in occasionally and at the canyon head we heard and saw the Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Laura Lou Jenner moved us about at a leisurely pace and about mid-morning we convoyed to the upper end of the park where we could cross the bridge to bird on the other side. Here we saw Swainson's Thrush and Cooper's Hawk. Along the skyline Red-tailed Hawk and White-throated Swifts traced patterns against the sky. We heard Quail and saw Western Bluebirds, Bushtits, Wrentits, and Plain Titmouse. We were

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.....THE.....

Audubon Scene

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

...In AGAINST THE AMERICAN GRAIN, literary critic Dwight MacDonald says: "We Americans are hunters rather than artists, practical race...men of action rather than thought or feeling ..our homes, our cities, our landscapes are designed for profit or practicality but not generally for beauty.... Children are told: 'You may look but you mustn't touch,' that is, 'You mustn't change what you look at.' This would be good discipline for Americans--just to look at things once in a while without touching them, using them, converting them into means to achieve power, profit, or some other practical end.

"In a very real sense, this above-stated ingrained idea, this "American Ethic" if you will, that everything must be changed, channeled and put to some practical use is embraced by the mass of Americans and constitutes one of the bigger psychological barriers we conservationists have to overcome if we are to win more of our countrymen to our point of view."

BULLETIN OF SEQUOIA AUDUBON SOCIETY,
Dec., 1965

DEFINITIONS:

A STATE RESERVE is primarily for the preservation of areas of natural scenic or scientific significance. Development is for the purpose of making the area available for public enjoyment.

A STATE PARK consists of an area of outstanding natural qualities preserved in their original condition and providing recreation which will not be detrimental to the natural features.

A STATE RECREATION AREA is selected and developed primarily to provide recreation.

...From the proposal for an addition to TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE

John Larson, National Audubon Wildlife Warden, discovered a Little Blue Heron off Marin's bay shore August 31. A total of five sightings since then by several observers has yielded at least two separate adult birds....A Black-billed Cuckoo and a Tree Sparrow were banded at Point Reyes Bird Observatory.... Val DaCosta reports from Rodeo Lagoon: Swamp Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Oldsquaw, Hooded Merganser, House Wren, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, all Between October 28 and November 9. From Inverness, a Black Rail.... On Mt. Tamalpais, five Lewis Woodpeckers and Poorwill.... Many Pectoral Sandpipers have been seen in marshy mudflats.

--THE REDWOOD LOG, Marin Audubon Society, Dec., 1965

44 Whooping Cranes in Refuge

Austin, Tex., Dec. 10 (AP)

Forty-four rare whooping cranes have checked in for the winter at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reported today.

The figure is two more than the number of birds which left last spring for Canadian mating grounds.

The department said one crane was killed after colliding with a high line in Kansas en route to Texas. Its body is being mounted for exhibit at the wildlife refuge.

Gordon Folzenlogen, assistant refuge manager, said his year's whooper colony includes eight young hatched this year and at least some of the 10 young hatched in 1964.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 25 (UPI)--Mrs. Ethel Edmonds, 64, must go on trial January 25 on a misdemeanor charge of feeding pigeons. (Ed. Note: Now we are getting somewhere in the war against crime!)

southern California

BIRDS

by DAVID A. GAINES

November birding often amounted to dodging raindrops, hardly the usual pastime at this time of year. After 11 or more inches of rain, one wonders if there is still such a thing as "sunny California." Among the unfortunate consequences of the wet weather was the demise of the main dike at Upper Newport Bay. The large area in the back of the bay that was formerly the favorite haunt of wintering waterfowl now becomes a gigantic mudflat at low tide. Nevertheless, G. Sumway Suffel observed good numbers of ducks there in late November. This leads to the conclusion that the ducks will remain provided the wintering water skiers leave sufficient room for them at low tide.

Varied Thrush, an occasional visitor from the north, was widespread this fall. These robin-like birds were reported almost everywhere, from Morro Bay to San Diego, from the top of Mt. Frazier to Rancho Park Golf Course. Another northerly bird, the Lewis' Woodpecker, was also found at several locations in the higher mountains. Additional occurrences of these birds can be expected throughout the winter.

Several odd ducks appeared in the southland last month. For the second consecutive year, a European Widgeon joined the waterfowl at Newport. Even more exciting were the pair of male Barrow's Goldeneyes at the Salton Sea. These birds, the third and fourth southland records, were found by Shirley Wells. An albino Surf Scoter was located at Playa del Rey by birders in search of the elusive Rock Sandpiper. At least one, and possibly two, Rock Sandpipers arrived on the rock breakwaters in November. Unfortunately, the only time they would be found with certainty was during a storm or at dawn before the fishermen arrive. They can be expected to winter among the Surfbirds, Turnstones, and Tattlers.

Longspurs and the Brown Thrasher abandoned San Diego in mid-November, but a Chestnut-collared Longspur was found by Larry Sansone at the Salton Sea on the Thanksgiving weekend. Other birds at the Sea included two late Laughing Gulls and a Western Gull. Back in San Diego, a Cattle Egret chose to roost in the Tijuana River Valley (where else?), and an Eastern Phoebe was found nearby. Farther north at Doheny Beach Palm Warbler remained through the month, and a lingering Osprey at Laguna raised hopes it might winter. The Baltimore Oriole appeared in Santa Barbara and West Los Angeles together with the more common Bullock's. A Wood Ibis at Goleta was interesting, of course, but the real gem was a Canada Warbler at Morro Bay. This bird,



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Torrance, California 90501

reminder

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL DINNER

Tuesday,
★ January 11th.

ROGER YOUNG AUDITORIUM

Audubon Activities

(CONTINUED)

glad to have Lorraine Anagnos along for this outing. Dorothy, Harold and Mabel Baxter showed up briefly for a glimpse at the birds. We welcome Mrs. C. J. Parker to our field trips. Our list showed 40 species seen.

new for the entire west coast, was watched carefully by four observers as it flitted around the state park.

An excellent, though seldom-birded locality, is the Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley. During Thanksgiving, I had the good fortune to visit this area. Among the 55 species of bird I recorded were ten species of duck, two Vermilion Flycatchers, a Yellow-shafted Flicker, Gray Vireo, and Palm Warbler.

January is an excellent month to examine all flocks of birds for those less common winter vagrants. Keep an eye on feeders and city parks. Remember, cemeteries and golf courses within the city limits are "oases of green" for avians, and as such, provide some of our finest winter birding.