

Volume 32 Number 7
MARCH 1966

A Year in the Life of Your Condor Warden

By JOHN C. BOURNEMAN

On February 1, 1965, I officially started working in the capacity of National Audubon Society Condor Warden. Probably the biggest difficulty at the onset of my position was to know just what a condor warden was supposed to do. Since there had never before been a condor warden, I had no else's experience to draw from.

My first few weeks as condor warden were taken up with hearing about an overwhelming number of places and meeting an overwhelming number of people. I was referred to as the "buzzard inspector" and learned quite soon not to show any sort of annoyance at hearing *Gymnogyps californianus* called the "fancy buzzards," "big ol' buzzards," and so forth. Reports of condor nests in unlikely places and of condors doing unlikely things were a part of my everyday field contacts. Of course the numerous false reports of condors being shot were told me in hopes of getting me un-hinged. Many of the ranchers who spotted me as a greenhorn clewed me in on avoiding the conversational and physical pitfalls. The local game wardens and Forest Service personnel were most helpful in showing me the country and introducing me to local residents.

Now that a year has passed, some of the meaningless names and places have become familiar as peaks, canyons and ranches. Many of the people have become my friends. The chaparral has become a unit of sights, sounds, smells, temperatures and textures that continually change; sometimes subtly, sometimes abruptly, as the seasons change.

The condor is no longer merely a rare, spectacular bird, but now is to me a creature that exemplifies God's wisdom in designing this earth. The concentrated study of a creature such as the California Condor as it is related to its total environment makes one quite aware of the inadequacy of man in the role of designer and planner.

The California Condor may survive because of us or in spite of us; it may become extinct because of us or in spite of us. Many questions about the condor have been answered and many more questions remain and may never be answered. Whatever the outcome, the effort expended toward the conservation of the California Condor or any other endangered species should give us cause to take a more humble attitude toward the use of our natural resources.

Much needs to be done toward educating the great numbers of people in California. It is easy to criticize those who engage in the so-

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Do-Gooders and Bleeding Hearts

By BILL WATSON

I heard that great conservation Congressman, the Honorable John P. Saylor, deliver the Keynote Address of the Annual National Audubon Convention in Boston last year. It was a fighting speech if I ever heard one. It was a challenging speech, too.

Congressman Saylor said something that has remained with me ever since. He said, "I know you have been called names, you have been ridiculed. Let me tell you -- those who are not willing to stand up and be counted had better get out now because the fight is going to get tougher....

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COUNTING CONDORS

BY RUSSELL WILSON

Our second condor count was conducted August 28, 1965, and produced an entirely different pattern from that of July 24. There were no condors observed from Lake Piru, Whitaker Peak, and Rose Valley, just as was true on the first count; three at Figueroa Peak; three at Frazier Peak; four at Squaw Flat; and five at Reyes Peak. Of great interest were the observations made from Mt. Abel and Mt. Pinos where condors were in sight almost continuously from 9:25 a.m. to 5:06 p.m. Whereas the count of July 24 seemed to show a pattern of condors soaring outward, away from the refuge area in the morning and a pattern of flight back toward the refuge in the afternoon, no such pattern was discernible on the 28th of August. The birds seem to have remained in the area of the count, due no doubt to the availability of deer carcasses provided by hunting activities which were still in progress.

The party on Mt. Abel had nine good observations, including one adult which perched in good view for 55 minutes, but not including groups of four and seven, and six and eight and nine that they could see over Mt. Pinos at various times during the day. For the group on Mt. Pinos Merritt Dunlap prepared a detailed, minute-by-minute log which contains sixty-nine time entries and one hundred and eleven sightings of condors. There follow a few quotes from his covering letter.

"We had a fantastic day on Mt. Pinos August 28, as the attached list will show. Of particular help were Harold and Dorothy Baxter, and Vernon Mangold and his daughter, Stephanie. In general we occupied 5 points on the peak continuously from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with other birders in between. The place was like 7th and Broadway, complete with hunters, Gemini watchers, and others.

"I hesitate to try to interpret the condor sightings. From all our notes I have compiled one list.....There were 11 verified sightings.....By eliminating possible duplications of individual birds, I come up with 36 adult individuals, 4 juveniles, and 4 immatures.

Our third count scheduled originally for September 25 was cancelled due to the plan of the State Fish and Game Department, with the help of the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service and the Audubon Society,

to conduct a count on October 16 and 17, which would place observers in all of the roosting and feeding areas of the condor in its present range.

Counting condors proved to be quite different from counting chickens in one's back yard. Experienced observers had no difficulty distinguishing between condors and turkey vultures or golden eagles and under favorable conditions could make out immatures and juveniles with considerable certainty. However, the ability of these birds to soar great distances in one day made it difficult to estimate the numbers that were seen at more than one station as well as the numbers seen repeatedly at single station.

One fact seems to have emerged quite clearly. Those who want to see condors should try the top of Mt. Pinos or Mt. Abel.

A Year in the Life of Your CONDOR WARDEN

...Continued

called "mass recreation" activities. There are people who never had a teacher or parent to stimulate their appreciation of the out-of-doors as a place where one can find "thrills" of another sort. The task of conservation education is gigantic and can only be carried out by people, for people.

While sitting outside the cage of the Los Alamos Condor at the Griffith Park Zoo, many people came and asked, "Is that the sick condor that we saw on TV?" They would peek in through a slit in the burlap cage cover and make a variety of remarks, ranging from "beautiful" to "scary." They asked questions, some of which were extremely naive. These people are representatives of the masses of people in America who find wildlife exciting and interesting. But all too often, these are the people who are unaware of the extent and types of pressures that threaten our plant and animal life. They are perhaps more fortunate than those who are aware of the rapid decline of our natural resources. Maybe those of us who get engulfed in the ecological implications of conservation, or become too engrossed in adding a "lifer" to our list and dismiss the "common" from our appreciation, have something to learn from these folk.

As we keep moving into the year with its conservation problems looming, it is a good time to review our Statement of Audubon Philosophy, and renew our efforts. The task may be difficult, but the rewards are well worth it.

Do-Gooders and Bleeding Hearts

Continued

It is about time you asked the people who represent you, not only on a national but a state and local level, where they stand with trying to maintain the conservation field in a better position than it is now.

The first sentence of that statement is what this article is going to be about:

I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED NAMES, YOU HAVE BEEN RIDICULED.

When was the last time we were called "do-gooders," "bleeding hearts," "birdwatchers?" If you listened closely you could be hearing us called those names somewhere at this very moment.

I don't know that I am unhappy about being identified in such terms. As for the first, who openly wants to be a "do-badder?" I'll tell you who - those who want to continue amassing fortunes by raping our country of its beauty and natural resources at the public expense.

As for the second, yes, I am a "bleeding heart." I eternally grieve for the virgin, old-growth redwoods that are being cut down today, now. I grieve for fresh air in our city for our children to breathe. I grieve for the beautiful city that we do not yet live in. I grieve for much. But I don't grieve for the fortune I never made because I did not open up a park downtown in order to get my glue hands on some cheap real estate close to the Civic Center. I don't grieve for the fortune I did not make in fighting to keep National Park status from old-growth redwoods. I grieve instead that my human civilization has brought the California condor to its knees, unable to cope with human encroachments, when it had been able to prosper in the days of the sabre-toothed tiger, even in the days of Digger Indians.

And I am a "birdwatcher, with no apologies. Who ever said that I had to go around wearing blinders and positively refuse to look at a prominent part of the outdoor scene? I have gained a heightened awareness of everything around me because of my training in birdwatching. I can walk down the street and see an unnatural fluttering in a leaf of a tree that is evidence of a bird moving about. I see this out of the corner of my eye. I sit in an office in a conference and my eye wanders out to see a gull wheeling about over the parking lot across the street. I make a left-hand turn while driving in the city and see a flock of black-

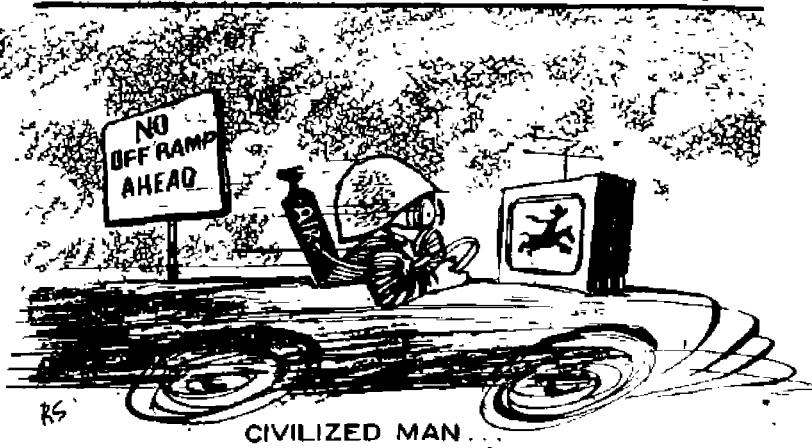
birds busily feeding in a lawn. All of this is a skill I have carefully cultivated as I have many other skills such as reading the English language, or driving an automobile. If I am derided for this, the fault is not mine. The fault is of the ignorance (let us hope not stupidity) that spawns the derision.

Those who oppose us are therefore guilty of sloppy vocabulary and pure and simple name-calling. The sloppy vocabulary does not end there, either.

At a hearing recently, I heard a very interesting bit of reasoning spoken by a man. He was defending the concept of setting aside wilderness. He was re-defining the idea of doing this by carefully explaining that the Sierra Club and others are not guilty of "closing" wilderness. He said that universities are, in effect, closed to those who have not adequately prepared themselves to get into college. Libraries are obviously closed to non-readers, illiterates. What use is a book to someone who can't read? It is "closed" to him.

In the same way, wilderness is closed to the illiterate in wilderness experience. If you do not know how to take care of yourself in the wilderness you must stay out or take your chances on possibly dying in the wilderness. The first men were born into the wilderness and the entire history of civilization is of the struggle of mankind to find insurance against the pitfalls of living in the wilderness. This ancient struggle has built man's better traits of character. None of us has ever become anything except by making the effort. Early man made the effort that brought us, his descendants, to our present level of civilization.

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The WESTERN TANGER'S
Special Award of Merit to

CAROLINE ADAMS
and her intrepid typewriter

for typing this entire issue of our illustrious paper.



Or Shall We Call It PRESERVATION?

By Betty Jenner

"My birding friends in the East consider the Condor to be a creature of fable, like the Roc and the Phoenix; they can't imagine ever seeing one!" So remarked a visiting New Yorker, Lee Winter, a guest on one of our recent field trips.

Of course many of us have been fortunate enough to see the great birds -- perhaps soaring, or perched, or carrying out their duties as scavengers. What can we do in order that bird enthusiasts from distant places -- and in the distant future -- may have this thrilling experience?

1. We can support the Condor Fund with the amount of money that we can afford -- and just a little more.

2. We can tell others of the Fund, and of our belief that this species need not be sacrificed for superficial reasons.

3. We can let our lawmakers know how we feel -- by letter or telegram.

In the broad spectrum of Preservation, the least prosperous of us, financially, may make the greatest contribution by influencing some youngster toward becoming a Pettingill or Cruikshank of the future.

The most prosperous of us, financially, can create an enduring memorial by contributing an endowment fund so that our Society may become as potent a "preservation" force as our friends of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, whose generous grant from Miss Hathaway has made them able to hire full-time naturalists. All of our Los Angeles Audubon Society efforts are performed by volunteer workers.

These efforts are being observed all over the world. I will close by quoting a letter received by Rich Miller, President of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, as reported in the Oct., 1965 "El Tecolote."

LETTER FROM THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

Dear Mr. Miller,

The Duke of Edinburgh who is President of the British National Appeal of the World Wildlife Fund, has asked me to express his concern at the

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Miss Gina Balaban
4125 Terraza Dr., L.A.

Mr. Larry Bomke
261 Buena Ventura, Redondo Beach 90277

Mr. Richard Bradley
2209 Via Pacheco, Palos Verdes Estates 90274

Mr. Donald Falconer
37 Saddleback Road, Rolling Hills 90274

Mr. Robert Wesson Flather
3124 Hermosa Ave., Hermosa Beach 90254

Mrs. Louise Marie Kennedy
622 S. Serrano Ave., L.A. 90005

Mr. Philip A. Silverstone
706 N. Vendome, L.A. 90026

Mrs. Irene Streeter
980 E. Parkman St., Altadena 91001

Mr. Roger Maxwell Vivian
Box 46-323, Hollywood 90046

Mrs. Edith H. Wallace
2360 Fair Park Ave., L.A. 90041

Mrs. Lisa H. Walters
Minard Rd., Topanga, Calif.

imminent threat to the dwindling population of California Condors posed by the Topa Topa Dam Project.

His Royal Highness is not, of course, conversant with all the factors in this controversial issue, but he feels strongly that great efforts should be made to avoid any action which could further reduce the numbers of Condors below the present 40-odd birds.

The World Wildlife Fund firmly believes, with your Society, that a materialistic engineering project such as the one proposed cannot be justified at the cost of exterminating the unique and magnificent Condors, in whose survival conservationists all over the world are actively interested.

His Royal Highness asks me to say how much he hopes a solution will be found which will not destroy the Sespe Wildlife Sanctuary or jeopardise the California Condor.

Yours sincerely,

signed/Peter Scott

Los Angeles Audubon Society

WILLIAM T. WATSON, President
1249 N. EDGEWATER AVE., APT. 12
LOS ANGELES 90029 661-8570

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, Executive Secretary
705 26 STREET
MANHATTAN BEACH 90266 372-5536



CALENDAR

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY & NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE,
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046

TELEPHONE 876-0202

HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. J. GORDON WELLS
REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: MRS. RUSSELL WILSON

MARCH

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Mar. 3 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

Mar. 5 SATURDAY - SPECIAL FIELD TRIP - Audubon Center of Southern California, 100 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., go south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., then left to N. Durfee and Audubon Center. Bring a sack lunch; hot tomato soup will be served. See and hear the cardinals! Meet near the headquarters building about 8:30 a.m.

Host: Paul Howard, Director

Mar. 8 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park
Gerald Campbell of ABLE (Action for a Better Los Angeles Environment) will present a three-part slide program of great interest on the national as well as on the local level.

Program Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536

Mar. 12 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.

For information call: Audubon House - 876-0202 or RI 8-7510

Mar. 16 WEDNESDAY - CONSERVATION MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. The film "Poisons, Pests, and People" will be shown. The effects of the widespread use of chemical insecticides have brought about a problem of major concern today, resulting in a storm of protest. This film sums up some of the facts and findings on the subject.

Chairman: Bill Watson - 661-8570

Mar. 23 WEDNESDAY - WILDLIFE FILM - 8:00 p.m., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Place, Los Angeles. This is the final program of the year...will it be our Final Program? We are in the red since we have to pay for the auditorium..We need a free auditorium or a hot-shot press agent. Any suggestions?

Three islands of the Pacific Ocean have been of great importance in developing air routes to Australia. They include Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands; little Canton Island on the equator; and Viti Levu, the large island of the Fiji group, a Crown colony of England. Rich in wildlife and local color, these islands come to life for Audubon viewers in a striking film presented by Patricia B. Witherspoon.

Mar. 27 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Irvine Park, Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neill 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 - RI 8-7510

April 7 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CALENDAR

CONTINUED

April 9 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP - Chantry Flats - 8:00 a.m. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., north to Poothill Blvd., east to Santa Anita Ave., north to the end of Santa Anita Canyon Road. Come prepared for a mile hike (down-and-up) to the canyon stream. Migrants should be coming through.
Leader: Harold Baxter - 355-6300

April 12 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park
Speaker to be announced

On field trips, always bring lunch and binoculars. Please, no pets and no collecting.

conservation

NOTES By BILL WATSON

Secretary Udall is urging Americans to join in helping endow the Nation's future outdoor recreation estate by purchasing the new \$7 gold-colored entrance permit for Federal recreation areas.

"By participating as national partners in conservation," Udall said, "we buy a share in the California Redwoods, a bit of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a vista from Spruce Knob, or a quiet green spot near a great city where children can play.

"I regard the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is supported by revenues from entrance permits, not only as the muscle whereby we can retain our outdoor heritage, but as a symbol of American's determination to save and create outdoor beauty near our homes and in our wild lands."

Officially called the Federal Recreation Area Entrance Permit, the new wallet-size card printed in gold ink is the successor to the Recreation/Conservation Sticker introduced last year.

Secretary Udall says that the new permit will go on sale in March at numerous Government Offices, many offices of the American Automobile Association, and at entrance points to most Federal recreation areas.

Secretary Udall also declared recently that "despite unprecedented conservation action in 1965, we are still losing the overall battle to save America's endangered species of fish and wildlife from extinction."

"Unless the Nation as a whole soon becomes aroused over the environmental crisis which threatens these species, we run the risk of further damaging these and other forms of life as well," he said. "The sheer power of the population and technological revolutions may make man himself an endangered species in many parts of the earth.

"Despite the best efforts of scientists, private organizations, and concerned citizens, the battle to save our natural heritage is far from being won," Udall said. "What we allow to happen to rare and endangered species of wildlife may become our own destiny too."

The stakes go far beyond the wishes of nature lovers and bird watchers, Udall said.

"Every species, being unique, may prove essential in current and future scientific research into the mystery of life itself. Each species is a part of the food chain which supports other species. Each has a function to perform. Man is a part of the vast web of life and cannot escape the natural consequences of his actions."

"If a dam is to be built, if a shoreline is to be moved, if a swamp is to be filled, or a wooded area stripped of its cover, let us at least consider what we are doing before we take action that cannot be reversed. Sound, coordinated planning can save us from disaster," Udall said in a year-end status report.

Secretary Udall followed all this by ordering new protective steps to halt the steady decline of the bald eagle - America's symbol - in the contiguous 48 states. He directed that bald eagle nesting sites on National Wildlife Refuges be closed off to protect the birds from disturbance during the nesting season. Approximately one square mile will be provided for each nesting area.



Audubon Activities

by OTTO WIDMAN

Mrs. Kay Hardt kindly wrote the following for me about the Annual Dinner Meeting at Rodger Young Auditorium on Jan. 11:

"Serengeti Shall Not Die, a color film about conservation of animal life of the Serengeti Plain in Tanganyika, Africa, was enjoyed by about 150 members and friends who attended the dinner. John C. Holland, councilman for the 14th District of Los Angeles, was awarded a plaque commending him on his support of conservation. Dr. Young, Director of the Los Angeles Zoo, gave a report on the sick California Condor which was brought to the zoo, treated, and released in the Condor Refuge.

Jan. 23 Field Trip - Lake Norco. Much to his regret, Hart Kivett had to work, so Laura Lou Jenner, Field Trip Chairman, led us into the ordinarily restricted area around Lake Norco. Until 10 o'clock, fog kept visibility to practically zero. We could hear Widgeon on the lake, and Audubon Warblers in the trees. Many Crows and Meadowlarks could be heard. When the fog was dispelled by the sun, Pintails, Cinnamon and Greenwinged Teal, and a few Bufflehead could be seen. The many Black-crowned Night Herons flew about for new perches in the eucalyptus; there were a couple of Green Herons among the dozen Double-crested Cormorants. The sharpness of the reflection of the color on the Mallards and Baldpates in the glass-like water made me wish for my camera. Gradually we picked out Gadwalls, Shovelers, and Pied-billed Grebes. A Ring-billed Gull followed a Kingfisher erratically across the lake. White-throated Swifts were at tree-top levels. Along the water's edge were the Yellow-throat, Black Phoebe, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. In the picnic area we saw Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-shafted Flicker, and Say's Phoebe.

We had guests: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Meteer from Tucson, Arizona. This was their first birding with us. John and Wilma Hood joined us also. Our new member was P. Silverstone - Welcome! Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lohr brought their son, Lewis, and his family along for the first time. About 54 people saw 54 birds for the day. The last ones I saw as I was leaving were a Mountain Chickadee and several Common Gallinules.

We thank Mary and Bill Hood for the new mounted birds in the display cases - Spotted Dove, Mourning Dove, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and an immature California Quail.

Audubon Camp Scholarship Fund Is In Serious Difficulties

After consultation with the Executive Board I must report to the Society that our Wildlife Film Program has been a financial failure this year. Indeed, as the sole source of revenue for our Audubon Camp Scholarship Fund, the Program has failed us completely and will probably lose money this year.

When we contracted for the series this year, we had no idea that it would be the first year in which the Board of Education would change its policy and charge us so much for the use of the John Burroughs Junior High School Auditorium that we would be left without any profit at all from the undertaking.

When we became aware of the increased cost of the Auditorium it was too late to make any change.

In the past we have been able to send several worthy people to Audubon Camp of the West each summer. I am not sure that the situation cannot be remedied. The cost to the Society of one scholarship is \$125. We are holding three reservations for Audubon Camp of the West this year. Shall we cancel them or does our membership want to fill the gap in the Fund left by the increased costs of the Auditorium rental?

If you wish to make a contribution to this conservation education program of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, you may do so by sending it to Mrs. Olga Clarke, Treasurer, Los Angeles Audubon Society, 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, Calif., 91208.

Every effort will be made to continue our Wildlife Film Programs next year, only on a profitable basis. Watch for developments.

Bill Watson

The staff at Audubon House greatly appreciates the additional help they've had recently from Julia Dembrowski, Marge Parker, and Alice Fries.

The Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association is beginning a new Zoo Guide Training Course the first of March. Classes will be held at the Zoo's Administration Building one day a week for three months. Volunteer guides will be especially needed for the large aviary section when the new zoo opens this fall. If anyone is interested in this program, please phone Joan Mills, CR 5-4821.

The AUDUBON SCENE

News of other societies

Monday, March 21, will be the date of the Charter Meeting of the Morro Coast Audubon Society. Preliminary meetings have had an attendance of about 100; these good citizens are greatly concerned about the problem stated below. Please read it carefully, and be able to quote these facts when argument arises, as it surely will.

WHY MORRO BAY TIDELANDS SHOULD BE PRESERVED

1. United States is bound by treaties with Great Britain in 1916 and Mexico in 1936 to preserve migratory birds.
2. Morro Bay is one of the principal resting and feeding spots for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyways.
3. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Migratory Act of 1929.
4. It is now considering acquisition of the Morro Bay Tidelands as a feeding and nesting area for waterfowl, especially the Black Brant and include this area in the National Wildlife Refuge System.
5. Since a sizable portion of the tidelands is under the administration of the California State Lands Commission, we need state legislation and a coordinated program of land use to safeguard this migratory bird habitat.

THESE TIDELANDS ARE NOW THREATENED BY:

1. The Army Corps of Engineers announced their plan at a public hearing held in Morro Bay on March 9, 1965 to dredge a navigation channel through the bay and fill the tidelands.
2. This would destroy the feeding areas for the migratory birds and thus drive away all birds. United States would thus break faith with the above treaties.

The above warning is sponsored by the:

The Morro Bay Museum of Natural History Assn.
The Natural Resources Committee of San Luis
Obispo County

Do-Gooders and Bleeding Hearts... *CONTINUED*

No one will ever get me to agree that our civilization is not a wonderful one in most respects. It is because I am a product of civilization, and because I am a descendant of a wilderness inhabitant that I am a conservationist, a nature lover, a lover of fresh air, and the out-of-doors.

Aldo Leopold said it best, I think, when he wrote:

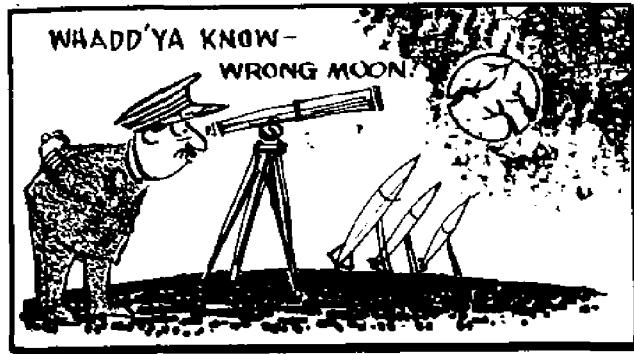
For one species to mourn the death of another is a new thing under the sun. The Cro-Magnon who slew the last mammoth thought only of steaks. The sportsman who shot the last passenger pigeon thought only of his prowess. The sailor who clubbed the last great auk thought of nothing at all. But we, who have lost our pigeons, mourn the loss. Had the funeral been ours, the pigeons would hardly have mourned us. In this fact, rather than in Mr. DuPont's nylons or Mr. Vannevar Bush's bombs, lies objective evidence of our superiority over the beasts.

It is in this then that we are at a more advanced level of civilization, those of us who wish to preserve our world, our continent, our nation, or state, our city, and, often, our very backyards. May we all be such despicable parasites upon everything else that inhabits this planet with us that the only way we can survive is by making money on everything. Must we make money by polluting the air we breath? Must we make money by collecting dividends from the chemical industry that is producing the poisons that are wiping our populations of useful animals, and contaminating the food we eat and feed our children?

"The sun, moon, and stars would have disappeared long ago if they had happened to be within reach of predatory human hands. Havelock Ellis once wrote that, and I am not sure, at the rate things are going these days, that conservationists allied with astronomers, might not be fighting that one out, too, a few generations from now. I can just hear the arguments. "Our national defense makes it mandatory that we vaporize one of the moons of Jupiter so as to properly train our fighting men in atomic target practice. In spite of the bleeding hearts who are unpatriotically impeding

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our national defense efforts, we cannot agree that one minor moon of Jupiter has any esthetic value whatever. Certainly, the change in the heavens will benefit the majority of amateur astronomers by giving them a different view to watch."

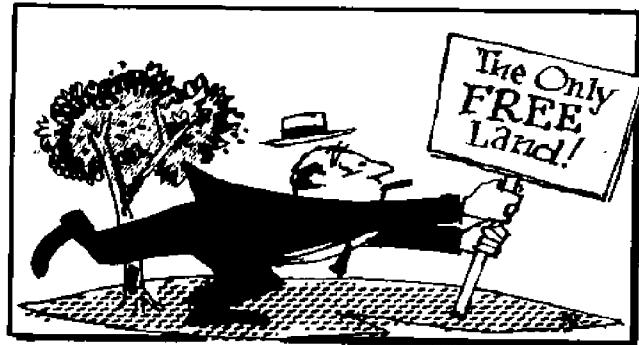


In the November-December, 1964, issue of Audubon Magazine, Hal Borland had an article of protest against "The False Conservationists." I am running into such "false conservationists" more and more. Why? I wonder. Is it because conservation is becoming so successful that its opponents must put on the sheep's clothing in order to make some progress against us?

We have this kind of "conservationist" in California, too. There are those who are crying "Conservation!" as they cut down redwoods; who cry "Conservation!" as they undermine every effort to create a Redwood National Park. There are others who cry "Conservation!" as they insure their jobs in the Bureau of Reclamation by getting appropriations to build Bridge and Marble Canyon Dams on the Colorado; who cry "Conservation!" as they fight a North Cascades National Park ever since 1937.

And right here in Los Angeles we have those who say it is more important to bring business to our city with a convention center in Elysian Park, than it is to save the park for the well-being and relaxation of the citizens of this city. There is always more business, but seldom are there more park acres. They say that the park that will be left will be developed for more use than it is now. Is this not crying "Conservation!" falsely again?

With my conservationist's mind, I can see Los Angeles adorned by a park right in its downtown center, large enough and uncorrupted enough to be developed into as beautiful a park as Central Park in New York. A park that we can all be proud of and know and love. It is there, you know. We have the land for it. It is Elysian Park. All we need to do is preserve it and care for it and make of it something even more lovely than it is to relieve the downtown aura of this city.



It is the only "free land" left in the downtown area. Think what that means in this real estate conscious town! "Free land!" The real estate man says, "I wonder. Is it possible? They got 26 acres of Elysian Park for a ball park. That's business use, all right. Why not try to get the city to let a private organization put a convention center there, too? That would really set precedents for us. It'll open up that whole vast park for commercial development. It'll be harder than beating out those 'do-gooders' who wanted a Santa Monica Mountain Park. We got hold of that land and started building before they could stop us. Now -- down with Elysian Park downtown and up with real estate profits and values. The only question is, how many of us have to be cut in on it when the payoff comes?"



Isn't this the picture of the enemy of conservation everywhere? The profit-seeker who wants to cash in on Grand Canyon's scenery with a souvenir stand, a saloon, a dam. The "selfish interest" that wants to use up every single river in America in order to perpetuate his bureau and his high-salaried job. The lumber company executive who wears a big badge that reads "I AM A CONSERVATIONIST, TOO!" and hopes to cut down as many old-growth redwood trees as he can before (1) they are all gone, or (2) before we stop him.

I'd almost like to turn the trick and call them the "do-gooders" (for themselves) and the "bleeding hearts" (because of their lost profits). But I am growing to like those names. Instead, let's call them what they really are - "selfish interests."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

by DAVID A. GAINES



With the coming of the new year, most wintering birds had arrived in excellent numbers. Birders afield had much to aim their field glasses at. Among the less usual birds to be found during January were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Horned Puffin, and a Scarlet-headed Oriole. Wintering loons, grebes, ducks, robins, waxwings and sparrows were more common than in many recent years.

The Salton Sea lived up to its reputation as a choice locality for winter birds. On the Society's field trip there January 8th, an immature Laughing Gull, a female Summer Tanager, and a "yellow" Palm Warbler were the best finds. The latter bird may represent the second known occurrence of the "yellow" or Florida subspecies of the Palm Warbler in California. Among the geese were numerous Snow and Canadian, a few White-fronted, and 200 Ross' (Bob Praether).

Along the coast, the best birding was in the vicinity of San Diego. A Glaucous Gull was found at a dump and was subsequently collected. In the Tijuana Riverbottom, the Cattle Egret played hide and seek with birders. The first winter record for Dusky Flycatcher in the state was obtained on Point Loma. An Oldsquaw was located on San Diego Bay. Most unusual, however, was the appearance of a young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a backyard feeder (keep an eye on those feeders)!

Farther north, at Malibu Pier, a Red-necked Grebe remained for several weeks, and a Black-legged Kittiwake was seen several times. A Fulmar was spotted being chased by gulls at Cabrillo Beach on January 16. In Orange County, small numbers of Mountain Bluebirds, Mountain Plover, and White-faced Ibis were present.

Who says that one has to be on a boat to see alcids? In late January a Horned Puffin was captured (alive) while in the surf at Huntington Beach State Park. The sick bird was brought to resident naturalist Tom Miller, who made the identification. The puffin died within a day. Its skin will be preserved at Morro Bay State Park -- the third record of Horned Puffin in Southern California.

Suggestions for Check List?

When the current edition of the Society's Field Check List of the Birds of Southern California was published some two years ago, the aim was to provide a convenient means of recording species seen in the field. It was not intended to be an exhaustive list of the birds occurring in this area; the function is fulfilled by the Annotated Field List.

In keeping with this aim, birds of rare occurrence were not included (spaces were provided at the end of the list for this purpose), species were grouped for ease and convenience in locating, and the list was designed so that it could be filed in a small ring binder of standard size.

It was apparent almost before it was published that certain changes were desirable. It is generally agreed that the type should be larger or more legible. We will welcome any suggestions for changes in action to this, when it is next reprinted. It seems that relatively few people use the lists for filing in ring binders, as was originally intended. So, unless we hear to the contrary, it will be reprinted on the heavier stock and arranged to fold in the conventional way. If you use this list and have constructive ideas for its improvement, please let us hear from you. Write:

Robert E. Blackstone
10363 Calvin Avenue
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

The "mid-winter migration" of orioles, which seems to be centered in Rancho Park, peaked in early January. As many as nine Bullock's Orioles were seen on one occasion, but the same individuals were seldom found for more than several days. This indicates either some sort of migration, or, as is more likely, a population of wintering orioles wandering at random through man-made jungles of houses and gardens. Where do these birds come from? They all cannot be stay-behinds from the fall migration, for how about the Baltimores and Orchards? How does one account for a Mexican species, the Scarlet headed, which was found on January 2nd (fifth state record)? These questions will only be answered through careful observation. It should be clear, however, that orioles occur in the Los Angeles basin in winter, and that the occurrence of strictly western species cannot be assumed.

During March, wintering birds will begin departing and the first spring migrants will make their appearance. Among those migrants to watch for are Turkey Vultures, loons, mergansers, Rufous Hummingbirds, Allen's Hummingbirds, and Cassin's Kingbirds.