

Los Angeles *Audubon* *Society*

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1966-67

By William T Watson



Usually a President writes an accomplishment report of his Society's past year of operations. I prefer to look ahead and tell you of some of the things we hope to accomplish in this new year of activities of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. It will give me an opportunity to point out what some of our members are doing to make this branch of the National Audubon Society a great society to belong to.

There is guaranteed to be a full year of excellent programs and field trips again. Our First Vice-President, Laura Lou Jenner, is going to plan out ten excellent Tuesday Evening Meeting Programs for us. Laura has not only been Second Vice-President of our Society, but she has in the past been our Wildlife Film Chairman for three years, and most recently she has been our Field Trip Chairman. There is much for us to learn about nature and birdwatching in our region and elsewhere, and your Los Angeles Audubon Society shall have memorable Tuesday Evening Meetings this year with Laura Lou Jenner preparing them.

Anyone who has been out on Field Trips in the last five or six years has seen that inveterate field tripper Otto Widmann always in evidence —taking notes on our observations and the other field trippers to be reported in his column "Audubon Activities." This year Otto will be our Field Trip Chairman and for the first time this will make him a member of our Executive Board. Otto has also served your Society as gardener of our Native Plant Garden at Audubon House. Just before he died, Theodore Payne, long a friend of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, offered to give us some of his native plants for our garden when we got our redwood fence enclosing Audubon House. Jim Seaman, President of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants and Wildflowers, fulfilled Mr. Payne's promise, and it was Otto who volunteered to be the gardener of our Native Plant Garden.

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The President's Report: Los Angeles Audubon

This leads me to mention our Social Chairman, Ruth Wood. Ruth is the lady who organized refreshments at our first and last Tuesday Evening Meetings last year, along with being in charge of decorations and place cards at our Annual Dinner in January. Ruth is planning to have a Los Angeles Audubon Society Open House at Audubon House the third Sunday in October. The native plants donated to us by the Theodore Payne Foundation are now so well established that it is time for us to officially show off our Native Plant Garden. This should give our members some ideas on what native plants might fit into their own gardens.

It is amazing how much that is the Los Angeles Audubon Society is done strictly at our Audubon House in Plummer Park. There is where our impressive Nature and Conservation Library is located in one of the front rooms, ruled over affectionately these days by Bess Hoffman. Bess recently retired as a professional librarian, and we now have her vast experience to profit by in the managing of the Library of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. There is much of interest in the Library and we are continually acquiring new books for the collection. Bess has in the Library a complete collection of every issue of the Western Tanager which has been bound for safe keeping. It covers the time from the first issue in October, 1934, until July-August, 1966. Our collection of Audubon Magazines is extensive and impressive. Most notable are the shelves of books on nature writing, nature biographies, botany, insects, mammals, marine biology, and all phases of ornithology from photography, birdwatching, bird flight, to life histories of many species of birds. See Bess Hoffman for information on the Library. A librarian's greatest joy is a well-used library. Her second joy is a valuable acquisition.

In a back room at Audubon House is our Sales-Service Center. Patricia Powell is our Sales Chairman, and she intends to keep a good supply of items on hand to provide you with things pertinent to your hobbies that might be more difficult to obtain in some other kind of shop. The Sales-Service Department has all kinds of field guides of birds and other nature subjects, life lists, check lists, book covers, bird callers, books, records, notepaper, Audubon Christmas Cards, and gifts selected for their interest to naturalists and birdwatchers.

Headquarters Chairman is Shirley Wells, as dedicated a birder as you will ever find and as conscientious a worker for the Los Angeles Audubon Society as anyone I know. It is Shirley who does

everything possible to see that you get your Western Tanager every month, aided by typists and folders and stuffers who meet monthly to take the raw printing, fold it, stuff it into envelopes, and get it mailed. I am in no way twisting facts when I tell you that our mailing parties are an institution and greatly enjoyed by those who help. But our mailing parties are only the final, least difficult, and least time-consuming job in getting out the Western Tanager. Immediately before that operation is the task of typing up the address labels. Before that is the laborious checking and rechecking of names and addresses, the liaison work between editor, writers, art editor, and mailing chairman. It is impossible to estimate the hours and hours devoted every month to the production of the Western Tanager participated in by at least thirty volunteer members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Somehow, someone does each labor and in the end, usually late, you receive your Western Tanager in the mail.

Volunteer workers at Audubon House, answering mail, phone calls, greeting visitors, explaining exhibits and the Society, handling mail order business, dusting, sweeping, washing, and generally going a little more berserk every week are such unsung heroines of Shirley Wells' staff as Margery Green, Florence Myers, Leonie Ferguson, Julia Dembrowsky, Patricia Carney and even others still more unsung.

There must be some reward somewhere for such people who volunteer to help and, without pay, become so personally and deeply involved that they are actually the building blocks of the edifice we call the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Perhaps you see now why we are going to have an Open House at Audubon House this fall. The member whose only contact with us is reading his or her Western Tanager every month, the field tripper, the Wildlife Film devotee, really have no idea of what Audubon House is to the Society. Even you who come to the evening meetings in Plummer Park do not really see the real Audubon House. In the dark there is no way to see the Native Plant Garden. In the evening there is no way to realize what it is to be showing the public about our Nature Museum in the front rooms and have the phone constantly ringing in the back office with irate citizens blaming you personally as the embodiment of the Audubon Society for every mockingbird that kept them awake all night. Or to be sitting there on a rainy day wondering what on earth you are there for on such a day with nothing happening, and then have some delightful person call for information about the Society and how to join it. Or to help a junior high school student find material for a theme in the Library.

I had not meant to get so far into this living, breathing thing we call Audubon House. It is one thing to scout out an area and then lead a field trip and go home. It is another to work at Audubon House one or more days a week every week month in and month out. And did you know that most ladies who work at Audubon House are not even experienced office workers?

It is at Audubon House again that most of our Youth Program takes place. Youth Instruction Chairman Mae Wilson, mainly alone, makes appointments and keeps them with youth leaders wanting to bring their youth groups to Audubon House for a visit after school. Mae talks to the children about birds, bird-watching, birdfeeding, trees, shrubs, insects, and everything that the Audubon Junior Program stands for, and she sells the Program's philosophy to the youth leaders. Who of us ever watched Mae at this work? Is she not also unsung in our Society?

The Nature Museum there is the product of years and years of all kinds of contributions. Much of the art work was done by Keith Axelson and Vern Mangold. The exhibits were organized by Mary Hood. Howard Capwell donated his labor to build the cabinets and showcases. If you have not yet seen the exhibits you are in for an astonishing revelation of what talent there is in the members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

This coming year will see Audubon House being used fully by our Society, its programs hopefully augmented by an increased volunteer staff.

The Western Tanager, a source of great pride to all of us and a labor of love if ever there was one is supervised by its Editor Betty Jenner. It is Betty who looks for writers to fill our issues with interesting and pertinent articles. It is Betty who cracks the whip on her staff writers: Otto Widmann ("Audubon Activities"), David Gaines ("Southern California Birds"), Bill Watson ("Conservation Notes"). When David Gaines first started writing Arnold Small's old column, David was still in high school. It is Betty Jenner who is most frustrated when the Western Tanager is late again.

Art Editor of the Western Tanager is Bob Sandmeyer who puts the typed material together in its format, designs and executes the art work on the pages, draws those magnificent conservation cartoons, and illustrates the articles. He's been doing this regularly for five years now. Without Bob there would be no Western Tanager as it appears now.

Finance Chairman is our Past President Jim Huffman. Jim oversees our investments so that our money is used wisely until the day there is enough to do some real good for our Society.

Caroline Adams, Executive Secretary, helps type the copy for the Western Tanager. Margaret Harmon is the other typist who helps with Western Tanager copy. In Caroline Adams any President has as able an Executive Secretary as can be found. A professional secretary, her volunteer services to the Society maintain a fine, respectable image for us. Her husband, Don, is our Second Vice-President, and this couple has as much dedication to our Society as anyone. Caroline has served as Recording Secretary, also. Don has been Treasurer and Program Chairman. Both double as field trip leaders and can always be counted on to help in any emergency to further the cause of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Keeper of the checkbook is our cheerful Treasurer Olga Clarke. With impeccable attention to her duties in this most responsible position, Olga has worked with our Auditor each year she has been Treasurer and she gives the Executive Board a careful report every month. It is to Olga that you send your Condor Fund contributions and she is the honored one who gets to write the thousand dollar checks we send to the National Audubon Society in recent years. It is astonishing to watch the varied purposes for our money being kept unraveled by Olga as she wends her intricate way from dollar to dollar.

You've all seen the art work contributed to the Los Angeles Audubon Society by Keith Axelson, and as President I must say that his contributions have been considerable. However, only the President and the Executive Secretary ever see Ruth Axelson's work for the Society, for Ruth is our Recording Secretary and she is the lady who takes the minutes at all our Executive Board Meetings.

Another lady whose work for the Society is intricate and time-consuming is Leonie Ferguson, mentioned above as part of the Staff at Audubon House helping Shirley Wells. Leonie is our new Registrar

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William Thomas Watson, our President for 1965-66, 1966-67, is an Easterner by birth, a Westerner by choice; an engineer by profession, a conservationist, or rather preservationist, by deep and abiding conviction. Other organizations in which he is active are the Nature Conservancy and the Committee to Save Elysian Park.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

By Otto Widman

June 11-SATURDAY FIELD TRIP-BUCKHORN AND CHILAO.

Russ and Marion Wilson were waiting for the guests and members beside the road above Buckhorn campgrounds. Earl K. Dore from Torrance was starting his field birding with this group - hope to see you on many more. Our guests from San Fernando Valley were Ardath Reid and Marge Krueger, who also were with us for the first time. Members and friends numbered 34.

The short walk into the canyon was truly rewarding. Appropriately, for the several

WELCOME TO

NEW MEMBERS

Allen, Miss Joy
1736 N. Garfield Pl., Hollywood 90028

Bates, Mrs. Verla
2856 Camulos Pl., Los Angeles 90023

Bunga, Mr. Wm. B.
4051 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles 90029

Chambers, Verona
14733 Leahy Ave., Bellflower 90706

Clover, Mr. Russ
413 Sycamore Rd., Santa Monica 90402

Davis, Mr. Richard E.
2700 San Marino St., #101, Los Angeles 90006

Edgar, Helen M.
1752 Addison Rd., Palos Verdes Est. 90274

Gillette, Mrs. E. S.
2159 La Mesa Rd., Santa Monica 90402

Grimes, Mrs. E.
4109 Lorraine Rd., San Pedro 90731

Gill, Mrs. R. G.
Queensland, Australia
Mail Service 26 Innisfail

Grimm, Miss Carolyn
1618 Brown St., #B, Bakersfield 93305

Hawkins, Dr. W. S.
2340 Ronda Vista Drive, Los Angeles 90027

beginners, the first bird we saw was the Western Tanager, then followed the Cowbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Fox Sparrow in quick succession. Other birds that Buckhorn is known for are the Green-tailed Towhee, the White-headed Woodpecker, and the Red-breasted Sapsucker. There were Clark's Nutcrackers, White-breasted Nuthatch and Wood Peewees. Along the water's edge were many Wilson's Warblers, and Herb Clarke reported seeing a MacGillivray's Warbler as well. Besides Siskins and Juncos we spotted a Red-tailed Hawk.

At Chilao, where we lunched near the old nursery and some promising Sequoias (leftovers), we saw Western Bluebirds, Chipping Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers. Later we hiked down the Canyon to see the Purple Martin. The families who appear most often on our field trips such as the Axelsons, the Adams, the Hawthornes, the Hardts, the Mangolds, the Baxters deserve praise for their consistency and support. By no means are

Continued on page 11

Hilton, Mr. Ric
1429 Amalfi Dr., Pacific Palisades 90272

Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. M. S.
183 Tigertail Rd., Los Angeles 90049

Kent, Mr. George
315 E. Hardy St., #1, Los Angeles 90301

Merritt, Miss Louise
P. O. Box 37, 115 W. Century Rd.
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Redwine, Mr. Donald
1652 Stoner, #14, Los Angeles 90025

Steinike, Hortense
1257 Ridgeley Dr., Los Angeles 90019

Stephens, Leona J.
12028 4th St., Lynwood

Symons, Mr. Merlyn W.
90002 Airport Sta., Los Angeles 90009

Smith, Juditha
6731 Leland Way, Los Angeles 90028

Tillson, Mrs. Grace
3114 West 77th St., Los Angeles 90043

Van Liew, Mrs. Frances
P. O. Box 309, Santa Monica 90406

Williams, Mr. John E.
950 Second St., #101, Santa Monica 90403

Wirin, Mr. A. L.
2622 Glendower Ave., Los Angeles 90027

Rue, Mrs. Eleanor L.
3716 1/2 West 54th St., Los Angeles 90043

Los Angeles Audubon Society



calendar

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

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
705 26TH STREET
MANHATTAN BEACH 90266 372-5536

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY & NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046 876-0202
HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. J. GORDON WELLS
REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: LÉONIE FERGUSON

SEPTEMBER

1966 SEPTEMBER 1966						
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					

Sept. 1 THURSDAY-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING-7:30 p.m., Audubon House

Sept. 10 SATURDAY-FIELD TRIP-Malibu Lagoon to the mouth of the Santa Clara River at Ventura. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on Pacific Coast Highway, just north of the bridge over Malibu Lagoon.
Phone Field Trip Chairman, Otto Widmann - 221-8973

Sept. 13 TUESDAY-EVENING MEETING-8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. As we go to press, our program is not finalized, but it is hoped that we will have as speaker one of our members who has recently returned from conducting bird studies in Africa. In any case, an interesting program is promised. Refreshments.

Sept. 24 SATURDAY AND SUNDAY-FIELD TRIP-Tijuana River Bottom. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oscar's Restaurant on Palm Avenue in Imperial Beach. This is reached by going south on 101 to the Imperial Beach turnoff, which is Palm Avenue, and proceed 3/4 of a mile to the restaurant which is on the right hand side of the street. We hope to see rare migrants. Last year on this trip, among the birds seen were Baltimore Oriole, Prairie Warbler, and several pairs of American Redstarts.
For further information call Otto Widmann - 221-8973

Oct. 1 SATURDAY--SPECIAL PELAGIC TRIP--Monterey Bay: in cooperation with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. See details in the TANAGER elsewhere. Registration closes SEPTEMBER 10.

Oct. 11 TUESDAY-EVENING MEETING-Great Hall, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m.

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

ANNUAL REPORT of the REGISTRAR of MEMBERS

BY MARION WILSON

I would like at this time, as Russ and I bow out as active members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, to express our appreciation of the fine fellowship we have experienced during the last ten years. The friends and acquaintances we have made will continue to mean much to us in the future and any time we are within driving distance we will join you at meetings and field trips. We will be maintaining an address in Arcadia and will enjoy hearing from any and all members. Since all mail will have to be forwarded, sometimes at lengthy intervals, it may take a little while for answers to be received, but answer we will. Our new address is: Marion and Russ Wilson
5440 N. Cochon Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
91006

The Los Angeles Audubon Society has members in 18 states and at least 3 foreign countries.

Total membership July 1, 1965 907

Total membership June 30, 1966 973

New Members 146

Deceased 7

Dropped 73

Members joint with National 913

Local Memberships 60

973

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Don Bleitz

Miss Ethel B. Craig

Mrs. LaPrelle Edens

Mrs. Neil H. Lewis

Dr. Richard H. Neuman

Mrs. Thomas Phillips

DONOR - \$250 A YEAR

Mr. Shirley C. Burden

CONTRIBUTING - \$100 A YEAR

Mrs. Reese Taylor

SUPPORTING - \$50 A YEAR

Don and Catherine Dicks

Mrs. Miles Hasbrouck

Mrs. Wm. B. Schiller, Jr.

Mrs. Roberdeau Williams

BIRDING IN THE SOUTHWEST

The Chiricahuas in July

BY BETTY JENNER



While it seems that Herbert Brandt, Dale Zimmerman, and other gifted writers have said all there is to say about the fabulous Chiricahua Mountains of Arizona, it is a sound idea to continue recording observations by those of us who visit the area another year, another month; thus will be noted the changes--increase or decrease in population and species. This summer, 1966, we (Laura Lou and Betty Jenner) concluded that July would be a good time for a visit to Cave Creek Canyon; we were richly rewarded.

I imagine that whether it be one's first or second visit or the fiftieth, the thrill of entering Cave Creek Canyon would be the same; wonder and amazement at the brilliantly colored cliffs, yellow to salmon to red, set off by green lichens; the never-ending change of shadow and sun on the spires and chasms and caves; and eager anticipation of exciting birding in the lush vegetation, pine, oak, sycamore, willow; alli-

SUSTAINING - \$25 A YEAR

Mr. Joseph Blatt

Dr. and Mrs. Moulton K. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Levenson

Mrs. Virginia McMartin

Miss Mary L. Dick

Mrs. John McK. Hecker

Mr. E. H. Kendig, Jr.

Mrs. Emil Ziehl

Mrs. Malcolm Dickinson

Mr. and Mrs. Howard F. Hollenbach

Mrs. Gilbert W. King

Dr. Roberta Crutcher

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Parks

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ross

Mrs. J. G. Books

Mrs. Rolla G. Karshner

Miss Wilma Willoughby

Mrs. F. A. Odenheimer

gator juniper, with its cubed bark; ash and walnut, and a bewildering variety of under-growth. On the slopes are yucca and agave; when this plant blooms, all the birds are attracted to it, hummers, jays, orioles, doves-- they feast on the nectar and insects.

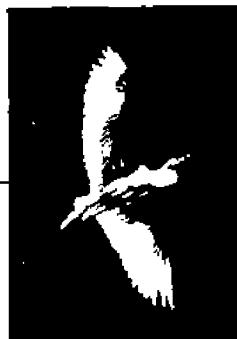
Sunny Flat picnic ground was our headquarters; here the valley opens out to spectacular views, looking past the cliffs to the high country of 8700' elevation. Nearly all the birds of the canyon are at Sunny Flat at one time or another. By July parents are leading the young on foraging expeditions, and are seen more easily than perhaps any time of the year. --Near us was the constant squeak of Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, like a child's rubber bath toy being squeezed. Wied's Crested Flycatchers and Cassin's Kingbirds outshouted each other; House Finch warbled sweetly. Olivaceous Flycatcher's plaintive call was even sadder than the numerous Wood Peewees'. The many Solitary Vireos seemed larger and louder than elsewhere, perhaps from a trick of the echoing cliffs. Certainly Canyon Wren's song seemed magnified among the rocky walls. Arizona Jays, Bridled Titmice, and Bushtits could be heard almost constantly; Black-headed Grosbeak and Robin furnished our sweetest music, and occasionally Hepatic Tanager and Scott's Oriole would forage the area. We only seemed to have one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher family. Ravens barked, Turkey Vultures soared, and at a distance we observed a falcon (Peregrine?) and a hawk (Red-tailed, no doubt). Below the canyon, near the town of Rodeo, were the Eastern Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Shrike, Cactus Wren, Desert Sparrow; and around Portal, the village at the mouth of the canyon, were abundant Mockingbirds and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and numerous Brown Towhees, as well as Cardinals and Western Tanagers. At twilight we heard Poorwills in this area. Still, our favorite spot was Sunny Flat; a pair of White-winged Doves "crowed", Violet-green Swallows incessantly hawked for insects; female hummers haunted the flowers, and we learned to recognize the piping call of the male Blue-throated Hummer, and to catch a glimpse of him as he flew by, large and slow as hummers go. However, the most thrilling sound was the "Kown, kowm" of Coppery-tailed Tropic, or as he is appropriately called, "Elegant Tropic." This large and gentle bird of brilliant color is worth the 500-mile trip even if we should see nothing else! However, to list more birds, we had Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn, Hairy and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers; White-throated Swifts, Band-tailed Pigeons, Sparrow Hawk, Bewick's Wren, --and a young Brown-headed Cowbird being fed by a tiny

Black-throated Gray Warbler mother. When we went to the Southwest Research Station, at the feeders we saw Black-chinned, Rivoli, Blue-throated, and Violet-crowned Hummers. From our camp we could hear Whip-poor-will, but we didn't see it or the owls that we could hear in the night.

A memorable sound of the canyon starts after dark, when uncounted millions of crickets, locusts, cicadas, etc. start singing, and the sound re-echoed against the cliffs. Around our campfire were many interesting insects: June bugs, strange moths and beetles, a five-inch-long centipede, a large scorpion. (These creatures don't like us, either!)

Sunshine and showers; cloudy nights and star-studded nights; thunderstorms and brilliant blue skies; all these occur in July, and naturally the trees and flowers had an exhilarating freshness. It was hard to leave lovely Cave Creek Canyon but we wanted to see the birds of Rustler Park, at over 8000' altitude, where stand the stately Ponderosa pines and Douglas firs. On reaching the campground, we were greeted by a crashing, booming thunderstorm with heavy rain and hail; however, we cozily sat it out in our camper, and hardly had it stopped raining until the birds, and we, were out and about our business in the fragrant mountain air. Iris and red pentstemon attract the buzzing Broad-tailed Hummers; the ubiquitous yellow-eyed Mexican Junco, the sad-sunged Coues' Flycatcher, hundreds of Band-tailed Pigeons, and virtuoso Hermit Thrushes live up here. Following the instructions in Jim Lane's helpful book, "A Guide to Bird-finding in Southeastern Arizona," we looked on brushy slopes for spectacular warblers, and found them: Red-faced, Olive, and Virginia's. Pygmy Nuthatches seem to be everywhere in these forests. As was the case in the canyon, we had the campground to ourselves, and could go wandering around with our binoculars until we located the Brown-throated Wren. As we sat around the campfire at night, we heard Whip-poor-will, Coyote, and a probable Whiskered Owl.

It was hard to leave this beautiful spot the next morning; down the winding Pinery Canyon road we drove, stopping at Pinery Campground for another life bird, the charming Mexican Chickadee. Here also was a flock of Red Crossbills. It seems we have never heard so many Hermit Thrushes. -- The road led us away from the lovely, wild, mysterious Chiricahuas, land of the Apaches; but they are calling us to come back, and we surely will! And we are convinced that July is the best time of the year for a birder's visit. A practical suggestional suggestion is in order: if you plan to camp in the canyon, take along several empty, clean milk cartons; the local store-keeper will fill them with water and put them in his freezer for a small charge, and this is the only available ice.



National Audubon Society

AUDUBON HOUSE
1130 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10028 • ENgineer 8-2100

June 29, 1966

Mrs. Olga L. Clarke, Treasurer
Los Angeles Audubon Society
2027 El Arbolita Drive
Glendale, California 91208

Dear Mrs. Clarke:

What a happy surprise this morning to receive your good letter of 26 June and the check for \$1,100, a contribution from the Los Angeles Audubon Society to help towards the cost of protecting the California condor. On behalf of our directors and officers and all of the staff involved, I thank the Los Angeles Society very warmly for this wonderful and most helpful gift.

It is just a great thing that the Los Angeles Audubon Society, of its own initiative each year makes an appeal to its members for contributions for the protection of the California condor. This in itself, may I repeat, is a very fine act, but over and beyond the value of the money in terms of help that you give our Society in maintaining condor protection, your Society also is an example to all other organizations of a kind of team work and cooperation between the local branch and the National Society that can have very salutary results.

As I must have said in writing to your Society before, when it was recommended by the McMillans-Miller study that it was essential to have a special condor warden, our Society, without the funds in sight, went ahead and engaged John Borneman. There was no time to lose. We had the faith and we have been abundantly repaid by the results of Borneman's activities and by the help given to us by your Society so abundantly, and by others in California.

We have both gratitude and admiration for this helpful cooperation of your fine Society. Please convey this expression of our gratitude and feelings to your Board members and other officers.

Very sincerely,

Carl W. Buchheister

Carl W. Buchheister
President

CWB:es

CC: Messrs. Goodall
Porter
Jones

DEADLINE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Monterey Pelagic Trip Saturday, October 1st.

September 10 is the deadline for reservations on the October 1 Monterey pelagic trip. Anyone still considering this popular and rewarding trip should immediately contact the Golden Gate Audubon Society for reservations.

The trip is Saturday, October 1, leaving from Sam's Wharf in Monterey at 9 a.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Make checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society and send to:

Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta
2090 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, Calif. 94109

Remember to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope and the names of all members of your party. Refunds cannot be made on cancellations received later than four days before the trip.

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory Starts Training Program

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, the only full-time banding station in the New World, will begin a training program for potential banders on August 15. The program will be taught by Marianne Shepard, the well-known bander from the Jack London Ranch near Sonoma. The training program will run concurrently with Operation Transient, the exciting program of banding of birds during the fall migration, as the rich and varied bird life of the area streams through the Pt. Reyes Peninsula.

The Observatory has just moved to a new site, on the ocean, just north of Bolinas in a very attractive location. This area promises to be of great interest because of the extreme diversity of birds found there. Operation Transient will begin at the new location on August 1 and run through October 31; there are several places open in the schedule for volunteers who can help out in recording and observing during this period. Volunteers need not have had experience in banding, but merely be willing to learn a fascinating and exciting hobby of great scientific value. There are limited facilities for overnight accommodations available at the Observatory for a modest nightly fee. Anyone interested in the training program and/or helping during Operation Transient is urged to write as soon as possible to:

Dr. Howard L. Cogswell
c/o Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Mesa Road
Bolinas, California

OPEN HOUSE AT AUDUBON HOUSE Sunday, October 16th.

Audubon House will be the scene of an Open House on the 16th of October from one to four p.m. Refreshments will be served. Allow plenty of time to meet old friends and make new acquaintances, and to tour the house and gardens. Our showcases have been completed for some time now, thanks to the splendid work of Vernon Mangold (background and water scenes) and Mary Hood (birds and montage). Our Library will be open for inspection of our new books. We particularly will be honoring Otto Widmann, who has improved and maintained the gardens for the past three years. The specimen plants, supplied by the Theodore Payne Plant Foundation, have now grown sufficiently to invite your inspection; the plants have been chosen from a list compiled by Theodore Payne as desirable for gardens and sanctuaries and their availability as food for birds. Here you will find sage, sumac, and ceanothus; holly, manzanita, and native rose; and the "Rose of Castile" planted by Mr. Plummer himself. Here is your chance to meet those members who have run the Audubon House for the past year, and also to greet members you haven't seen for so long a time.

AOU Committee on Bird Protection

The July 1966 issue of THE AUK, journal of the American Ornithologists' Union, carries an informative and challenging report on bird protection in our country; we urge all conservationists to locate a copy and read the article. A number of problems that need immediate attention are brought out; for instance:

Mortality at Ceilometers and Towers; the loss of migrating birds may be as high as a million a year! Every effort should be made to encourage research in this area from the viewpoints of both the biologist and engineer.

Wintering Habitats in Latin America: the rain forests of Central America and northern South America, on which many birds depend for winter habitat, are being destroyed to support a large and rapidly increasing human population. Many resident birds and at least 100 migratory species, including practically all our warblers and many other insectivores, depend on the Central American (and Caribbean) ecosystems, while more than 300 persons per square mile in El Salvador and Haiti are converting virgin woodland into corn and beanfields.

Audubon Activities

Continued

these the only ones that make our field trips a success, but they help make our trips possible and enjoyable.

June 15 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING

I must come back to the Evening Meeting. My hurried entry which appeared in the July-August issue did not cover the welcoming of the new officers officially. We were happy to install Pat Powell once more as Sales Chairman; Betty Jenner as Editor of the Western Tanager for her second year; Bess Hoffman as Librarian; Ruth Wood as our Social Chairman, and Ruth Axelson as Recording Secretary.

Bill Watson once more was elected the President of the Society, while Laura Lou Jenner will be our First Vice President, with Don Adams as our Second Vice President, and Olga Clarke as our Treasurer.



Bird Watchers Corner: The Jenners saw a Glaucous Gull by the pier area in Santa Barbara. Mrs. Gabriel Ruiz saw a Calliope Hummer at Bridgeport. Russ Wilson reported that in going through Glenville on the way to the Greenhorn Mts., we would pass through prime feeding areas for the Condors.

My mention of Olin and Allie Krum's Birds of The Other Side of the Mountain was just that. I did not have space to mention their work at their Wrightwood cabin, where with his photographic skill and her patience, they managed to bring back many remarkable slides. Some were of residents, others of the many migrants that pass over the mountains at this point. Not all his slides were made at Wrightwood, however, so we were treated to Hepatic Tanagers, Mexican and Slate-colored Junco. He had charming slides of Bridled Titmouse and Vermilion Flycatchers. And, not often seen by us--the Boat-tailed Grackle. Their most complete list was of the Woodpeckers and Sap-sucker group. We want to thank the Krum's for taking the time and their camera on the other side of the mountain to bring back these fine films.

June 25-26 - WEEKEND FIELD TRIP-GREEN-HORN MOUNTAIN

Although most of trip-leader Bill Watson's group didn't have Condor on their trip list, they had the next best thing--Condor Warden John Borneman. We were fortunate to have John with us on Saturday, spotting soaring birds at a distance and entertaining us with Condor anecdotes. Before joining the main party at our Saturday lunch stop, the Axelson family did see a Condor perched in a tree near Woody. If I'm not mistaken it was Lys Axelson who first spotted it.

There was great variety in our 72 recorded species as we saw Phainopepla in the mesquite near Bakersfield, Lazuli Bunting in the foothills toward Glenville and Townsend's

Solitaire in the pines along the road above Tiger Flat Campground. Of interest were Scrub Jays at an elevation of about 7000 feet on Greenhorn Mountain. Jays were conspicuous by their absence in most areas.

Highlights of the trip were the botanizing of Olga Clarke and Ruth Axelson; Russ Wilson's campfire; and a nonproductive owling expedition after dark. -(Laura Jenner, pinch-hitting for Otto Widmann)

July 9-ANNUAL POT-LUCK DINNER

Potluck it was indeed! The late arrival of the TANAGER in many households was not notification enough for planning to get to the picnic that day, but 15 of us showed up with an interesting assortment of dishes. Bill Watson slaved through the midnight hours over his choice Potato Salad recipe, brought it to the picnic area, cooled it in the stream, then dumped it in the trash can after some children flooded the salad with the brackish water.

July 23 - MT. PINOS

It was a glorious day in more ways than one. There was not a cloud, and a cool breeze changed Summer into delightful Spring and gave us smog-free visibility. Laura Lou Jenner, our Leader for the day, met us at the end of the paved road, then shuttled us up to the top of Mt. Pinos. At 9:15 a.m. seven Condors were circling just to the north and settled down just beyond the first ridge; later four perched right on the crest. Then two, apparently having fed, soared off to cross the range just below Mt. Abel, heading south. Another Condor was soaring away higher up. As we watched two Condors came over the crest, flying low. Later the tenth Condor flew directly over head, flying in from the east. And about two in the afternoon the eleventh Condor, again coming from the east, came overhead, his shadow falling upon us. Archers have been combing the area on motorcycles, and because it is not deer season, the kill cannot be brought back, hence this concentration of Condors in this area.

For Kim Garrett and his father, Lewis; Lillian Reynolds; and Jane Miller, this "life bird" put on an unexpected show. I don't know how many of the others were experiencing life birds; I know I was too excited to take my glasses off the birds, sometimes so close I could see the head-coloring very distinctly. I would say about half the Condors were mature enough to have the fine white underwing markings.

There were other birds: House and Rock Wren were singing no matter where we went. We saw Pygmy Nuthatch and Chipping Sparrow. Between Condors two Golden Eagles soared close by. Hawks were: Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Sparrow. Later at the Meadow trickle of water we saw several Orange-crowned Warblers, White and Red-breasted Nuthatch, some Brown Creepers. Later we visited Russ and Marion Wilson in their new trailer at Camp Mt. Pinos. Marion gave us a personal tour of their splendid and complete camper.

The President's Report

Continued

of Members and it is she who must go forth into battle with mankind's most inhuman of enemies — National Audubon Society's IBM machine in the Membership Department. But it is my fondest hope that we will gain our one thousandth member while Leonie Ferguson is our Registrar. Right now she is in charge of 977 of you as members of this Society.

As Junior Past President, Arnold Small remains as a member of the Executive Board, and now that he is back from his Sabbatical Leave we are looking forward to his able services and experience in guiding this Society.

One of the best friends of the Los Angeles Audubon Society is its long-time friend and benefactor, Otis Wade. Some of the finest books in the Library were donated by Otis, but his contributions do not end there.

Ahead of us then is a fine overall program, understaffed to be sure. Each Tuesday Evening Meeting from September until June we will have our entertaining and educational programs in Great Hall. Every second Saturday and Fourth Sunday we will have scheduled field trips.

There are ways in which you can help these two programs. We need hostesses and hosts to greet members, guests, new members, and strangers at our evening meetings. We need able leaders for our field trips. There are many of you who have learned much on our field trips. It is time now for some of you to come forward to help our new Field Trip Chairman Otto Widmann to put on a memorable series of field trips this year.

But everyone has the talent to fill empty chairs so that the efforts of a Program Chairman are made worthwhile. Do come to our Tuesday Evening Meetings so that we can come to know you and you us. Come out on our field trips. They are really worthwhile, getting you out-of-doors and out of the smog, with warm, congenial friends all dedicated to our nature activities, birding, botanizing, and bettering ourselves.

This year we have big plans for our Audubon Wildlife Film Program. We are completely renovating our approach to it. A new school auditorium, a new neighborhood with better parking much closer to many of

A splendid report on the Whooping Crane is in the August 6th issue of the New Yorker. Don't miss reading this excellent account.

Editor

you who have never come before because of the distance. We are going to great lengths to publicise our Audubon Wildlife Films, starting with a truly impressive press conference of which you will hear more soon. It is our hope that you will experience the pride of seeing your Society's name mentioned often this year.

Many of you do not know that we sponsor the Audubon Wildlife Film Series each year so that we may use the entire proceeds for the sole purpose of sending worthy schoolteachers, youth leaders, forest rangers, and others to Audubon Camp of the West on scholarships from the Los Angeles Audubon Society. The Wildlife Film proceeds are dedicated to our Alma Stultz Scholarship Fund only. Alma Stultz was one of our most loved and respected Past Presidents and the first Director of the Audubon Center of Southern California. There is good reason to support this year's series of professionally presented Audubon Wildlife Film Programs. Not that any of the other Wildlife Film speakers are any less qualified, but the biggest name we will be presenting this year is Allan Cruickshank, himself. You'll hear more about the Wildlife Films later, but be looking for them eagerly. You'll be glad you did.

We have new plans for our role in saving the California Condor, and if all goes well, the Los Angeles Audubon Society will be playing a much bigger part in preserving this bird than just raising Funds for National

All of our programs coming up this year will require more volunteer help. Probably it is the Audubon House Staff that needs dedicated help the most. Putting on another season of Audubon Wildlife Films will require a staff of workers of its own. There are lots of ways to help the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Money is the least of your contributions, really, since we have no payroll to meet. But money is realistically an absolute necessity, too.

The best way to perpetuate programs and improve them, too, is to have each Chairman aided by a working committee of others. Each Chairman should have a committee of at least five other people. One or more of each committee should be working to succeed the Chairman when the need arises.

All of this is what your Los Angeles Audubon Society is going to be doing during the year of 1966-67. We have been going since 1910. We are the Audubon Society of the third largest city in America! What are you going to do to help the Los Angeles Audubon Society become even greater and more effective and successful in its role in this community this year?

The community needs us. If you have found some way that you can help in reading this, please contact me. We need you, too.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

By DAVID GAINES

Warm sunny days marked the first two months of summer in the southland. Humidity was higher than is usual. Thunderstorms were common in the deserts and the mountains. Clouds hid the higher peaks during much of July, and rain was noted even at the Salton Sea.

Perhaps the weather had some connection with observations of Western Tanagers, all in female plumage, in residential Pasadena. These were noted in early July for one day only. Could they be migrants? Yet tanagers stay in the mountains till September. At this time of year it is problematical to decide if a given bird is summering or migrating. This is particularly true of shorebirds, as many leave their nesting grounds early, and appear in our area by early July. By August 1 fall shorebirds are in numbers in most suitable habitat. For instance, on July 29 at the north end of the Salton Sea Western Sandpipers, Dowitchers, Willets, Semipalmated Plovers, Marbled Godwits, and Common Terns were all abundant. At the opposite extreme are late spring migrants such as cuckoos. These seldom arrive before June, and migrants have been noted in July.

Near the coast Least Terns seemed more common than in many years, and nests were found at Newport. Ten Glossy Ibis were at the San Joaquin Gun Club near U.C.L., and probably nested. This species has long been declining due to habitat destruction. With the ibis go the other marsh birds such as Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Night Heron, Rails, and Egrets. But who wants to save a marsh when it could be a harbor or a housing tract? For riverbottom birds, the picture is no better. Cuckoos are unheard of; chats are scarce. Many other species are threatened.

A few vagrant landbirds appeared during late May and June. In San Diego Alan Craig's refuge for the rare and unusual netted a pair of Ovenbirds (actually, one flew into their living room window). To the north, at San Simeon, Eleanor Pugh observed a Yellow-throated Vireo, the second state record. In early June, Wyman Canyon in the White Mountains produced a Parula Warbler and two Indigo Buntings. A Redstart was at nearby Deep Springs. At Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, several Lucy's Warblers were observed, to the north of their known range. An Eastern Phoebe was also present. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird was common both in Wyman Canyon and at Mahogany Flat camp-ground in the Panamint Mountains.

The Colorado River is excellent for birds in late June. Wied's Crested Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Gila Woodpecker, and Lucy's Warbler are present. Near Laguna Dam Yellow-billed Cuckoos may be seen in July.

* About Condors...

No damage was done to the Condors by the recent fire that scorched more than 90,000 acres of the Los Padres National Forest.... The fire will probably actually improve feeding conditions for the big birds as the deer herd will increase in the future with better browse conditions.

We would like to acknowledge the receipt of a check for \$10, an additional gift to the Condor Fund from Pauline T. Cole, in memory of Lee Eppler. -- Edith Eppler and the Society wish to thank you, Pauline.

LEE EPPLER

A man with quiet enthusiasm and humor on our field trips; a man whose interest in birds was as great whether it was his first sight of a species or the hundredth; a good companion: this was Lee Eppler. We regret having to announce his death; our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Edith Eppler.

Least Bitterns are at West Pond. Unusual birds can also turn up--e.g., a Boat-tailed Grackle at West Pond June 25, and a Bronzed Cowbird at Parker Dam the same day. Unhappily, no Inca Doves were found at Parker Dam, formerly the one place they occurred in the state. What could have happened to the flock of twenty doves which has been here for the last ten years?

In spite of Hoffmann's comment on the scarcity of Bendire's Thrashers in California, the species was found commonly near Sima, to the east of Mitchell Caverns State Park. Another common bird here was Leconte's Thrasher. Since it is an isolated location, the area is seldom banded.

A Brown Booby was at the north end of the Salton Sea July 28. It was seen by Shurm Suffel, and was with seven Brown Pelicans (also unusual). The booby was spotted the following day, and there is the possibility it will stay for some time. Surprisingly, it was in adult plumage. Most birds to appear in the state have been immatures (e.g., the Blue-footed at Puddingstone).

September is an especially profitable month for shorebirds and pelagics. Albacore boats can find such birds as albatross, Least Petrel, Frigatebird, Tropicbird, and (who knows) Cape Petrel. Landbirds begin to amass by the end of the month, including the "usual" assemblage of vagrants. Some of us are hoping that Point Fermin near San Pedro will give competition to the Tijuana River Valley. Certainly the area is worth checking. Keep an eye on warblers, and learn the marks of vagrants. Remember, those who find rare birds are those who know what to look for.