

Annual Bird Count  
December 26th.

Annual Dinner  
January 11th.

Los Angeles Audubon Society

The  
**Western  
Tanager**

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 4  
DECEMBER, 1966



North of the Rio Grande ...  
South of the Rio Bravo ...

**From  
Aransas  
to  
Xilitla**

**By Betty Jenner**

**T**here comes a time when every birder asks himself: "Shall I ever see the Whooping Crane? What if the slender thread should be broken - the thread that holds this noble species to the reality of living? And one day your birder makes the decision, and plans the pilgrimage to the refuge where these big handsome cranes spend the winter months - Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas coast.

In the spring of 1966 I had the great pleasure of making the pilgrimage; and of not only seeing the cranes, but over 250 other species in S.E. Texas and N.E. Mexico. In the process I yielded to the lure of the spectacular tropicals; now I can understand why people return again and again to Mexico, Panama, and other warm countries to see these birds.

Our itinerary followed the one described by Roger Tory Peterson and James Fisher in "Wild America." The difference was in the weather; dryness and heat are emphasized by Peterson and Fisher, but Texas in 1966 had the wettest spring in years, and so our impressions were quite different. (In the October, 1966 "Tanager" Dorothy Phillips describes the storms that took place there in late April.)

Every roadside was a wildflower garden, so there was an infinite variety of color as background to our week of Texas birding. When we arrived at our initial base of operations, the famous Sea-Gun Inn, the chill drizzle would have discouraged anyone but a birder; but there were intriguing notes coming from the wind-sculptured scrubby oaks nearby - soft, warbler-like "ticks," but no warblers. How was a Westerner to know that it is the Cardinal's note? I was deceived often by this note, since Cardinals were abundant. A Ruby-throated Hummer on a twig near the ground; Cassin's Sparrows on fence posts; the strange cries of Laughing Gulls overhead; these were teasers for the big event of the following day - the boat trip up the Inter-coastal Waterway to see the cranes. The date was March 26; soon the cranes would be leaving for their distant breeding grounds.



# From Aransas to Xilitla...

—(Continued)—

It was heartwarming to see the abundance of less-rare birds: ducks, shorebirds, cormorants, hawks; four species of herons, and four of egrets; Roseate Spoonbills and White Pelicans. Finally, as promised by the boat's captain, the Whoopers! They were in a distant field, among grazing cattle; 24 of them at least, although they seemed restless and were difficult to count. Soon, on a closer shore, we saw a family of three; the gleaming white parents and a rusty immature. How satisfying it was to see for ourselves the vital, strong nucleus of what we all hope will become a flock of sufficient number to assure the perpetuation of this species.

Lest the following account of the rest of the trip seems to be mere listing, may I explain the twofold purpose of this article; first, to show that it is not necessary to go very far from our country's border in order to see some of the world's most spectacular birds; second, that in this age of the bulldozer and the very real hunger of increasing millions of humans the habitat of many of these birds is being destroyed and there is imminent danger of our losing more species. No species could have remained in existence until now unless it fulfilled a job of importance in its own ecological niche. (What a dry phrase for the intense drama of a bird's life!) I daresay that the scavengers and the insect eaters are more important in the big scheme of things than, for instance, I am; they're certainly more decorative! So the roll call of birds in the following paragraphs is both a promise and a call for help. Ways must be found to preserve habitat.

Regretfully leaving the Rockport area, we drove past the pitifully small remaining breeding grounds of the endangered Attwater Prairie Chicken; we saw a few of these wary individuals. Near Sinton, we toured the unspoiled 7800 acres of a ranch which, through the enlightened use of great wealth, has been turned into a sanctuary for wildlife and a research center for conservationists. This is Welder Refuge, ably administered by Dr. Clarence Cottam. His stature as a naturalist may be judged by a quotation from his writing: "Each fact and facet of nature, discovered and understood, becomes a window through which Man may discover the infinite." ("Discovery," J.B. Lippincott Co.)

At this sanctuary we became acquainted with Black-crested Titmouse, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, and Bobwhite, among our 82 species for the day. Under the big Texas sky, it was unforgettable to meet another man of great vision and accomplishment - Dr. Ira Gabrielson.

The following days saw us first at the great King Ranch of nearly a million acres, where conservation and wildlife protection are important parts of the ranch management; and then south past the ranch for mile after mile, where in the huisache and mesquite could be seen hawks: Harris', Red-tailed, Swainson's, and Caracaras. We headquartered at Harlingen, itself a sanctuary, and from there went to the Laguna Atascosa and the Santa Ana Refuges, so successfully developed by Luther Goldman, and to Padre Island. In the remarkably fertile Rio Grande Valley it is possible to record at least 235 species during April and May! Our greatly appreciated guide was a San Benito rancher, Ned Hudson; he learned the local birds under the guidance of the eminent Irby Davis, and believe me, Ned didn't miss any bird within a mile!

Least Grebe and Black-bellied Tree Duck in a small pond were just the beginning of a 127-bird day at the 41,600-acre Laguna Atascosa Refuge. There is a great variety of habitat on the refuge - freshwater lakes, salt lagoons, shrubby ridges, mesquite brushlands with cactus and yucca - and a network of dikes and roads. Among the highlights were White-tailed Hawks, Hooded Warblers, and Clay-colored Sparrows. Mockingbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were abundant, as they had been on the entire trip.

The smaller Santa Ana Refuge on the Rio Grande gave us the spectacular Green Jay, Lichtenstein's Oriole, Black-headed Oriole, and Kiskadee Flycatcher as new birds. This area is a remnant of the original lush growth in the lowlands along the river; it is a jungle-like forest of hackberry, elm, ash, ebony, huisache, colima, etc., which has largely disappeared elsewhere along the river since the bulldozer has cleared the area for cotton and citrus. Chachalacas were calling, road-running, displaying, and branch-walking in the treetops. The elusive Olive Sparrow could be seen if one was willing to plunge through the undergrowth to follow his song, an accelerating series of dry notes.

Our appetites were whetted by these birds of the hot country, and we eagerly crossed the border at Brownsville and headed south. That muddy stream we went over? Why, that was the Rio Bravo, as the Rio Grande is called by those who live south of the border. The road became narrow, and we soon were accustomed to the sight of donkeys and scrawny cows on the highway. Innumerable busses carried

the inhabitants from one town or village to another. Everyone travels! We passed cotton and cane plantations, hennequin (sisal) fields, and natives carrying wicked-looking machetes to harvest these crops. The odd-voiced Tamaulipas Crow was abundant around each village. The villages, and lonely bus stops far out in the countryside, had such poetic names - I wish there was space to list them! La Gloria, El Naranjo - each consisted of tiny thatched huts, and each hut had its quota of chickens, pigs, and thin dogs. The people appeared very happy and seemed to have enough schools and hospitals.

Past scenic Ciudad Victoria, past the Tropic of Cancer, we travelled to Ciudad Mante, our headquarters for several days. From here we took short trips, usually west on Highway 80 toward the Sierra Madre Orientale. Our glamour birds came thick and fast - one could focus the binocs on a tree and see two or three life birds! Yellow-faced and Blue-black Grassquits; Scrub and Yellow-throated Euphonia; Yellow-winged and Crimson-collared Tanager; Clay-colored Robin; these birds near quite thickly-populated areas. As we followed a turquoise-colored cascading river up to the beautiful El Salto Falls, there were Ivory-billed Woodcreepers, Rose-throated Becards, Rufous-crowned Peppershrikes, Green Parakeets; Red-crowned, White-crowned, and Yellow-headed Parrots; and at the falls Rufous-capped and Crescent-chested Warblers and the magnificent Military Macaw. In forests at higher altitudes, we heard and saw the gentle and handsome Mountain Tropic; we watched Squirrel Cuckoo creep along a branch; saw the Brown-backed Solitaire and heard its matchless song. The loose-feathered, puffin-beaked Groove-billed Ani had a surprisingly gentle voice.

A trip to Tampico took us past fields of migrating hawks, and past marshes where we had our first Jacanas and a bewildering array of other marsh-dwelling birds. One wonders what devastation the recent (fall of 1966) hurricane brought to these creatures.

Then, near the town of Valles (founded in 1533) we stayed at a resort hotel with rose gardens, pools, orange groves, a golf course, and so on; here we were serenaded by Melodious Blackbirds, White-fronted Doves, Red-billed Pigeons, Social Flycatchers, and the sharp cries of Green Parakeets. In scrubby woods nearby was the Lineated Woodpecker; in the great cypress trees by a stream that emerged from a huge limestone cavern, were Blue-crowned Motmot, Elegant Tropic, Masked Tityra, Plain-tailed Brown Jays, and Chachalacas; along the stream flew Green Kingfisher. Strange bird voices were a continuous challenge and promise. At night, as we walked along the road with flashlights, we found Potoos on nearly every utility pole. The huge yellow eyes of this large cousin of the Poorwill shone like electric lights; our presence did not disturb the birds' silent moth-hunting.

Still farther south, the road to Xilitla brought more marvels, although many hillsides were denuded of original vegetation for the sake of coffee and pineapple plantations. This is cloud forest country, and the untillable limestone canyons were filled with tropical vegetation; trees covered with bromeliads, orchids, and a tangle of vines; and a bewildering variety of ferns and philodendrons. Parts of the road up to the mountainside village of Xilitla have been hewn from the limestone by hand, so the visitor is amazed to see a Montessori School in the town. Spot-crowned Woodcreeper and Black-headed Saltator convinced us that we were in the tropics; and the best prize of all was an Emerald Toucanet, nearly hidden by green leaves, deftly eating berries with his great ungainly beak. He seemed to be the living spirit of this earthly paradise of beautiful birds. We can only hope that the coffee plantations do not take over all of the mountainsides -- for in its natural beauty is the real Treasure of the Sierra Madre!

Our congenial group of about a dozen birders owes a vote of thanks to the tour leader, Orville Crowder, who took care of all details of travel and made sure that each person saw all species of birds; and to Bertha Massie who was a co-leader. Bertha never loses enthusiasm although she has by now seen most of the birds of the world. Thank you, Ned, Bertha, and Orville!

#### BIRDS IN LATIN AMERICA

"The future of bird life between the Rio Bravo and central South America is definitely dark. It is virtually certain that at no period in history have human populations been expanding with such speed, combined with such destructive technology. To continue ignoring the situation is virtually to condemn to near extinction a number of species that depend on the tropical American habitats. It seems most unlikely that they can be saved without vigorous and effective effort... If the great resources of the hemisphere -- indeed, of the world -- are applied, it should be possible to save many species despite the apparent intention of humanity to commit suicide by overbreeding and habitat destruction."

—William Vogt in "The Neotropical Ecosystem vs. Modern Man"

Looking for unusual Christmas gifts? Drop by the salesroom at Audubon House and let Pat Powell show you the interesting new items she is selling this year; or leave an order for that book you've been intending to buy.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Monday, December 26, 1966

## BIG GAME DAY APPROACHES

All members and friends are invited to participate in the great sporting event of our year - the annual Christmas Count. To those who are beginning birders: your help is needed too. It is better to have at least three people to cover each segment of our territory. The novice can write down species and figures while more experienced birders are busy with binoculars.

On Jan. 2, 1966, 77 observers in 25 parties spent 212 party hours covering 384 party miles in a 15-mile-diameter circle centered at La Cienega Ave. and Pico Blvd., identifying 147 species, - approximately 21,304 individual birds. (Marin Country and San Diego each had 192 species.)

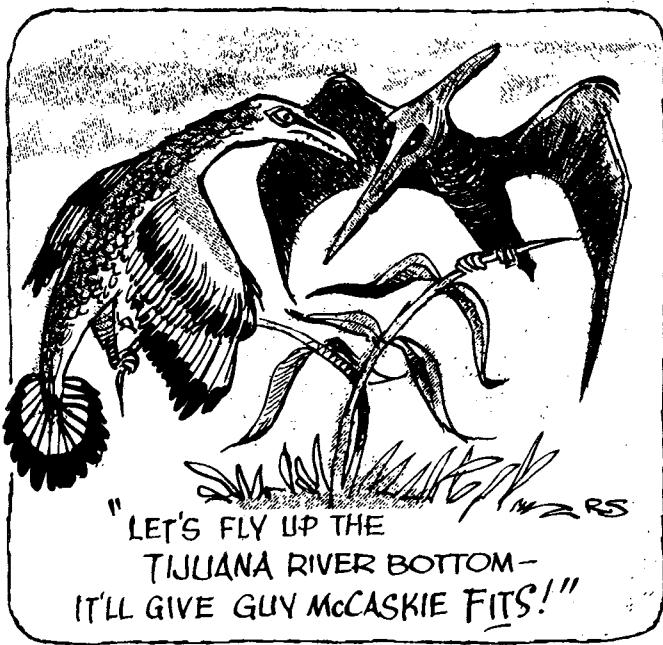
We are fortunate this year to have as Christmas Count leader an experienced birder who has taken part in counts in various parts of the country - Mr. David Brown, who is one of our newer members. His address:

12523 Eucalyptus  
Hawthorne, Calif.  
676-5269

We urge you to phone him or drop him a card with your name, address, and count area preference, if any. Or: Call Audubon House and leave the information. Maps and other materials will be sent to you.

About sundown, we will meet at a centrally located restaurant for dinner, and to tote up the score.

Circle the date: December 26, 1966.



"LET'S FLY UP THE  
TIJUANA RIVER BOTTOM—  
IT'LL GIVE GUY McCASKIE FITS!!"

## A Christmas Gift to the Wildlife World

Once again the holiday season is with us - a time of warmhearted giving. How appropriate it would be for each of us to give food and shelter to the wild creatures by means of a donation to one of the sanctuaries that is not yet paid for.

In order to help preserve the irreplaceable Sonoita Creek habitat, please send a check to:

The Nature Conservancy  
Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary  
P.O. Box 4157  
Tucson, Ariz. 85711

Another threatened area is the home of countless birds, mammals, and reptiles - the beautiful Corkscrew Swamp in Florida. The level of water in the Sanctuary is now endangered by the draining of adjacent land by real estate development. The Ford Foundation will give \$1 for every \$2 raised by the National Audubon Society for the purchase of 2640 acres in addition to the present 6080 acres of the Sanctuary. Contributions may be sent to:

The National Audubon Society  
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Fund  
1130 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y. 10028

These donations are tax deductible.

## MAINTAINING WILDLIFE

Nature Conservancy has issued the following rules for helping preserve and maintain wildlife:

\*Planting shrubs, trees, and other plants which provide food and cover.

\*Planting hedgerows and fencerows which serve as food, cover, and travel lanes.

\*Providing supplemental food for songbirds and other wildlife during severe winters.

\*Reporting persons who violate fish and game laws designed to protect wildlife.

\*Giving wildlife a "brake" on the highways by slowing down when you see birds or animals crossing the road ahead.

\*Supporting proper forest management on both public and private woodlands.

\*Opposing unnecessary drainage of marshes, swamps and other wetlands which are the homes of many kinds of ducks, geese, shorebirds, songbirds and mammals.

# Los Angeles Audubon Society



# calendar

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

WILLIAM T. WATSON, PRESIDENT  
1249 N. EDGEWOOD AVE., APT. 12  
LOS ANGELES 90029 661-0570

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
705 28TH STREET  
MANHATTAN BEACH 90268 372-5538

## DECEMBER 1966

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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

Dec. 10 SATURDAY - SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Carrizo Plains. Last year we saw at least 2000 Sandhill Cranes. Other birds seen were Mountain Plovers, Mountain Bluebirds, Ferruginous Hawks, Short-eared Owls, and Vesper and Lark Sparrows. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Maricope at the junction of State Hiway 166 and U.S. 399. Take U.S. 99 north from Los Angeles to junction with State 166 about 8 miles north of Grapevine, go west on 166 about 25 miles. Bring warm wraps. Those planning to stay at the California Valley Lodge should write for reservations, California Valley, Calif. 93453. Phone via Paso Robles - Carrizo Plains 614.

Leader: Arnold Small - 837-9687

Dec. 13 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. Gerhard Bakker shows us "The Fantastic World of the Alpine-Arctic Tundra", a comparison of the tundra in Lapland, Alaska, and the Western Rockies. The slides will include many close-ups of the vegetation. Refreshments. Pat Powell will have Christmas gifts for sale before and after the program.

Chairman: Laura Jenner - 748-7510

Dec. 26 MONDAY - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - We want as many observers as possible again this year in order to make the count as complete and thorough as we can. You do not have to be an expert to be able to help; if you can recognize the common birds, you are qualified to participate. There will be enough "experts" in each party to deal with difficult identifications. Be sure to contact the chairman if you can be available. A 50¢ registration fee is required.

Chairman: David Brown - 12523 Eucalyptus, Hawthorne, California  
Phone 676-5269

Or: Call Audubon House - 876-0202

Jan. 5 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

Jan. 11 WEDNESDAY - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - Fox and Hounds Restaurant, 2900 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, - \$5. See elsewhere in this issue for details and registration blank.

Our program will be the one you have waited for: Arnold Small gives us a film about New Zealand entitled "Follow the Kiwi".

Chairman: Laura Jenner - 748-7510

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

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

# Audubon Activities

By Otto Widman

## Oct. 16 - OPEN HOUSE

It was a pleasant day for a get-together at Audubon House in Plummer Park; members and friends filled the house and garden and everyone was talking at once. Mrs. Ruth Wood served cake, punch and coffee outside from the picnic table. Mrs. Olga Clarke was kept busy most of the afternoon with sales of Audubon materials. Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Grossman and their two daughters enjoyed the displays in the building. Some of the guests were: Mrs. Paula Randall, president of the Pasadena Audubon Society; from Inglewood, Mr. & Mrs. Bede Neves; Henry, Rowena, and Miriam Clarke; Mrs. Lyndall Larson of Monrovia; Mr. & Mrs. Norman Bildenback, Mrs. Florence Bildenback, and Kathryn Landwehn from Eaglerock. Our new members, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Shuker, were fascinated with our dioramas in Audubon House. Sorry, I do not have the space to list all the 50 friends who made for a very enjoyable afternoon.

## Oct. 24 - BOLSA CHICA & NEWPORT BAY

As a rule, White Pelicans are not found in the Los Angeles-Orange County basin; the exception is Newport where at least a half dozen can usually be seen. What is unusual is finding Stilt Sandpipers: Russ Wilson and Jim Huffman worked out the correct identity on this one for all of us to study. David Brown, exploring a little further than the rest of us, saw Ring-necked Pheasant and Valley Quail within a hundred feet of the surf. At Bolsa Chica we had Blue, Green-winged, and Cinnamon Teal. At Newport a Clapper Rail walked across a mudflat for a close study by both Mr. L.N. Feeney and Nathaniel Grossman, who were beginning their western field trip birding with us. On the bank during our lunch period we saw an Osprey feeding on a fish.

What is interesting about Newport is the combination of birds possible for a day's outing. On the marsh are the water birds and waders; against the bank are the warblers, wrens, Road-runners, sparrows and finches. Overhead in one direction are the gulls and terns - on the water, thousands of Pintails, Shovelers, and Widgeons, (one Red-headed Duck), and in the other direction Red-tailed Hawk; possibly an eagle; Shrikes, Hummers, Gnatcatchers (Blue-gray), and in one spot a bee hive - incongruous, yet in juxtaposition, viewable by the mere swivel of the binoculars or scope. We had 58 species for the day at the two locations. Later in the afternoon we went back to Bolsa Chica for the low tide and the birds attracted by it. Our younger members, Kim Garrett and Richard Bradley, enjoyed the chance to see the gulls (Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Heerman's, & Western), the terns (Forster's, Common, & Elegant), Long-billed Curlew, Dowitcher, Godwit, Avocets, Stilts, Willets, and Greater Yellowlegs.

## Nov. 2 - WILDLIFE FILM

With Walter Berlet's camera work and Mary Jane Dockeray at the microphone, the combination spelled a sure thing. Mr. Berlet used a zoom-lens that allowed the viewer an environs view and then permitted a sharp and quick closeup of the subject without the slightest distortion in the changing. If anything, the editing of the first half of the film could have been improved. The theme, "These Things Are Ours", in itself was well chosen, but the juxtaposition of nature vs. the misuse of nature came too frequently and the lesson spelled became too precious. The necessity for such a lesson abounds wherever one looks, and the contrast employed in the editing was good for several uses - but too much is too much. Miss Dockeray's remarks should have been leveled at a more adult audience. Continued simplification is more apt to lose rather than gain a viewer.

The memorable scenes: a close view of a Saddleback Caterpillar; the rigidly formal Earth Stars; luminescent moss in the shadows beneath a cliff, rare and beautiful. As Miss Dockeray says, "Here is the beauty, form and order in our world."

## Nov. 8 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING

Bill Watson was unable to attend, so Laura Lou Jenner conducted the evening's business. Julia Dembrowski introduced her guests, Mr. & Mrs. H.W. Woods Jr., just in from Missouri. Other guests are Mrs. Anne Silhavy of Hollywood, Beryl Shotwell, Edith Gunn, and Charles Foster. We want to welcome them to our meetings and hope to see more of them.

By "More Birds" Dick Wilson means a continuation of his own photographic A.O.U. checklist. By the way, it is fast becoming a very fine list and one well to be proud of. First he filled in some of the blanks from his April showings; Shearwaters - New Zealand, Sooty, Pink-footed, and Pale-footed. He had Hawk Owls from New England and Barred Owls from Cork-screw Swamp. Many of the films were almost impressionistic in their fusing of background colors, yet keeping the subject in perfect focus. In one, as George Venatta pointed out, the focus went from left to right, diagonally; asked how, Dick replied, "It wasn't easy!"

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A \$1,000 grant by the Georgia-Pacific Foundation will help finance Bald Eagle research by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. The Museum's studies, carried out by naturalist James Anderson, are coordinated with the National Audubon Society's Bald Eagle Project. The Georgia-Pacific Corporation also has asked its timberland managers to find and safeguard eagle nest trees.

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# Conservation Notes

By James W. Huffman

The 89th Congress. Although the recent election indicated that the public desired a considerable change in the membership of the 89th Congress, its conservation record furnishes something for the 90th Congress to "shoot at" (if you will pardon the expression). During its 1966 session alone, Congress added these significant enactments:

Water Pollution Control Act, strengthening the Federal program in several ways, most importantly to face up to the enormous cost of cleaning up the nation's filthy rivers.

Endangered Species Act, authorizing the establishment of refuges for kinds of native birds, mammals, and fish threatened by extinction.

Extension of the Clean Air Act of 1963, including increases in the authorization for research and for aid to local agencies.

Indian Dunes National Seashore, a 6,539-acre reservation finally won by conservationists over the opposition of steel companies, real estate developers, and some Indiana politicians.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, 77,000 acres of scenic splendor in western Texas.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, 67,000 acres of wild beauty on the Lake Superior shore of Northern Michigan.

Cape Lookout National Seashore, a 20,000-acre preserve on the North Carolina coast.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, a 63,300-acre public playground in Montana and Wyoming.

Other 1966 acts authorized planning for conservation of the Hudson River valley and for a Connecticut River National Recreation Area. Provisions inserted in the act creating a Federal Department of Transportation established a policy that federal-aid highways may not be built through any public park or wildlife refuge if there is a "feasible and prudent" alternative.

Previously the 89th Congress in its 1965 session passed the Water Quality Act, the Highway Beautification Act, amended the Clean Air Act to require exhaust-fume controls on 1968 model automobiles, and lifted the ceiling for appropriations for research into the effects of chemical pesticides on wildlife. It also established the Assateague Island National Seashore in Maryland and created three new national recreation areas.

The 89th Congress also distinguished itself by refusing to pass a bill authorizing two big dams in the Grand Canyon.

The 90th Congress will have an opportunity to act on a number of important bills including some to protect estuarine areas, establish a National Scenic Rivers System, ban sales of DDT, create a Redwoods National Park, and change the Department of the Interior into a Department of Natural Resources.

## BIRDS PROTECTED AT SPACE CENTER

Feathered birds get as much respect at Cape Kennedy as the huge metal ones taking off from launch pads. About 25,000 acres in the Florida space center have been set aside as a national wildlife refuge, the National Geographic Society says.

Cape Kennedy and nearby Cocoa, Florida are especially rich in bird life. During the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird census last year, counters in the Cocoa area tabulated a record total of 197 species.

Not long ago, a flock of Roseate Spoonbills began feeding near the launch area during the countdown of a Saturn rocket. Rushing to the rescue, a security patrol car drove around the pad with sirens blowing full blast to frighten the birds away.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was praised for sparing the birds from fatal singeing during the blastoff. The resplendent pink-and-white roseates are beloved in Florida. As photographic subjects, they rival bathing beauties and palm trees.

Special consideration was extended at Cape Kennedy to a blackbird that built its nest in the top tier of a Titan gantry. Instead of evicting the squatter, engineers carefully transferred the nest to a safe place so the mother could rear her fledglings in peace.

The Cape's star boarders in the spring of 1966 were a family of Bald Eagles. Three eaglets were hatched in a tree just a few yards from the huge assembly plant where the six-million-pound Apollo-Saturn V moon rocket will be put together and tested. Since earliest history, the eagle has symbolized strength and courage.

## NOTICE!

It would be appreciated if any member having access to a mailing list which may be used in whole or part in our upcoming membership campaign would contact:

Frances Kohn  
5068 Franklin Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027  
665-0171

By David Gaines

# Southern California Birds

October was a month of interesting and rare birds. Two new species were added to the California list. Numerous unusual avians were sighted. Most of these were along the southern coast.

Fall migrants continued to straggle through, though not in large numbers. Audubon's Warblers arrived en masse, together with White-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Oregon Juncos, and other wintering species. Waterfowl was conspicuous in suitable habitat, including five Blue-winged Teal at Bolsa Chica, and three Snow Geese at Playa del Rey. Up to seven Jaegers were observed from shore off Palos Verdes. The tailend of the shorebird migration saw the appearance of Dunlins and Knots along the coast, and Surfbirds and Tattlers at Playa del Rey. Flocks of kinglets at Mt. Pinos included many Golden-crowns.

A report from off the coast included the following: 300 Phalaropes (80% Northern); 50 Bonaparte Gulls; 2 Marbled Murrelets; 3 Pigeon Guillemots; 2 Fulmars; and 2 Sooty Shearwaters. These observations were made by Paul Steineck. We may infer that this will be a good year to watch for Fulmars and alcids off the coast.

Franklin's Gulls were reported from Playa del Rey and Oceanside. A male Ruff spent several weeks near Doheny Beach, where an immature Little Blue Heron was last seen October 25. The Ruff was found by Alice Fries. A Blue-footed Booby was observed by David Brown at Lake Isabella. The largest concentration of rarities was in San Diego. Guy McCaskie obtained the first California specimens for Grace's Warbler and Pine Warbler. Other unusual avians were Magnolia Warbler, Black-and White Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler (as many as three), Blackburnian Warbler, Palm Warbler,

Tennessee Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Ovenbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Red-throated Pipit (at least ten), Clay-colored Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. Three Cattle Egrets were in San Diego and one was at Pt. Mugu. Tropical Kingbirds were in San Diego, Doheny Beach, and Pt. Mugu.

During December, look over all wintering birds carefully. In the marshes, watch for Reddish Egrets and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. At feeders, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Gray-headed Junco, and Harris' Sparrow are possible. In parks, look for Baltimore Orioles, Orchard Orioles, Summer Tanagers, Hepatic Tanagers, and Bohemian Waxwings. Some good locales should be Carrizo Plains, Salton Sea, and any marsh along the coast.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ed. Note: Four Yellow-headed Parrots were observed flying near the intersection of Exposition Blvd. and Western Ave., -- October 18.

Cedar Waxwings have arrived in good numbers; they have been observed in various parts of the city since early November.

Our readers are invited to send observations, not just of rarities, but of arrivals or departures of migrants, unusual numbers of residents, and any other information which adds to our knowledge of bird populations. Mail to:

David Gaines  
3045 McConnell Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90064

# ATTENTION

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT  
December 26th.



VOLUNTEER NOW  
Your Help is Needed  
Call Audubon House  
876-0202



Are you  
ready?

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Frank Afton  
P.O. Box 802  
Inglewood, Calif. 90307

Mr. C. J. Pollard  
111 S. Hellerta Avenue  
Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277

Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Carter  
417 Via Anita  
Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277

Mrs. Blanche H. Roehm  
1040 N. Bundy Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Miss Florence Faija  
263 S. Carondelet Street  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90057

Mr. & Mrs. E. S. Rutowski  
16705 Marquez Terrace  
Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90272

Mr. & Mrs. Taylor P. Gabbard  
1234 19th Street  
Santa Monica, Calif. 90404

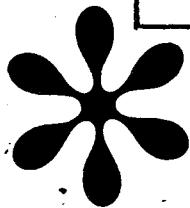
Mr. Walter J. Wagner & Family  
3258 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90066

Edith R. Gunn  
601 E. Sycamore Avenue  
El Segundo, Calif. 90245

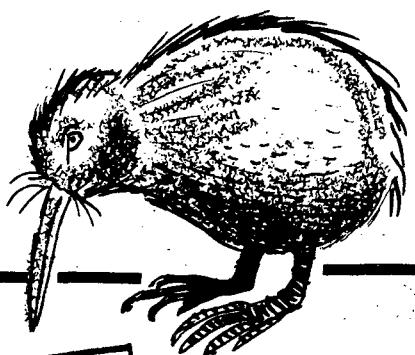
# Announcing

Los Angeles Audubon Society

## ANNUAL DINNER



**Wednesday,  
January 11, 1967**



### PROGRAM

**ARNOLD SMALL  
"Follow the Kiwi"**

An illustrated program... scenes of New Zealand... glaciers... fjords... sheep ranching... kiwis... penguins... albatrosses... fur seals... etc.

**DON'T DELAY—  
MAIL TODAY**

**FOX & HOUNDS RESTAURANT  
2900 Wilshire Boulevard  
Santa Monica**

**\$5.00 including tax and tip  
Social hour 6:30 Dinner 7 pm**

### MENU

Hors d'oeuvres ... Salad  
Double boneless breast of chicken  
with burgundy wine sauce ...  
Rum pie ...

**PLEASE REPLY PROMPTLY**

**DEADLINE: Saturday,  
January 7, 1967**

Miss Laura Lou Jenner  
639 W. 32nd Street  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90007

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at  
the Annual Dinner, January 11, 1967  
I enclose check or order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_