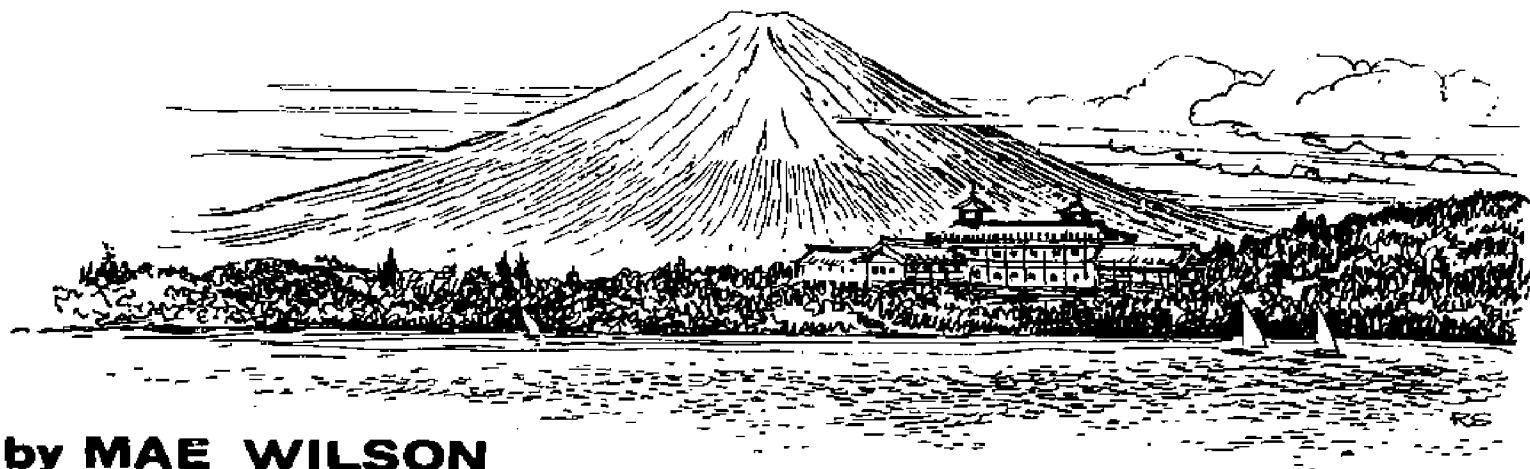


## BIRD and PEOPLE WATCHING in

# JAPAN



by MAE WILSON

**A**lthough the Sprunt Ornithological Tour was primarily to see Japanese birds, we found the people and the country equally intriguing.

September 29, our party of eleven sailed from San Francisco on the President Cleveland, under the leadership of Alexander Sprunt Jr. and his wife. Our tour of Japan was to last two weeks, on the main island of Honshu. We visited the lowlands, the beach, and the mountains, and were accompanied on several trips by Japanese ornithologists.

Upon leaving San Francisco harbor, the usual gulls --Heerman's and California-- circled overhead. However, as we got out to sea, for the next few days we had only occasional glimpses of such pelagic birds as Christmas and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Red-tailed Tropic Bird, boobies, and the Black-footed Albatross.

On the sixth day, we reached Hawaii, where we docked for one day. As you know, most of the Hawaiian birds have been introduced. Our party hired a microbus and driver for a five-hour trip over the island of Oahu. We saw such birds as the Indian Myna, Brazilian Cardinal, Golden Plover, Ricebird, little Barred Dove, and the Japanese White-eye. In the Zoological Park were Nene Geese. To see more native birds, it would be necessary to stay longer and to visit the largest island--Hawaii.

Between Hawaii and Wake Island, our ship circled Nihoa Island, a large Gibraltar-like outcropping whose walls rose perpendicularly from the water. At a strong blast from the ship's whistle, the rock erupted birds until the air was full of them. Passengers --both birders and non-birders--lined up along the rail to watch the sight. Among the birds were dainty white Fairy Terns, Frigate Birds, Red-tailed Tropic Birds, Brown Boobies, and White-capped and Blue-gray Noddies. Later on, one evening a little Harcourt's Petrel alighted on deck, was caught and examined, then released. After that, birds were scarce until we reached Yokohama.

*Continued on page 42*

continued...

After customs, we were met by a young man from the Japanese Travel Bureau, who travelled with us for the next two weeks. He made all the business arrangements, arranged contacts with Japanese ornithologists, and made everything run very smoothly.

Our first bird seen in Japan--one that we were to see everywhere later throughout Japan--was the Blackeared Kite. We used two books to identify the birds: Birds in Japan by Yoshimaro Yomashima and Birds of Japan (in Japanese) by Kasuke Kayabashi.

Although the second book was in Japanese, it had common names in English and the scientific names. Nearly all of us bought it in Tokyo, because of the excellent color plates--one of each bird.

Leaving Yokohama by microbus, we went directly to a famous garden restaurant in Tokyo for lunch. The Chinzan-So is a "must" for all tourists. Seated on benches around a low table with a grill in the center, we were introduced to chop-sticks. Our Japanese waitress, in kimono, cooked bite-sized pieces of pork, beef, shrimp, and vegetables, while we tried, with varying success, to manipulate the chop-sticks. Later, in the streets, we were to see street-cleaners using large metal chop-sticks to pick up trash, instead of spearing it as we do. After lunch, strolling through the beautiful gardens, we got our first glimpse of the Chinese Bamboo Pheasant and also saw many of the very common Tree Sparrows.

The next day was spent at one of Tokyo's largest parks, Meiji, where we added to our list such birds as Chinese Gray Spotted Flycatcher, Jungle Crow, Carrion Crow, Bull-headed Shrike, Brown-eared Bulbul, Japanese Teal, the gorgeous Mandarin Duck, the Blue Magpie, and the Blue Flycatcher. Incidentally, on our two weeks' tour, we saw about 115 species, not counting pelagic birds seen coming over. The summer visitors, of course, were gone, including all warblers except two. The Bush Warbler is resident. We also saw one beautiful Daurian Redstart, later on.

That evening, at our hotel, we were given a moving-picture program and talk by the Japanese ornithologist, Mr. Hoshii, to prepare us for a beach trip next day. The speaker said that he fears the Japanese Stork is doomed. Its habitat is being destroyed--it eats small fish in streams--and the few eggs it lays are not hatching. He also said that the beautiful Japanese Crane is becoming rare.

Next day we spent at Nihama Beach where vestiges of destruction caused by the typhoon still remained. Among the life birds seen were: Chinese Little Grebe, Plumed Egret, Gray Starling, Tufted Duck, Greenshank, Dusky Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Mongolian Plover, Ringed Plover, Wood Sandpiper, and Narcissus Flycatcher. Some U.S. birds seen were the Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, and the Coot. In all, we listed about 30 species.

The next day, we left Tokyo for a tour of famous historical spots in central Japan. Here, may I digress from the birds to give my impressions of Tokyo and its people?

Tokyo is the largest city in the world--over ten millions. It is hustling and crowded. To help solve its transportation problem, it has a National Railway running completely around the outskirts of the city. There is also a network of national railways, rapid and on time, throughout Japan. The "Bullet Express," the fastest in the world, runs between Tokyo and Osaka. Tokyo has three subways and many electric trains. Industries are humming. Japan is first in the world in ship-building, and is surging ahead in electronics, manufacturing fine cameras and lenses. Other heavy manufacturing being done consists of large machinery, pianos, etc. Since Japan lacks raw materials, she imports them from the United States, and sells much of her finished product back to us.

We found the people friendly, courteous, industrious, clean, honest (they would not take tips!) and intelligent. Since agricultural land is limited, they cultivate every square inch. A family is limited to 2.2 acres for a rice plot. Because of its small size, tractors cannot be used. Tea is another important crop and can be grown on terraces. Green and black tea come from the same plant, the only difference being that the black tea is fermented. We found central Japan to be hilly and mountainous. Where rice and tea could not be raised, mulberry trees for the silkworm industry were planted.

In Tokyo, space is at a premium, and real estate prices are high. For office wear, the kimono has disappeared, as it is not practical. However, I saw many kimonos on the street. About 5 p.m. beautifully dressed geishas could be seen going to work as entertainers.

After two days in Tokyo, we left by rapid express for Mt. Fuji National Park. From our hotel during certain hours we had a perfect view of Fujiyama. In our rooms, on arrival, we found blue and white cotton print kimono, slippers, toothbrush and paste, and were served hot tea and rice cakes. The kimono could be worn in lounge or patio. It did not take us long to become accustomed to being coddled like this!



That evening, we had a talk by a Japanese ornithologist to prepare us for mountain birding early next morning, when we climbed to 3000 ft. in the crisp, cool air. Among the pines, with a glorious view of Mt. Fuji, we saw the Japanese Wagtail, Eastern Gray Wagtail, Nuthatch, Meadow Bunting, Varied Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Willow Tit (same as Black-capped Chickadee of Europe), Eastern Turtle Dove, Japanese Green Pigeon, Copper Pheasant, Japanese Greenfinch, Japanese Gray Thrush, Dusky Thrush, and many Japanese Jays. Shutter-bugs could not resist taking picture after picture of the mountain, though nothing could do justice to it.

Our next destination was Ago Bay, center of the famous Mikimoto cultured pearl industry. From the roof-garden of our hotel, we saw in the bay hundreds of rafts used to anchor the baskets of pearl oysters. Next morning, we took a launch into the Bay, where we saw the entire process of pearl culture. When the oyster is three years old, it is partially opened and a wooden wedge inserted. Then a small nucleus (from a certain shell) is carefully implanted in the mantle, the shell is closed and returned to the water for three more years.



Then, the women pearl divers bring up the oysters. They perform every day all year. Women are preferred to men because they can stand the cold better. One of the best women divers is over sixty years old. The married women work with their husbands, in pairs. They can stay down about one and a half minutes. When the woman is ready to come up, she pulls on a sort of life-line which her husband holds. (It goes without saying that the couple should be on good terms!) The girls work alone, in shallow water. All wear white cotton suits and goggles.

It was at Pearl Island that we first met thousands of school children on their annual two weeks' fall tour. (They take another such tour in the spring.) Dressed in school uniform, each group wearing hats of a certain color--yellow, red or white--and ranging from kindergarten to high school, they marched along, in orderly ranks, to visit industries and shrines. In other words, they were learning about their country at first hand.

A few days later, we returned to Tokyo by express train on a Sunday. The railroad station was packed with people. Someone said "Everyone in Tokyo must be here!" Then we remembered - no, the children were missing. And we certainly knew where they were!

Returning northward, we passed a river where, in season, cormorant fishing is done. Unfortunately, we were two weeks too late to see this. This method of fishing is used less today than in the past.



On our return trip to Tokyo, we visited famous shrines in Nara and Kyoto. Led by a Japanese ornithologist, we birded in Mt. Heii National Park. Part of our trip was by chartered bus. On each bus there was a Japanese girl in uniform, acting as hostess. She did many things for us, including singing Japanese songs!

Back in Tokyo, we made a two-day trip north by train to famous Nikko. We stayed at a country hotel in the mountains, amid gorgeous fall foliage. Descending the mountain next day, we used a one-way highway with forty-eight hairpin turns! Testing of the brakes before the descent made us feel a little bit safer.

Next day in Tokyo, October 26, the tour ended. Some of the party returned by ship, others by plane. I flew to Honkong for three days, then on to Bangkok for two days. Both visits were too short. The best thing about Honkong is its harbor--almost land-locked. It is full of vessels of all kinds, from big cruise ships to sampans, where a large floating population spend their entire lives. Honkong has built a half dozen apartment houses to house some of the refugees from Red China who formerly lived in shacks on the hillsides.

Continued on page 44

# HIGHLIGHTS

BIRD and PEOPLE WATCHING in  
continued...

## 62nd National Audubon Convention

Over 1100 registrants came from 38 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and England. President Buchheister described a conservationist as "one who has faith in man's ability to learn how to live in harmony with nature and to control his Destiny." He forecast greater challenges in the future and greater achievements for the Society. "We do not subscribe to prophecies of doom. With confidence we work for a better America!"

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin said: "Solution of our problems can be achieved through political action, and Audubon members must learn how to be effective citizens."

Staff Biologist Roland C. Clement called for stronger protective laws for birds of prey in some states, and also said a federal law is needed to halt interstate traffic in birds trapped for sale.

Dr. William Vogt, an expert on the tropical ecosystem of the western hemisphere, implored the Society to "undertake one of the greatest efforts of its mighty career" by extending its educational programs to Latin America.

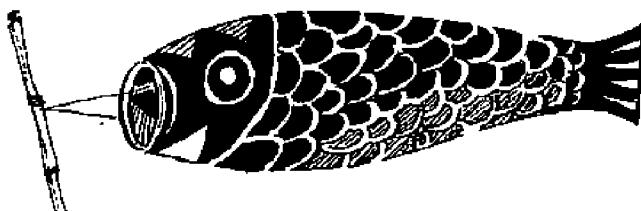
Nathaniel A. Owings, noted architect-planner, believes the key to the conservation of the human environment is in the cities; they must be made more attractive so that sprawling suburbs need not occupy the scenic countryside and the wilderness that are also essential to the whole man. His wife, Margaret Owings, spoke of the dilemma faced in park management in "the conflict between use and preservation." The answer is in "disciplined freedom," a concept that inspired the ancient Greeks in their age of greatest glory.

Dr. A. Starker Leopold, noted wildlife scientist and professor of zoology at the University of California at Berkeley, was a recipient of the highest honor conferred by the National Audubon Society, the Audubon Medal. The citation accompanying the medal said:

"Wildlife biologist, educator, conservationist, He has demonstrated that truth need not yield to expediency  
Nor succumb to prejudice  
But, when advocated with clarity and courage  
Can guide Society in its decision making  
And thus make Science become one with  
Humanism."

# JAPAN

One day, I took a five-hour tour of the mainland, called "New Territories," which is leased from Red China. We saw people living and working with primitive tools, as they did in Old China. From a hill near the northern border, we could look across the river to Red China. With my binoculars, I looked for Red Guards, but couldn't see any!



Next evening, the Pan American 10.20 scheduled flight for Bangkok was delayed because of mechanical trouble. Finally, about midnight, the 125 passengers were packed into busses and ferried across the bay to the two finest hotels in the city, the Mandarin and the Hilton. Next morning, we were called at 6 a.m., and bussed back to the airport where we whiled away the time for several hours by eating and drinking (coffee and cokes) until the plane was finally pronounced o.k. All this was at Pan American expense. I am sure that Pan American didn't make much on that flight!

Bangkok was hot and humid, but like a story-book city with its many bright-colored, glittering temples and shrines. A wide river winds through the city, while many side streets are canals or "klongs." A "must" for all tourists is a visit to the famous "Floating Market" at 7 a.m. All business is transacted from flat-bottomed boats. I noticed that in many of the boats a woman was standing up, wielding a big heavy oar, while a man or two lounged in the bottom. I said, "It must be tough to be a woman in Thailand--they work so hard!". A young man

in our launch replied, "Women are always saying they can do everything better than men. Here in Thailand, they are trying it out."

Returning by jet, via Hongkong, Tokyo and Honolulu, we gained a day (there were two Tuesdays--two November firsts) and about twelve hours difference in time, I believe. On the night flight from Tokyo to Honolulu, my watch said 3 a.m. However, the sky in the east was turning red. Suddenly, the sun burst into view--a gorgeous sight--and it was day! I thought of Kipling's poem,

"On the road to Mandalay  
Where the flyin' fishes play  
An' the dawn comes up like thunder  
Outer China, 'crost the Bay!"



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JANUARY 1967

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HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. J. GORDON WELLS  
REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: LÉONIE FERGUSON

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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29	30	31				

LOS ANGELES 90026

## JANUARY 1967

Jan. 1 SUNDAY - NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION Believing that the world can ill afford to lose even one more species of our wild creatures, we resolve to do all in our power to help channel BLIND PROGRESS toward ENLIGHTENED PROGRESS.

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

Jan. 11 WEDNESDAY - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - Fox & Hounds Restaurant, 2900 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica - \$5 including tax & tip. Arnold Small will show pictures of his trip to New Zealand. Please make reservations by Jan. 7; send check to:

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

Jan. 14 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Lake Norco. Meet at 6th & Milliken in Norco at 8:30 a.m. Take San Bernardino Freeway to a point about 15 miles east of Ontario. Take Milliken Ave. south to Norco. An Alternate route would be Santa Ana Freeway and Riverside Freeway to Corona, then north to Norco. Cameras may be taken. Do not photograph installations. Wintering ducks and waterbirds abound. Wood Duck, European Widgeon, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker have been seen.

Leaders: Don & Caroline Adams - FR2-5536

Jan. 25 WEDNESDAY WILDLIFE FILM - Webster Junior High School - 11330 West Graham Place, West Los Angeles, Auditorium

Edgar T. Jones - "Alberta Outdoors"

The Canadian Province of Alberta is a land of great beauty and contrast. Mountains, prairies, and vast wilderness areas provide homes for many different birds and animals - among them, the Canada lynx, moose, elk, the Great Gray Owl, the Ruffed Grouse, and the Goshawk.

Jan. 28 SATURDAY - SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Ramer Lake & Salton Sea area. Meet at 8:30 at Wister Headquarters turnoff on Highway 111. Those wishing to camp Friday and/or Saturday night may do so at Finney Lake, about 1 1/2 miles south of Calipatria then eastward following signs to campground. Bring your own water & firewood. For others there are good motels in Brawley. Wintering ducks, geese, & others; up to 109 species have been recorded.

Leader: Laura Lou Jenner - 748-7510

Jan. 29 SUNDAY - ALTERNATE FIELD TRIP - City Parks. Meet at Fern Dell Museum - Griffith Park - 8:00 a.m. This trip is for those not wishing to go to Imperial Valley. See the birds in our parks; there are always surprises: Varied Thrush - Glaucous-winged Gulls; hand-feed Lesser Scaups!

Leader: Bill Watson - 661-8570

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

EVERYONE WELCOME !



**"The Aging Great Lakes"**

Reviewed by J. W. Huffman

Man, in less than 150 years, has caused changes in the American Great Lakes that are greatly shortening their usable life. Many of these changes would probably not have occurred without man. Others would have taken many centuries to occur under natural conditions. This is the principal theme of the article with the above title written by Charles F. Powers and Andrew Robertson of the Great Lakes Research Division of the University of Michigan and appearing in the Nov., 1966 issue of the *Scientific American*.

The authors show how the aging of the Great Lakes resulting from a process called "eutrophication", which means biological enrichment has been greatly hastened by man's pollution. Every lake is subject to natural aging. Beginning as a newly formed basin of cold, clear, nearly sterile water, a lake gradually accumulates nutrient substances from its drainage basin. The increasing fertility gives rise to accumulating growth of both plant and animal life. Organic deposits pile up on the bottom of the lake, it grows shallower and warmer, plants take root on the bottom, spread, and gradually fill the basin. Eventually the lake becomes a marsh, is overrun by the surrounding vegetation, and disappears.

This aging may span geological eras under natural conditions. Man's activities, however, greatly hasten the aging process, principally by encouraging choking growth of algae which thrives on pollutants, particularly sewage wastes. Many industrial wastes act as direct poisons on the fish and other animal life or, by decomposing, deplete the water of life-sustaining oxygen.

Pollution is most serious in Lake Erie, because of its shallowness. Lake Erie receives the grossly polluted water of the Detroit River, into which cities and industries discharge daily,

**1.6 BILLION GALLONS OF WASTE.**

As a result the numbers of desirable fish in this lake have been drastically reduced. For example, the catch of blue pike fell from --

18,857,000 POUNDS in 1956

to less than --

500 POUNDS in 1965 !

Lake Ontario, although it receives considerable waste discharge, is not yet in as serious a condition as Lake Erie, because of its greater depth and consequent greater water volume. The southern end of Lake Michigan has become seriously polluted, not from Chicago, which dumps its waste into the Mississippi River system, but from

**A Letter from Bill Goodall...**

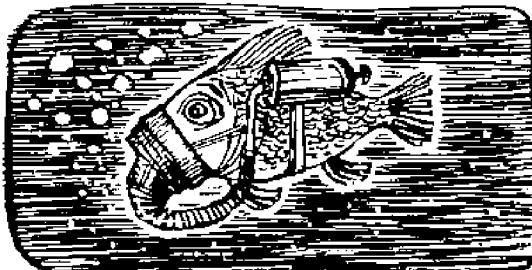
Dear Audubon members and friends:

The National Audubon Convention has been laid to rest, business-wise, but I hope the many stimulating talks and happy exchange of social patter with friends from everywhere, will linger pleasantly in your hearts and thoughts for a long time.

I have asked your Editor to let me use this bit of space so that I may THANK YOU one and all for the support, interest and work contributed. It was truly a "Western Team Effort". As your Western Representative it is understandable that I felt rather strong personal involvements. Your wonderful spirit and participation fulfilled and exceeded my expectations. I am most grateful.

May we ALL meet again at ASILOMAR, on April 6 to 9, 1968, is my closing wish to you.

Bill Goodall



the large industrial concentration, - steel mills and other establishments - along its southern shores. Lake Huron, with a small bordering population, so far shows only minor pollution and Lake Superior almost none. Nevertheless, the growth of the entire region makes the long-range outlook disquieting.

Another of man's works, the Welland Canal, has had nearly catastrophic effects on the natural resources of the Great Lakes. This new channel allowed the lamprey and the alewife, a small herring, to invade the lakes beyond Ontario. The lamprey, a parasite on other fish, by 1950 killed nearly all the lake trout and burbot ( ling cod ) in Huron, Michigan, and Superior, and then attacked many smaller species such as the whitefish. The alewife feeds on the eggs of other fishes. In the past decade it has multiplied so rapidly that it is the dominant fish in Michigan and Huron.

The authors make a plea for study of the effects of man's activities on the Great Lakes, and action before it is too late. The Great Lakes are an inestimably valuable resource. They supply vast amounts of fresh water for many needs, transportation, a source of food, a vast playground, and, not least, immense natural beauty. As the authors say, it would be tragic if one day we look out over their waters and reflect bitterly, like the Ancient Mariner, that there is not a drop to drink!

## Audubon Activities

By Otto Widman

### Nov. 12 - SANTA BARBARA - GOLETA

Now that the grebes have lost their spectacular summer plumage -- we get to see them! (Eared, Pied-billed, & Western). The Arctic Loon joins our list this time of year, --also devoid of his finery. The sandpipers, large and small -- even the Dunlins -- seem drab. Only the Killdeer among the plovers retains his sharply-defined plumage; not the Black-bellied & Semipalmated. The Willets are almost nondescript and the Dowitchers have lost their ruddiness. The hundreds of Mew Gulls on the strand seem lackluster, but not so the California, Heerman's, and Ring-billed Gulls. The few Bonaparte's seem dull and uninteresting. The Terns seem much the same -- Royal, Forster's, and Elegant.

Keith and Kit Axelson and Lewis and Kim Garrett made the trip with as much enthusiasm as ever. We were glad to see Al and Florence Myers. There were six carloads of members and we birded from the Santa Barbara sanctuary along the coast to Goleta, where we lunched at the beach park.

The 79 species produced nothing really outstanding. There seemed to be more Egrets, both American & Snowy, on the marshes; fewer Black-crowned Night Herons. At El Capitan Campground we had wrens, Hermit Thrush, Kinglet, Shrike, Yellowthroat, and Goldfinch. Of special note were the Parasitic Jaegers, the Northern Phalaropes, and Water Pipits, but none were abundant.

### Nov. 27 - EATON CANYON

Pauline Cole's private domain, Eaton Canyon, was opened hospitably to us on a bright sunny Sunday morning. The coolness in shady places in no way hindered the activity of the birds and the 26 members and guests of the Society. Our guests were from St. Louis (Alberta Bolinger), Canada (Mae Reid), Altadena (Irene Streeter), Pasadena (Beulah and Archie Mills), and members were from all over the city. The Mangolds, the Dores, and the Kings were there. In an easy walk about the canyon floor and over a dry river bed (this year!) Pauline, our leader, showed us 31 wintering species.

We had fine views of Cooper's Hawk and an immature Red-tail. Hermit Thrushes were observed wherever we went; we saw Bushtits, Plain Titmice, Mountain Chickadees, Wrentits, Rock Wrens, and Bewick's Wrens. Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers were around. Red-shafted Flickers constantly crossed our path, and I have never seen so many Juncos, Goldfinches, and Kinglets; Sparrows, Golden-crowned and White-crowned, seemed to come in bunches. In all it was a very pleasant day.

A poem by Miss Kelly Stewart, 16-year-old daughter of the famous actor James Stewart, won first prize in the 1966 literary essay contest sponsored by the Pasadena Audubon Society for students in the independent schools of California. General subject for the essays was the preservation of endangered species of wildlife. The awards were announced during the Sacramento convention, and Miss Stewart's winning entry, entitled "The Shadow of the Condor," was read aloud by National Audubon President Buchheister.

## A SHELL COLLECTOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

Because I appreciate our heritage of wildlife and natural resources, I will make every effort to protect and preserve them, not only for my own future enjoyment, but also for the benefit of generations to come. I will make sure that I leave things as I found them during all of my shelling explorations. I will return rocks, boulders, kelp and sea weeds to their original positions after looking beneath them. I will refill the holes I dig and the burrows I uncover. I will take only those specimens that I know I can clean and use. I will leave behind the damaged and young specimens so that they may live and multiply. I will never knowingly deplete an area of an entire species. I will respect the property rights of others; treat public land as I would the property of my friends, and collect on private beaches only with the owners' permission.

Pacific N.W. Shell Club  
Reprinted in December, 1966 NOTES  
Seattle Audubon Society

### Nov. 30 - WILDLIFE FILM

"Now if we can have just a little more light, please, we will get on with the film." In spite of projector difficulties, we saw a very fine picture; Allan Cruikshank took us to "Bear River" and showed us what the river really is. The source and delta are only 60 miles apart, yet the river is 650 miles long. We saw the larger mammals (Deer, bear, moose, elk, pronghorn), the rodents (pika, marmot, prairie dog, Uinta squirrel), but most of all he concentrated on birds. Many scenes were the result of eight-hour vigils in blinds. Memorable were the scenes of the chicks of Western Grebes rumble-seat riding on the backs of the parents. Another showed billions of midges -- extremely annoying, but which made much of the wildlife possible. Above all, said Mr. Cruikshank, our most precious commodity is water; we must keep it pure, and treasure it beyond all else.

Continued on page 49

# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BRANCH ORGANIZATION

## WALT DISNEY

Mr. Walt Disney brought an awareness of the wonder and mystery of Nature to more people than perhaps any man who has ever lived. We are profoundly thankful that he had the vision to bring to us the essence of the desert, the prairie, the Arctic, -this man's passing leaves a great emptiness. He was unique in his field.

## AUDUBON ACTIVITIES continued

### Dec. 13 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING

Pres. Bill Watson brought two books to our attention: "Birds in our Lives", a Dept. of Interior publication with many noted naturalists contributing; and Richard Lillard's interesting book on man's meddling with nature, "Eden in Jeopardy". Walter & Ann Wager attended their first meeting. Mr. & Mrs. Schoeder were here for the first time. Fran Kohn introduced her guest, Mrs. Barbara Benton. Dr. & Mrs. Gerhardt Bakker, alternating at the microphone and projector, took us through the Rockies into Alaska and then into Lapland to see the tundra, the mountain peaks and meadows, with many close-range shots of high-country animals, and flowers miniaturized by the elements. Our thanks to the Bakkers for a memorable evening.

### Dec. 10 & 11 - LOST HILLS GAME REFUGE & CARRIZO PLAINS

At Lost Hills Game Refuge, west of Wasco, Warden Leonard S. Snyder convoyed 38 of us in three trucks out to the birds. Flocks of ducks took to the air by the hundreds - Shovelers, Pintails, Ruddy, & Mallards. Geese, both White-fronted & Snow, showed. We had both Pied-billed and Eared Grebes. George Venatta spotted a Pigeon Hawk, - one of our rarer hawks & one seldom seen on our field trips. Pheasant flushed from the brush. We had Yellowlegs, Snipe, Plovers, and best of all, 5 American Bittern.

On the Carrizo Plains, the "brown hills brushed with green" of last year now held the brightest of greens in a carpet that covered the valley and hills. We were met by Col. Homer Widmann (Sacramento) who guided us to the estimated 5000 Sandhill Cranes below the now full Soda Lakes. There, across the emerald green fields as far as the eye could see, the cranes bunched in masses of gray. In the foreground, a sheep dog moved his flock about in noisy order. When the awe of the spectacle wore thin, we noticed Hawks (Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Marsh, & Sparrow) and Falcons (Peregrine & Prairie), and a few Mountain Bluebirds. Lark Sparrows, Water Pipits, and Horned Larks were everywhere by the thousands. Eva Millsap and party reported a Ferruginous Hawk. A non-member reported, in the south end of the Plains, a Condor. Eva, on

Director Walter T. Shannon of the Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game announced that the title of the Game Management Branch has been officially changed to Wildlife Management Branch to reflect the Department's broader interest in all wildlife matters.

The recent completion by the Department of the California Fish and Wildlife Plan gives renewed impetus to departmental programs in preserving and improving conditions for all wildlife, - game and non-game species alike.

Along with the title change of the Branch... the working title of Ben Glading, Chief of the Branch, has been changed to Chief, Wildlife Management Branch.

AUDUBON  
WILDLIFE  
FILMS

EDGAR T  
JONES

"ALBERTA  
OUTDOORS"

WEDNESDAY

25

JANUARY  
S M T W T F S  
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 31

Daniel Webster Junior High School  
11330 W. Graham Place  
West Los Angeles 8:00pm  
(Near Sawtelle and National Blvds.)

the way home, saw two more at close range. Our list included 67 species. Dick & Marge Wilson, the Gerhardts, & the Jenners reported Western Bluebirds, Phainopepla, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Robins, Flickers, Cedar Waxwings, and California Quail at the summit of the road over the Temblor Range. Doug Harding added 11 life birds to his list. Sheldon & Bernadine Estabrook came over from Taft with the Jobes. Hiawatha Clements brought her guest Elizabeth Meyers. Arnold Small was our leader. On Sunday, those of us who had stayed overnight revisited the plains for as long as we could. At one place I saw Mountain Plover about every ten feet for as far as I could see.

# Southern California Birds

By DAVID GAINES

Birders afield in November observed the following: late migrants, mountain species in the lowland, and winter residents. A vigorous storm swept the area early in the month, leaving rain in the lowlands and snow in the mountains. Following the storm, wintering birds became increasingly abundant. A trip to the mountains late in November revealed an almost complete absence of birds above the 6000' elevation. To a degree, this is normal in the fall, due to a scarcity of food; nonetheless, one is tempted to correlate the absence of birds at high elevations with the appearance of montane species in the lowlands.

Late migrants continued to straggle south in November. An occasional Townsend's Warbler, Palm Warbler, or Myrtle Warbler were noted among the large flocks of Audubon's. A few Warbling Vireos were seen. In San Diego, three individual Black-throated Green Warblers were observed over a period of three weeks. The most interesting records come from Guy McCaskie in Death Valley over Thanksgiving, and are as follows: Bohemian Waxwing, Bay-breasted Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, two Rusty Blackbirds, and two Harris' Sparrows. Conclusion: Death Valley is excellent birding.

As previously mentioned, several montane species were noted in the lowland. Red-breasted Nuthatch was common at several localities along the coast. Pygmy Nuthatch and Brown Creeper were found as far south as the Mexican border. Mountain Chickadees were unusually abundant. Most spectacular was an estimated 100 Red Crossbills on Pt. Loma. This species was also seen in the Los Angeles area.

Numbers of wintering birds were about usual for the date. White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Robins, and the like were present in the Los Angeles area. Twelve Cattle Egrets appeared in San Diego, indicating this species may now be considered usual. On San Diego Bay, an American Brant is wintering. Slate-colored Juncos were in San Diego and Los Angeles. An Oldsquaw was in San Diego.

Perhaps the most interesting find of the month was a Roseate Spoonbill, observed by Shum Sufel at the Salton Sea. Also at the Sea were Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, and a Bald Eagle.

During January, watch wintering birds closely for the usual rarities. After hunting season, such areas as the Salton Sea should be particularly good. Look for Blue and Ross' Goose among the Snows, Stilt Sandpiper, Swamp Sparrow, and (who knows) Roseate Spoonbill. Along the coast, watch for Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Bohemian Waxwing, Harris' Sparrow, and other good birds.

## WELCOME TO New Members

Bob Anderson  
827 Morraga Drive  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Mr. Edward J. Burch  
12734 Hart St.  
N. Hollywood, Calif. 91605

Mrs. Elise Cassell & Family  
1207 W. 168th St.  
Gardena, Calif. 90247

Miss Marie Forman  
1220 Scioto Road, Apt. 227L  
Leisure World  
Long Beach, Calif. 90740

Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Harding  
632 S. Lucas Ave., Apt. 25  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

Raymond Nadwocki  
2707 Federal Ave.  
West Los Angeles, Calif. 90064

Mr. Paul Lewis Steineck  
2815 S. Hoover St.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90007

John G. Wigmore  
605 W. Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90015  
800 Standard Oil Bldg.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Winch  
Box 164  
Santa Monica, Calif. 90406

Changed to Life Membership (\$500):

Mr. Earl K. Dore  
1745 Maple Ave.  
Torrance, Calif.

## Hummer vs. Praying Mantis

On Sept. 4, 1966, I was watching a hummingbird, - probably an immature - when it began squeaking and struggling in the morning-glory vines. I ran out and pulled him out of the vines, and a praying mantis came with him. It was tearing off the neck feathers and had a tuft of feathers in its mouth; already the skin was broken. The bird jerked away and flew.

Victoria Sudsbury, Davis, Cal.