



SPECTACULAR! describes the **67th. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

The 1966-67 Christmas Count season has come and gone and left with us memories of new friendships made, old acquaintances renewed, and delightful hours spent in the refreshing out-of-doors. This is the fun time of year when every bird we see finds a place in the vast complex of data accumulated over the length and breadth of our continent. For one day each year birders, right in the City of Los Angeles, may contribute from their own back-yards bits of information that will advance the science of ornithology. Being a part of such a highly organized activity generates excitement and inspires one to continue on and develop his field skill even further. Yes, everyone is welcomed on Christmas Count day, from novice to expert. This is the day when everyone, young or old, experienced or inexperienced, may have a part, from tallying House Sparrows, to being "group secretary," to working out identification of immature gulls. "The more the merrier!"

"So how did we do this year?" is the question in everyone's mind. As the title of this article indicates, we did very well! We established a new record in number of species recorded in one day in our circle of 15-mile diameter with its center at Pico Boulevard and La Cienega. This was our 30th anniversary of counting in this circle, having done so consecutively since 1937. Never before has such a variety of birds been found! In fact, this year's 165 species is 18 more than last year's excellent 147! It is interesting to note that, in going back over older copies of Audubon Field Notes' Christmas Count issues, never have we been able to locate 160 or better species in the allotted 24-hour period from midnight to midnight. Eight times during the thirty years, we found 140 or more species. In 1937, the first year, only 102 species were found. This figure was improved upon until in 1946 the number rose to 151, the first time we entered the ranks of the "elite" -- counts in excess of 150 species. Very few across the nation

are in this bracket. In 1951 one hundred fifty were found, in 1952, 151. In 1953 and 1954 our totals were the best until this year with 153 and 154 respectively. Numbers were still good through the rest of the 1950's but in the early 1960's the totals dropped sharply and it is indeed encouraging to see them come up again despite the "advance" in evidences of civilization throughout the city.

By DAVID BROWN

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67th. Christmas Bird Count

Continued...

Superlatives also apply to our total number of birds-- 32,007. This figure is in the top five for our thirty-year period. Interestingly, we find that in 1937 only 10,000 birds were tallied. By 1946 this number had grown to 31,000. In only three years have Los Angeles birders found 40,000 or more-- in 1953 with 42,000, in 1954 with 43,000 and in the fabulous count of 1952 where 63,399 individuals were counted and a quarter of a million birds estimated to be in the area circle. This was due to the special efforts of Pyle and Cunningham where not only were there 41 parties in the field and 23 people watching feeders, but an additional 18 sites were censused throughout the city to give sample population figures in order to estimate the entire area's total of birds. Such a thorough coverage gives a clearer picture of the whole area where-as 10,000 in one year does not mean that birds are lacking necessarily, nor does 63,000 actually mean that birds were more abundant. But the differences in total numbers are often affected by wintering species that are both gregarious in nature and erratic in movement, such as Robins, Waxwings, and Bushtits, and these totals thus take on significance whereas the numbers of gulls, House Finches and House Sparrows remain more or less constant.

We are privileged in this area to take part in a unique count. There are very few counts that take in as highly populated an area as residential Los Angeles. The Los Angeles count even includes little Pershing Square in the midst of towering skyscrapers. Who would think that Pied-billed Grebes, a Canada Goose, Ring-necked Ducks, Violet-green Swallows, and Mountain Chickadees would be found in the very heart of the nation's third-largest city? Yet, Bill Watson's party found them all this year. Bill is very enthusiastic about this city area and states that often the most interesting birds of the area are found right downtown where they have to congregate in the small parks because of the maze of surrounding buildings. Bill counts this area every year and urges all to "come out and see the birds in the city parks." This brings up an interesting phase of a big city count. With nearly a thousand members in the Los Angeles Audubon Society we should be leading the nation in number of observers for a Christmas Count. We certainly have the potential. We did this one or two years, but with such a fun activity, and an educational one besides, we should do this every year. This year only 49 could be counted as participants, three of these observing at feeders. Several more went along but did not give the required 50 cent fee for participation. This is one of the rules of the Christmas Count now, and certainly a reasonable one.

This 50 cents all goes to print the sizable and attractive volume devoted to the entire Christmas Count from Hawaii and Alaska to Key West and San Diego published in every April issue of Audubon Field Notes. As a reward for our contribution, however, each one's name is included at the end of the report from his area. Incidentally, Audubon Field Notes is an intriguing magazine devoted to the field observations of amateurs and professionals all across the continent. It includes through the year six issues, taking in spring migration, summer nesting, fall migration, winter birds, bird censuses, rare finds, new North American records, and the afore-mentioned Christmas Counts. Subscriptions are available for \$5.00 a year from the Service Department, National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10028. So we hope that next year the figure of 101 observers for 1963 and of 116 for 1952 will be surpassed. This year Bill Watson and David Brown collaborated as a team in organizing and compiling the counts participated in by Los Angeles Audubonites. They got a rather late start and were short of supplies, but spent many hours on the phone and writing notes to group leaders. They apologize if any were overlooked that wanted to participate but extend the invitation for next year for any interested persons to volunteer to help out whether experienced or not. And they want to thank the participants for their cooperation on such short notice which enabled the count to be a great success.

This year members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society counted in three areas nearby. On December 26 the traditional city count was held. Then on December 31 a brand new count was organized covering the entire Palos Verdes peninsula and the adjacent ocean within a 15-mile-diameter circle. Also on January 2 the already established Topanga Canyon count was conducted.



Many may be surprised to learn that the Los Angeles count was so successful. After all, didn't the cold front come through with that deep chill at dawn and those brisk and miserable winds? The birds went scurrying for the underbrush and many were missed as much birding was done from a car window due to the weather. Several groups reported very few birds around as they were counting open areas, but those in the canyons that were able to get back into the thick parts of the chaparral were able to "kick" or "squeak" or "swish" out a good number of birds. The weather may have been responsible for bringing down into range some species that would otherwise have been wandering around or flying high. This count was exceptional, not in rarities as there were few, but in the very complete list of normal wintering birds. Common Raven, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Lawrence's Goldfinch and others that usually winter regularly but locally were found that were missing last year. Only

one species was added to our all-time list of 255 species-- Laughing Gull. This brought our day's total to 9 species of gulls, a very good, in fact complete, number, not including Black-legged Kittiwake, which was seen during count period. With regard to the excellent details submitted by Irwin Woldman to convince the compilers of the accuracy of his identification, let it be noted that the need for good details for all unusual species is not to discredit the honesty or ability of anyone but merely to eliminate other species which would look nearly the same. Allan Cruickshank, the Christmas Count editor, is interested in accuracy for the benefit of all readers across the country so no one should feel embarrassed with being questioned on their rare finds. Sometimes there just is not sufficient evidence to include rare winterers and for this reason we had to drop Swainson's Thrush and Allen's Hummingbird from our list this year while not intending any courtesy to those who reported them. Other good birds for this area on the Los Angeles count were Ferruginous Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow. The able crew at Playa del Rey, led by the Clarkes, Arnold Small and Jim Huffman found Pomarine Jaeger, American Golden Plover, and Rock Sandpiper. Terns and Surf Scoters proved to be erratic and were not at Playa del Rey but located up the beach by Bob Blackstone's group and Irwin Woldman. Eva Mill-sap's group enjoyed finding the flock of 23 Red-breasted Mergansers on Hollywood Reservoir. Warren Blazer's group enjoyed the company of visiting "Red" and Marjorie Adams from Austin, Texas, who are here for a number of weeks studying California birds. They were able to tie down the male Black-chinned Hummingbird. Otto Widmann's group in Griffith Park found the concentration of hundreds of White-throated Swifts quite spectacular. Even with 165 species, some good ones were missing, but seen during the count period. They included White-tailed Kite, Golden Eagle, Snowy Egret, Royal Tern, Parasitic Jaeger, Yellow-headed Parrot, Short-eared Owl and Winter Wren. Of interest also are the Top Ten species of the day:

House Finch	4664
Brewer's Blackbird	3374
Bonaparte's Gull	2746
Starling	1964
House Sparrow	1936
Ring-billed Gull	1040
White crowned Sparrow	928
White-throated Swift	917
Black-bellied Plover	856
Audubon's Warbler	847

Last year Ring-billed Gull was number one and only 244 Starlings were counted, showing that species' great increase is still going strong. Other significant facts learned were that terns were missing from many stretches of the coast, that House Finches continue to be at least twice as numerous as House Sparrows. Golden-crowned Sparrows dropped from 1,016 to 69 this year and Fox and Song Sparrows also were less in numbers.

Santa Ana winds on the night of December 31 which brought small craft warnings threatened to hurt the new Palos Verdes count but the night became calm and the owl-ing moon was beautiful for the party that started out at 1 a.m. on the 31st looking and listening for night birds. Four species of owls were found. By dawn one couldn't have asked for a more beautiful, clear, calm day and the birding was pure pleasure. Why did we start a new court here? For some time now Shirley Wells and others have been impressed with the large variety of warblers, vireos, orioles, thrushes, etc., that pass through the peninsula during migration, notably at Point Fermin. Would some of these be found wintering on an isolated mass of hill jutting out into the ocean in line with the channel islands and enjoying year-round mild climate? Would birds that passed through the city find haven for the winter in the more protected rural area of Palos Verdes? Its physical features are impressive; from open ocean, to harbors and marinas and breakwaters, to marsh and swamp, lowlands and open fields, to rolling hills, canyons and ravines, and with extensive rocky and sandy beaches faced by steep cliffs; all of this should indicate a good potential for number of species. Not wanting to over-shadow the city count most of us didn't get to work on the Palos Verdes count until after the 26th, but hard-working Shirley Wells volunteered many hours and miles in obtaining permission to enter private areas, scouting birds, and arranging for a boat. She and Pat Powell, librarian for the Department of Fish and Game in San Pedro, were able to arrange with Bob Sprague a pelagic trip covering the 7 miles of ocean south of the circle's center at Portuguese Bend. We are very appreciative of Mr. Sprague's kindness and generosity in taking us out aboard his luxury yacht. He good-naturedly cooperated in maneuvering around for us to study the phalaropes, Red and Northern, slowed down for a leisurely look at three Fulmars, stopped in order to observe schools of gray whales and pilot whales at close range. Of much interest also were Pink-footed Shearwater, Manx Shearwater and Cassin's Auklet. Alice Fries was our willing secretary and Tom and Jo Heindel helped with their rifle stock-mounted telescope. On-shore parties led by Don Adams, David Brown, David Gaines, Richard Milne, Bill Watson and Shirley Wells found such interesting species as White-tailed Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, Surf-

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67th. Christmas Bird Count

Continued...

bird, Wandering Tattler, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Black-legged Kittiwake, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Tropical Kingbird, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers, Tricolored Redwing, Hooded Oriole, Western Tanager, Red Crossbill, and Gray-headed Junco. The Knot and Common Scoter are quite uncommon in this area but were located by the beach parties. The highlight of the count, however, was the large number of wintering hummingbirds. Five species were found-- Black-chinned, Costa's, Anna's, Rufous, and Allen's! And as is wise for such rarities all of these species were later verified. In fact Shirley Wells not only confirmed Richard Milne's Rufous hummers by watching the correct aerial display flight but also found the first Allen's Hummingbird nest for Palos Verdes with two fledglings on January 10th. This represents the southernmost known breeding area on the mainland. She also located three Anna's nests in the same area. Yes, indeed, Shirley was directly responsible for much of the success of this count. Twenty-two observers found 168 species and 20,848 individuals.

On January 2 fourteen observers found 133 species and 6,500 birds in the Malibu-Topanga Canyon count. This was 41 more species than last year and shows the good possibilities here also. Whereas the top birds on the palos Verdes count were Bonaparte's Ring-billed, and California Gulls, and House Finches, here at Topanga Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Lark Sparrow (483 to last year's 8), and White-crowned Sparrows were tops. Only 10 White-throated Swifts were found last year but 356 this year. Malibu Lake had many Canvasbacks this year whereas none were found last year. The Yellow-headed Parrot was found on this count for the first time, near the Serra retreat. A Poorwill was observed in the road at the Boy Scout Camp in Old Topanga canyon. Other good birds were the wintering Black Brant, a Golden Eagle, Forster's and Royal Terns (as scarce as they are this winter), Townsend's Solitaire, Brown Creeper, and Townsend's Warbler.



So beside being a pleasant way to spend the holidays what have these Christmas counts shown us? Most obvious is the fact that we reaped part of the great harvest in bird variety along the California coast this winter. Tomales Bay with 184 species, Morro Bay with 175, 178 at Santa Barbara, and 206 for a new national record at San Diego show that there is much to excite birders. But also the very aim of the National Audubon Society is thrust upon us. The Audubon Society seeks to educate the American public not just in bird watching but in the

protection and conservation of the last remaining wild areas for the enjoyment now of everyone and of future generations to come. We who enjoyed watching birds in lush spots along the coast must be immediately concerned with the growing threat of draining the marshes, filling in the tidelands and building highways over the lagoons. Our voices to protect these areas and the city parks and playgrounds must be raised now that their effect may be felt in time. Bird watching and conservation thus go hand-in-hand. Each bird or animal has its own ecological niche or area where it can compete with other birds and animals and survive. In order to have any wildlife at all it is necessary to preserve these habitats. Without marshes there will be no rails or herons; without tidelands there will be no shorebirds, and without lagoons and city parks the ducks, geese and kingfishers will leave; and the refreshing beauty of the scenic wild lands will be gone. So come along with us and enjoy the outdoors! Bring your whole family; tell your friends and neighbors of local Audubon activities and let's show the National Audubon Society that the Los Angeles Audubonites are interested in their community and its many natural features. Some exciting outdoor nature programs are now being arranged for 1967, so be a part of these and make the Christmas Counts of next winter prove the superlatives of this winter to be just a shadow of things to come!

Herb Clarke New Member of 600 Club

The ranks of birders who have observed and identified at least 600 birds of the A.O.U. list, north of the Mexican border, were joined recently by Herb Clarke, who on a trip which took him and Olga as far as Minneapolis, saw enough new species to bring his life list to 606! At least three of our members now live in this exclusive neighborhood; Arnold Small and Earle Greene both are well over the 600 mark. Are there any more of you?

Members Urged to Protest New IRS Ruling

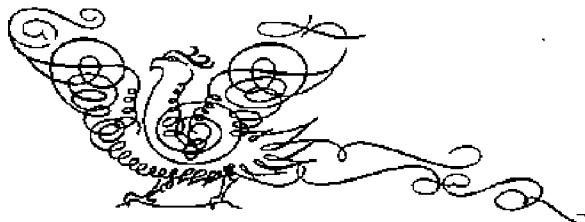
It has been suggested that all Audubon Society members be encouraged to write letters to appropriate Government officials protesting the recent Internal Revenue Service action against the tax-exempt status of contributions to the Sierra Club. This action poses a serious threat to the continued existence of all organizations whose interest in Governmental operations is based on philanthropic, ethical, or esthetic considerations, rather than profit or commercial advantage.



HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY & NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT
PLUMMER PARK, 1377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90048 876-0202
HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. J. GORDON WELLS
REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: LÉONIE FERGUSON

WILLIAM T. WATSON, PRESIDENT
1249 N. EUGENE AVENUE, APT. 12
LOS ANGELES 90029 661-4538

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
705 28TH STREET
MANHATTAN BEACH 90266 372-5538



FEBRUARY

Feb. 2 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

Feb. 11 SATURDAY & SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Morro Bay. This is one of the best birding areas. Our consolidated bird list has 132 species. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the foot of Morro Rock. Many of us go Friday night in order to have a full day Saturday and a half day Sunday. The Jobes have a room reserved at the museum on Saturday evening for showing their taped slide show on Alaska - "Alyeska". Camping at Morro Bay State Park; motels available in Morro Bay & San Luis Obispo. Distance approximately 210 miles from City Hall via Ventura Freeway.

Leaders: Claire & Marion Jobe
Call Otto Widmann - 221-8973 or Audubon House: 876-0202

Feb. 14 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. This program features two fine color nature films: "The Valley of the Swans", showing the wildlife sanctuary of Kootenay Valley and Duck Lake, the resting place for thousands of swans, ducks, and other migrating birds; and, from the Disney True Life Adventure Series, "Water Birds", alive with excitement and rare glimpses into the behavior of seaside and marshland birds.

Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner - 748-7510

Feb. 26 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Chatsworth Reservoir. Nowhere else so near to the center of Los Angeles can merganser, geese, and ducks & other water birds be seen so well. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Rosco Blvd. and Topanga Blvd.

Leader: Eva Millsap - call evenings: RI 8-4411

Mar. 1 WEDNESDAY WILDLIFE FILM - Webster Junior High School - 11330 West Graham Place, West Los Angeles, - Auditorium
Howard L. Orians - "The Land the Glaciers Forgot"
In their native habitat and in action: deer, beaver, bear, 'possum, porcupine, otter, fox, raccoon; many species of birds.

Mar. 2 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m. - Audubon House

Mar. 11 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Tujunga Wash
Always bring lunch & binoculars on field trips.
Please, no pets and no collecting.

EVERYONE WELCOME !

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MARCH						
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Pollution and Conservation In Los Angeles

Can man survive in Los Angeles?

In this integrated series, distinguished area specialists from the University's faculty will speak on very urgent and topical problems confronting the Los Angeles populace and possible solutions: air pollution and prospects for the future; water pollution and conservation; city noise -- its damaging effects; land conservation -- parks and the planning of recreational facilities; traffic and transportation problems.

MONDAYS --- 8:00 P. M. ---SOCIAL WELFARE
BUILDING, ROOM 147 (Formerly Economics
Building) ---April 10, 17, 24 - May 1, 8, 15, 22
NO ADMISSION CHARGE- THE PUBLIC IS
CORDIALLY INVITED

NEW
MEMBERS
Welcome!

Gordon E. Brent
2811 Waverly Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90039

Mrs. Gerrit Bratt
3411 N. Grand Ave.
Claremont, Calif. 91711

Mr. L. B. Dotson
17705 S. Western Ave.
Gardena, Calif. 90247

Pauline Hagen
5068 Franklin Ave., Apt. 210
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027

Mr. Walter Johnson
3917 Paige St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90031

Mr. Allen R. Kilgore
1057 Raymond St.
Glendale, Calif. 91201

Mrs. Marvin Milder
1911 Fairburn Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

Mr. H. E. Morrison
1257 2nd St.
Manhattan Beach, Calif. 90266

Mr. Marvin Parker
131 S. Oxford Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90004

Mrs. Edward L. Weimer
2510 Ridgeland Road
Torrance, Calif. 90505

Conservation Notes

By James W. Huffman

Eleven Million U.S. Birdwatchers!

Birdwatcher, you are not alone! Far from it. The birdwatcher can now count himself (or herself) as one of about 11,000,000 persons who share this hobby. This is only about 2,000,000 less than the number of hunters in the United States. More important, birdwatchers and kindred spirits are undoubtedly on the increase, while the number of hunters has definitely decreased in the past five years.

A North American Newspaper Alliance dispatch from Washington, D.C. dated Dec. 14, carried the following information:

A freshly completed U.S. Census Bureau survey shows that there are now 8,196,000 who consider themselves bird watchers, and 3,113,000 who count themselves as bird or wildlife photographers. The hunters number 13,500,000. This is a drop of 1,000,000 since the last hunter census in 1960.

The NANA dispatch as it appeared in the Baltimore (Md.) Evening Sun stated that details about the watcher such as age, sex, and education will be made public in a few months by the Dept. of Interior Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. However, the fact of their great numbers was mentioned by Interior's Fish & Wildlife Service in a 75-page booklet on census findings on hunters and fishermen. The hunter-oriented Fish & Wildlife booklet ranks hunting "high on the esthetic scale" and describes the joys of the quest in prose more lyrical than usually found in government publications. However, it offers no explanation for the drop in hunters.

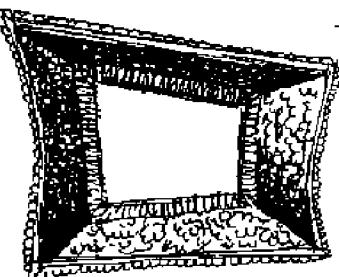
This writer speculates that many hunters may have found that the "joys of the quest" may be better satisfied with binocular or camera than with a gun. It should not be inferred from any of the above that there are not a goodly number of conservationists among the hunters. Indeed, many hunting and fishing groups are active in supporting conservation measures. We birdwatchers, nevertheless, will continue to hope (and work toward the goal) that the love of hunting may eventually find its outlet only in non-destructive activities.

TULE ELK

On Saturday, March 4, the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk will hold a banquet meeting at which the featured speaker will be the noted conservationist, Sigurd Olson. The place: "Town & Gown", on the U.S.C. campus. The time: 6:30 P.M. The price: \$4.50. For further information, call:

Beula Edmiston
5502 Markland Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90022

THE AUDUBON SCENE



COAST TOWNS ANGERED BY HAVOC AT TIDE POOLS

Wanton destruction of tide pool creatures, described in a letter to the editor of the DAILY PILOT, has roused the indignation of citizens in Corona del Mar, Huntington Beach, and Newport Beach. The letter, from the pen of Dr. Gilbert W. Bane, professor of environmental biology at UCI, told late in November of his seeing in one 15-minute period one Sunday afternoon, 123 "bucket-carrying scavengers" at Little Corona Beach. Most of those persons loaded their buckets with marine specimens and carted them off -- to be later discarded in their garbage cans, Dr. Bane surmised.

He also observed the wholesale poisoning of tide pools by a visiting college class, members of which picked up a few specimens and left with the poisons still reacting in the pool. Dr. Bane later collected the remaining dead animals which included 1,175 Sea Urchins, 118 Starfish, and 16 Octopi. Another time he ascertained that one of these human predators had collected 1,700 Starfish, only to return the next day for another take.

Councilman Lindsay Parsons brought this matter before his group who voted to direct the City Manager, Harvey Hurlburt, to enlist the aid of State Fish & Game Department in controlling such depredations. Vice Mayor Doreen Marshall suggested that Little Corona Beach be set aside by the State as a protected area.

We hope the Councilmen will keep this issue alive until something in the way of stringent control is accomplished to end this shocking devastation of marine creatures.

THE WANDERING TATTLER
January, 1967
Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Whooping Cranes

38 adult and 5 immature Whooping Cranes are settled on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, according to a Dec. 9 report from the Refuge Manager. The count has been consistent for about four weeks and the manager expects no change now. Forty-four cranes went north from Aransas last spring. The year 1966, then, was one during which the wild flock of Whooping Cranes scarcely maintained its numbers.

To Clean Sea Bird Oil Victims

In response to recent inquiries the following method of treatment is recommended for the removal of oil from the feathers of water birds:

1. Best not to attempt cleaning oil from victim for first 24 hours; but concentrate on warming and drying. Oil-soaked birds should be given a small dose of creamy milk to help neutralize any poisonous matter they might have swallowed.

2. Next, place small pads of cotton-wool under each wing; gently wrap entire bird in cotton-wool leaving bill and eyes uncovered. Place in open box where room temperature is held at about 70 F.

Continued on page 59

Insults Irrk Solons

Do you ever get overwhelmingly irate? And dash off an insulting letter to a Congressman? It's fun to "blow off steam" but such letters are worse than useless. It's rather silly to denounce a public official and then expect him to turn about and do as we wish.

If you must criticize, be constructive and positive -- not negative. If you must write a nasty letter, do so. Then tear it up. Tomorrow you can write thoughtfully and calmly. That will help the Congressman. He will be delighted to get light on puzzling problems that beset him with compelling arguments on both sides.

In some Congressional offices, stacks of letters are counted "for" and "against." So short letters -- two or three sentences, one or two paragraphs -- are most apt to be read appreciatively. The briefer you are, the more convincing and influential you'll be in Washington.

George W. Munford, in
Defenders of Wildlife News.

Here is some interesting news from a neighboring area. A wildlife sanctuary is under construction and is expected to be finished by the end of the year, near Walnut (west of Pomona). The 10-acre site is being developed to preserve plants and wild life native to that area. Foot-paths and bridges are being constructed. An amphitheatre will provide an instruction area. The sanctuary will include a large lake, a pond, a natural meadow, marshes, a meandering stream, covered shelters, and a roadside rest. Sounds like a dream, doesn't it? Maybe it is, but it is being paid for by a five-cent tax on the Mt. San Antonio College District citizens.

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Jan., 1967

An Open Letter...

To the Retiring National President

Dear Dr. Buchheister:

No executive officer of any society has ever been more truly a representative of, and spokesman for, its membership than you. Each Audubon Society member has felt secure in the knowledge that your actions, your writings, your speeches, embodied the ideas that we all felt and wished to have presented to the public.

Thank you for your years of service in the good cause.

Audubon Wildlife Film

 **Wednesday, March 1st.**

FOR DETAILS SEE CALENDAR... PAGE 55

Sea Birds *Continued...*

3. Birds with chance of surviving will soon liven up and start generating their own body heat; wet feathers will steam slightly and moisture be absorbed by woolen wrapping. When bird becomes warm it is ready to receive a little food.

4. Diving birds that normally eat fish should be fed finger-length slices of raw fish. One slice enough for first feeding. A capsule of halibut liver or other concentrated fish oil may be hidden in fish slice. Bird should rest several hours until well dried out.

5. Use Fuller's earth or prepared chalk as a dry shampoo. Rub into feathers thoroughly but gently, giving special attention to badly clotted quills in wing and tail feather area.

6. Leave Fuller's earth on feathers for about 12 hours, then rinse out with lukewarm water. Again bird must be dried in cotton-wool to avoid chill.

7. This cleaning process can be repeated every two days or until feathers are free of oil. Remaining oil stains are harmless and disappear with next moulting period.

8. Very important that the cleaned birds are not released until they have time to work the protective natural oils into their feathers to prevent cold water coming into direct contact with their skin.

(For further information refer to an article entitled "The Oil Menace" in the Jan. -Feb. 1959 issue of the Audubon Magazine, on pp. 28 to 30.)

Len Penhale in **PACIFIC FLYWAY**,
Morro Coast Audubon Society
November, 1966

Audubon Activities

By Otto Widman

Jan. 11 - ANNUAL BANQUET The chicken in wine sauce and the rum pie were as good as they sounded, and the spirit of friendliness prevailed throughout the evening in the congenial surroundings of the Fox & Hounds Restaurant. In attendance were 168 members and friends. Pres. Watson presented John Borneman with the Society's Conservation Award for his work as the first Condor Warden. Accompanying the award was a set of Edwin Way Teale's Four Seasons. Our program for the evening was given by our Junior Past President, Arnold Small, who was introduced graciously by his long time friend, Jim Huffman. In excellent color slides, he enabled us to "Follow the Kiwi" in a fascinating tour of New Zealand, from tropical rain forest to debris-covered glacier, from National Parks to countrysides that could have been cut from any scene in England. He showed us what can be done to save endangered species from extinction.

Elna Bakker Program

To the seasoned traveller and to the stay-at-home alike, the programs presented by our member, Elna Bakker, are always enjoyable. At the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, on March 2, Higbee-Wilson will present Mrs. Bakker narrating her own color film, "Timberline -- the World of the High Country". The scenic beauty, the wildlife, the problems, all will be presented in Elna's superb style. Our members and friends are urged to attend.

The Western Tanager

Official Publication of the
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046
Free to Members Others \$2.50 Annually

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Please send copy to editor before the 15th
of the month

Southern California **BIRDS**

by David Gaines

For birders, December proved an exceptionally interesting month, both in numbers and in quality. Christmas Bird Counts listed more birds than in many recent years. In fact, California topped Florida with a record high count, 206, in San Diego. The Los Angeles total of 160-plus is amazing. A new count, initiated by David Brown and Shirley Wells on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, exceeded 160 species, in spite of spotty coverage. The high counts are due to the presence of montane species in the lowland, high numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl, a remarkable number of rare and semi-rare species, and luck. In view of the above, it is surprising that Orange County counts found birds unusually scarce. Black-crowned Night Herons, for instance, were down from several hundred to a mere handful.

Loons and grebes were in usual numbers along the coast. A Red-necked Grebe was at Santa Monica Pier. Three Fulmars, Pink-footed Shearwater, Manx Shearwater, Parasitic Jaeger, Pomarine Jaeger, and Skua (Shirley Wells) were observed off Palos Verdes. At Morro Bay, two Emperor Geese were found. Greater Scaup and Common Scoter were on the Palos Verdes count. A Ferruginous Hawk roosted near Harbor Park. Adult Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks were observed near Lancaster. Prairie Falcons were at Lancaster and Pt. Mugu. A Goshawk was in Saline Valley. Several Pigeon Hawks were seen on the Palos Verdes count. Reports of Caracara at Pismo Beach and Zone-tailed Hawk in Irvine Park were most interesting. A Broad-winged Hawk in San Diego (Guy McCaskie) was a first state record.

As expected, a Rock Sandpiper appeared at Playa del Rey. Six Golden Plovers were discovered nearby. Flocks of Red Phalaropes were found off the coast. Laughing Gull, an unusual bird any time of year, but particularly so in winter, was found on the L.A. count. Kittiwakes were at Malibu, but terns were surprisingly scarce.

Palos Verdes proved excellent for wintering hummingbirds -- five species, including Costa's, Black-chinned, Rufous, and Allen's. What amounts to a minor invasion of Yellow-shafted Flickers was witnessed by three separate sightings in the Los Angeles area. A Tropical Kingbird was at Harbor Park (David Brown) and a Thick-billed (!) was at Bonita, near San Diego. Red- and White-breasted Nuthatches, Chickadees, Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread in the lowlands. Townsend's Solitaire was on the L.A. count, an excellent bird outside of the mountains. A flock of nine Red Crossbills surprised counters at Palos Verdes. Among wintering warblers were Townsend's and Black-throated Gray. A Palm Warbler was at Saratoga Springs, Death Valley. Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tana-

Watch for Wing-Marked Gulls

The University of Wyoming
University Station, Box 3166
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

January 11, 1967

Dear Mrs. Gayman:

Thank you for your report of a wing-marked California gull, number 46. This immature bird was captured, marked and released at the nesting colony at Bamforth Lake, 12 miles northwest of Laramie, Wyoming on the 30th of June, 1966. These birds are being marked in connection with a long-term behavior and population ecology study of California gulls in Wyoming.

I would appreciate receiving any future observations of these marked birds, even though the numbers may not always be easily read. Enclosed are several forms for your reporting convenience. Your interest and assistance in this project is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth L. Diem
Professor of Zoology

Our sharp-eyed member, Evelyn Gayman, had spotted a wing-marked gull at Buena Vista Lagoon on Dec. 26, and had called your editor to enquire about possible research being conducted on gulls. Fortunately, one of our exchange bulletins, The Sanderling, (Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society) carried reports of similar sightings, plus information about contacting Dr. Diem. The above letter was received by Evelyn in response to her report to Dr. Diem. If anyone should see a wing-marked gull, please call RI 8-7510 to obtain a form to be filled out and sent to the University of Wyoming. Those of us who are not ornithologists can be of help in this project.

ger, and Hepatic Tanager were found in the Los Angeles area. Gray-headed Juncos were observed at Furnace Creek, Death Valley (with five Slate-colored) and Palos Verdes (Richard Milne). A Clay-colored Sparrow was in San Diego.

During February, continue to watch for unusual wintering birds. Anna's Hummingbirds, Horned Owls, Red-tailed Hawks, Bushtits and other resident birds will be nesting. Towards the end of the month, watch for the first migrant swallows and hummingbirds. Salton Sea should be excellent, as hunting season is over, and ducks and geese are easily seen. Look for Ross' and Blue Geese, Stilt Sandpiper, and American Redstart (New River).