



Birding the New York City area

By **PAUL STEINECK and STUART FRIEDMAN**

Despite a high population density and intensive urbanization, the New York City area has remained a productive area ornithologically. Partly, this resulted from generous and far-sighted benefactors of the last century, who bequeathed large tracts of land to the city. These served as the nucleus for the present municipal park system. Partly, it resulted from sympathetic city and state agencies who wisely reserved valuable ocean front and coastal wetlands from development.

The diverse avifauna of the New York City area is caused by a fortuitous geographic position. The city lies close to the boundary between the Upper Austral and Transition life zones, accounting for such strange juxtapositions as breeding Cardinals and Greater Black-backed Gulls. Major migration routes traverse the city. Hordes of warblers, fringillids, and corvids use the Hudson River and central Westchester flyways; hawk flights are common in fall, especially over the ridges in the Bronx-Westchester area. Unseasonable weather, storm fronts, and adverse winds may dam migrants along these flyways, producing concentrations of numbers and species not often found in the West. Miles of beachfront, bays, and coastal wetlands provide resting sites for thousands of gulls, terns, and waterfowl, as well as a feeding and resting area for many migratory species.

In selecting the areas that we will describe in this article, it became evident that it would be necessary to omit even some very favored areas. Our selections, therefore, were guided by the following: 1) easy accessibility by car and public transportation (may we assure any incredulous Angeleno that the New York subways are cheap, safe, and fast); 2) have a wide variety of birds present over most of the year; and 3) areas with which we have a high degree of familiarity. The five areas selected are within one hour's driving time from central Manhattan, from which all road directions are given. For those travelling by subway, a map which may be obtained free at any

token booth will be helpful. It must be emphasized that contrary to the prevailing image, the observer should not hesitate to visit these areas for fear of bodily harm. Personally, I would not recommend owlking at midnight in Central Park, but by using common sense, the visitor will not encounter any problems. If you are bothered at all, it will undoubtedly be by a mounted policeman querying your purpose in standing in the middle of a bog at 5 o'clock in the morning.

GRASSY SPRAIN RIDGE - The Grassy Sprain is a small stream coursing through west-central Westchester in a broad north-south glacial valley. At Yonkers, the stream has been dammed to form Grassy Sprain Reservoir; the reservoir and the adjacent wooded ridge (west) and golf course(east) are excellent areas for nesting and migrating species. To reach this area, take the West Side Highway - Saw Mill Parkway north to Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers. Proceed east on Tuckahoe Road to the Sprain Brook Parkway and take this route north; you will see the reservoir and ridge to the left (west). Here you may stop to view the waterfowl and gulls resting on the reservoir. The Park-
(continued on next page)

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Continued...

way terminates at the northern end of the reservoir. Exit onto Jackson Ave. (west) and proceed until you reach the southward lanes of the Sprain Brook Parkway. Enter the Parkway and park on the left (east) side of the parkway keeping as close as possible to the "logs." From here the observer can view the fresh-water marsh at the northern end of the reservoir, and he may choose to walk along trails leading up to the ridge on the west and then south, or alternatively, crossing Jackson Ave., he may walk north, (under the power lines) along paths leading through magnificent climax woodlands. A small fresh-water marsh nestled between the ridge and the southward lanes of the Parkway, one mile south of Jackson Ave., is always good for birds; simply park on the west shoulder of the highway.

During migration the ridges and woodlands west and north of the reservoir harbor all of the species to be found commonly in the area. The small marshes bordering the reservoir are frequented by ducks (Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck); Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, Common Gallinules, and Herons. On the reservoir itself, Ring-necked Ducks, Common Loons, Hooded and American Mergansers, and Mute Swans are often seen. During the nesting season, such species as Pileated Woodpecker (rare), Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Traill's Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and various warblers (Chestnut-sided, Blue-winged, and rarely Kentucky) will be found in suitable areas.

Unfortunately the Parkway is being extended northward with its concomitant destruction of favored habitat. What effect this construction will have on the total birdlife of the area is unpredictable.

VAN CORTLANDT PARK - Largest of the city parks, and long a premier birding area, this park in the northwest Bronx boasts of such diverse habitats as ornamental plantings, mature deciduous woodland, brushy margins, large grassy meadows, and two fresh-water marshes. Stretching three miles from 241st in the Bronx northward to the Yonkers City line, the park is separated into two unequal parts by the north-south Saw Mill River Parkway. This highway is difficult to cross on foot and the two parts must be birded separately.

The writers hold the slightly heretical opinion that during migration, more species can be seen more easily in this park than in any comparable area. After five springs of intense birding in the park and comparing results, the facts are evident that V. C. P. has more species and individuals during major migration flights, and holds them longer during inter-flight periods. Indeed, it is possible to see 100 species in the park during a flight. This is impossible in any other city park.

The following itinerary will transect most of the varied habitats and will yield a long list in the shortest time. Take the East Side Drive to the Major Deegan Expressway, exiting at 242nd Street. From the offramp, make a sharp left U-turn and proceed to the parking area adjacent to the clubhouse. Walk west to the railroad tracks, then walk north. The tracks parallel the lake (right, east) and the swamp (left, west). After a short distance, a slice of land wedges in between the tracks and the lake. This area is known as the "island" and should be birded carefully; access is provided by frequent gaps in the link fence. Just north of the island, the tracks bridge over the lake; to the northwest the swamp can now be seen. Take the trail to the left (west) which eventually circumnavigates the swamp. Just above the ridge to the left (southwest) is the "parade-grounds," a large flat grassy area good for meadow birds. At the link fence (near a gigantic sycamore) turn right (north) along a narrow trail between the swamp and a golf fairway which is very good for birds. At the "wooden bridge" the trail forks (a Y, really); both forks yield intimate glimpses into the swamp and should be explored thoroughly.

Returning to his car, the observer can now turn his attention to "Upper Van." Return to the parkway and proceed north to the 233rd St. - Central Ave. offramp. At the stoplight, turn right and proceed 100 yards to a paved road on the right. Enter and drive along a bumpy road to a parking and picnic area. The mature woodland surrounding the parking area and the marshy area to the southeast should be investigated thoroughly. Walk along the paved path, next to the golf course link fence till another small dump-area is reached. Return to the car and retrace your route to the stoplight. Turn right (233rd St.) and then left (Midland Ave.). Proceed north, paralleling the park, and park next to the large concrete water fountain on the left (west). Enter the woods; directly ahead is a small marsh (Sycamore Swamp) surrounded by a lush growth of cattail, locust, willow, and maple, with a considerable brushy understory. Flanking the swamp are two heavily wooded ridges. Farther ahead is a large cattail swamp which can be circled by poorly defined paths. North of the cattail swamp is a broad expanse of mature woodland, stretching north to the city line (and suburbia). Due west from the Sycamore Swamp (across the ridge and close to the parkway) is a small stream set among towering tulip, oak, maple, and ash. All of these trees are invariably productive during migration; during waves the concentration is incredible. This small corner of the park is the only resting and feeding area for migrants for several miles north and south; the "rain" of migrants at dawn is a spectacle not easily forgotten.

If the viewer has time Woodlawn cemetery (see map) is worth a look. The lake (central) and the two wooded and brushy areas flanking (east and west), a large undeveloped meadow, just south of the Jerome Ave. entrance, are productive during migration.

(continued on page 44)

BIRDING AREAS OF GREATER NEW YORK CITY

- 1 GRASSY SPRAIN RIDGE
- 2 VAN CORTLANDT PARK
- 3 PELHAM BAY PARK
- 4 JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE
- 5 JACOB RIIS PARK

JACOB RIIS PARK

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

PELHAM BAY PARK

GRASSY SPRAIN RIDGE

VAN CORTLANDT PARK

YONKERS

THE BRONX

QUEENS

MANHATTAN

BROOKLYN

FRISBEE

GRASSY SPRAIN RIDGE

VAN CORTLANDT PARK

PELHAM BAY PARK

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

JACOB RIIS PARK

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JACOB RIIS PARK

YONKERS

THE BRONX

QUEENS

MANHATTAN

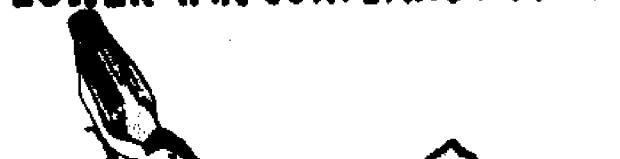
BROOKLYN

FRISBEE



Both authors were born and raised in Yonkers, New York. They met in 1956 at a Junior Audubon Club meeting and have been close friends and active birders since. Stuart Friedman received a B.S. from N.Y.U., and an M.S. from Hunter College, C.U.N.Y., in art education. He is currently teaching in the Peekskill School System and operates his own photographic and art studio. He is married and has a daughter two years old.

LOWER VAN CORTLANDT PARK



OF WAY

THE "ISLAND"

SWAMP

GOLF COURSE

SWAMP

Audubon Activities

By Otto Widmann

Nov. 26 - EATON CANYON - Our trip leader, Laura Lou Jenner, Earl K. Dore, Philip Silverstone, Pauline Cole, and myself comprised the group. The early morning hike into the warm canyon was indeed fruitful of wintering foothill birds. Among our 32 species were House, Rock, & Bewick's Wrens; Bushtit, Wrentit, Titmouse, Chickadee; Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, abundant Audubon's Warblers and one Orange-crowned; Jays, Doves, Hawks, Woodpeckers; and a good study of the difference in plumage of House Finch and Purple Finch.

Dec. 2-3 - CARRIZO PLAINS FIELD TRIP - Sixteen cars assembled at the meeting place and the Garretts and Helen Bayne joined us later at the Lodge, bringing our total to 35 members and friends. We convoyed to the LeConte Thrasher area just south of town; then Arnold Small, our leader for the two-day excursion - moved us down Hiway 33 to the Plains turnoff. At first the countryside was as barren of birds as it was of vegetation. Gradually the residents appeared: a Mountain Bluebird, a few Horned Larks, hundreds of House Finches, a Red-tailed Hawk. Mud on the road caused us to reverse our caravan and take the long way around through Taft & McKittrick. At Soda Lake, a few hundred Sandhill Cranes moved about in the fields, some dancing briefly. The rains had been later this year; last year's magnificent greenery was but a memory that we had to superimpose on the faintly greened hills and meadows. We saw several Ferruginous Hawks, two Golden Eagles, a dozen Sparrow Hawks, a Marsh Hawk, and a Prairie Falcon. Ellen Stephenson reported a Peregrine. A resident reported that trapping of falcons by falconers had just about wiped out the falcon population. It is indeed apparent that we of the Audubon Society must discontinue publishing our sightings of Peregrines. Hans Hjorth reported a Yellow-billed Magpie; heretofore we have only seen them in the hills to the west.

Further down the plains we came across at least 2000 cranes, also flocks of Mountain Plovers in flight. Kim Garrett observed a Long-billed Curlew and some Canada Geese. A Roadrunner, a Burrowing Owl, White-throated Swifts, Water Pipits, a Phainopepla, dozens of Ravens; and at a small puddle, Lesser Goldfinch, Sage, Savannah, Song, and White-crowned Sparrows - were among our observations. Earlier we saw a few Lark Sparrows.

In the evening before we went to the Lodge, we watched the shadows reach out and metamorphize the eastern hills, and while we watched this magic, long lines of Cranes left the lake to circle through the hills and land in a plowed field to the west of us - a ritual probably dating from time immemorial. The matchless clarity of the air, - the cloudless sky, - the warmth of the sun, - made a perfect day. Each year the hills and the birds are the same, but with subtle differences that make this pilgrimage a valued experience. Our

thanks to Arnold Small for leading us successfully through two days of birding on Carrizo Plains.



Dec. 12 - EVENING MEETING - Herb and Olga Clarke presented their twelfth program for our society! Herb told us that their birding and photography have been inspired by the past reception which the Society has given them. Their latest presentation was up to their fine standard. Sanctuaries in the Northeast gave excellent views of Great Black-backed Gulls, Black-capped Chickadees, Gannets, Murres, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, and Common Puffins. Herb said that this was a memorable trip, and that the most memorable were the Puffins. After the program, our social chairman, Ruth Wood, served coffee and delicious cakes and cookies.

KNOW ANYONE WHO'D MAKE A GOOD AUDUBON MEMBER? SEND THE NAME TO AUDUBON HOUSE NOW!

Thanks to Norman Johnson of the County Parks Dept., boards have been placed at the bottom of the fence around the garden of Audubon House. As a result, most of the neighborhood cats have been discouraged from coming into our bird sanctuary.

A record high of 48 Whooping Cranes have arrived at their wintering grounds at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas. Of these, nine were new young. Four fewer adults returned than went north last spring, so the total showed an increase of five birds. In addition, there are 12 Whoopers in captivity, including four that were hatched from eggs taken by biologists from nests in Canada last spring. These are being raised by the U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife research station near Laurel, Md., as part of an experiment aimed at re-introducing birds to the wild flock. These and other captive birds of the Bureau and of zoos bring the world total to sixty Whooping Cranes.

"Here is your country. Do not let anyone take it or its glory from you. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance. The World and the Future and your very children shall judge you according as you deal with this sacred trust."
--- Theodore Roosevelt



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY



calendar

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MRS. DONALD ADAMS, Executive Secretary

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Manhattan Beach 90266 372-5536

Headquarters, Nature Museum & Library
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Telephone 876-0202

JANUARY 1968						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Happy New Year!



January 1968

Jan. 4 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Audubon House

Jan. 9 TUESDAY - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - 7:00 p.m., Fox and Hounds Restaurant, 2900 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Program features the new sound and color film, "Return to Eden" by Arnold Small. Come and enjoy this fascinating film safari to Central East Africa. Reservations must be made by Saturday, January 6. \$5 per person, including tax and tip.

Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

Jan. 13 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Lake Norco. Meet at 6th and Hamner in Norco at 8:30 a.m. Take San Bernardino Freeway (U.S. 99) to Miliken turnoff, about 10 miles east of Ontario. Go south about eight miles to Norco. An alternate route would be: Santa Ana Freeway (U.S. 91) to Corona, then North to Norco via Hamner Avenue. Wintering ducks and waterbirds include Wood Duck, possible European Widgeon, and Black-crowned Night Heron.

Leader: Eva Millsap Call Eves.: 748-4461

Jan. 27 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Ramer Lake and Salton Sea area. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Wister turnoff on Highway 111 (about 36 miles south of Mecca) north of Niland. Those wishing to camp Friday and/or Saturday night may do so at Finney Lake, about 1 1/2 miles south of Calipatria. Enter at Ramer Lake and follow signs eastward to campground. Bring water and firewood. For others there are good motels in Brawley. Up to 109 species have been recorded on this two-day outing.

Leader: George Venatta Call: days TE 1 - 0222; eves. FR 8 - 8941

Jan. 28 SUNDAY - ALTERNATE FIELD TRIP - City Parks. Meet at North end of Echo Park across from the Angelus Temple at 8:00 a.m. This trip is for those not wishing to go to Imperial Valley. Good chance for beginners to see our wintering birds. There are always surprises. Varied Thrush and Pine Siskin have been seen.

Leader: Bill Watson Call Eves.: 661-8570

Feb. 1 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Audubon House

Feb. 10 SATURDAY - SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Morro Bay

Leaders: Claire & Marian Jobe

Information: 876-0202 (Audubon House); or 221-9873 (Otto Widmann)

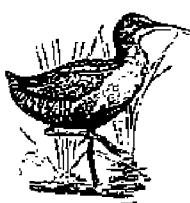
Feb. 13 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. "Canyonlands", by Sierra Club members Ben and Miriam Romero.

Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

ALWAYS BRING lunch and binoculars on field trips

PLEASE - no pets and no collecting!

EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES



MARY BARNES SALMON

BORN
November 19, 1871, Missouri

PASSED AWAY
November 21, 1967, Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs. Salmon, who was our President Emeritus, has left a heritage to all of us in the Los Angeles Audubon Society. It was she who was instrumental in obtaining Capt. Plummer's original home as our headquarters, - our own Audubon House. We salute the memory of a great lady who lived a long and useful life.

Welcome! — NEW MEMBERS

Lillian Bender
413 1/2 Willaman Drive
Los Angeles, Calif. 90048

Mr. & Mrs. Eric L. Brooks
1414 Colby Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90025

Dr. Rodney Carleton & Family
2140 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
Hollywood, Calif. 90046

Dr. Jack Dainty
UCLA Dept. of Nuclear Medicine
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

Mr. Richard Gehman
216 Main Street
Venice, Calif. 90291

Lisa Gubernick
5192 Orange Place
Los Angeles, Calif. 90008

Miss Martha Koch
420 S. Harvard Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90005

Mr. Earl Mitchell
2420 Hyperion Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027

Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Newin
400 S. Citrus Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90019

Miss Nancy A. Northrup
2893 Sunset Place
Los Angeles, Calif. 90005

Katie Tourkia
1015 West Garvey Ave.
West Covina, Calif. 91790

ATTENTION —

The Audubon Camp of the West in the Wind River Range of Western Wyoming will again offer four two-week sessions in 1968.

Session I - June 23 - July 5
Session II - July 7 - 19
Session III - July 21 - August 2
Session IV - August 4 - 16.

The Camp is located only sixty miles from the Grand Teton National Park on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Two units of University graduate or upper division credits are available to registrants. The Camp fee of \$135.00 includes board and lodging, instruction, and all field trip transportation. Enrollment for each session is limited to fifty registrations.

"The Camp program offers a greater understanding of the needs for conserving our natural resources and a broader knowledge of life in a variety of habitats," says Paul Howard, the Camp Director. Howard further reports, "the Camp is a field nature knowledge course of doing and learning under the leadership of well-qualified instructors. The textbook is the out-of-doors. The only prerequisite is interest and participation."

For further information and applications write to:

Director
Audubon Camp of the West
Post Office Box 3666
El Monte, Calif. 91733



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CONSERVATION NEWS

Two very interesting communications have been received having to do with saving the redwoods. The first is from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, and states:

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has presented the State of California with a check in the amount of \$2 million to assist the State in acquiring a 1,620-acre addition to Humboldt Redwood State Park.

The money was made available from the contingency reserve of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It will be matched by an equal amount of State money provided by donation from the Save-the-Redwoods League.



"This grant to the State of California is clear evidence of the deep interest we as a nation have in preserving these irreplaceable redwoods", Sec'y Udall stated. "I sincerely hope this action will help stimulate others to see the urgent need for establishment of a Redwood National Park, as President Johnson has recommended to Congress."

The State Park, which includes part of the renowned Avenue of the Giants, is about 100 miles south of the proposed Redwoods National Park. Final acquisition cost of the 1,620-acre addition is expected to total around \$7 million. When completed, it will extend the Avenue of the Giants by about seven miles and help preserve 815 acres of second growth redwoods and other timbered areas.

Sec'y Udall also praised the Save-the-redwoods League for raising more than \$11 million to preserve over 100,000 acres of unique Coastal Redwoods in California. "We and future generations will have a stronger Redwoods natural heritage as a result of patient efforts and perseverance by the Save-the-Redwoods League."

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, is supported by revenues from the sale of the \$7 Golden Eagle Passport and other Federal recreation fees, proceeds from the sale of Federal surplus real property, and the Federal motorboat fuels tax.

The other communication is from Sacramento, and states:

William Penn Mott Jr., director of the State Dept of Parks & Recreation, today announced the purchase of the famed Pepperwood Grove of redwoods adjacent to the Avenue of Giants Parkway Drive as an addition to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County. The transaction was made possible by contributions

totaling \$7,000,000 from state and federal governments, the Save-the-Redwoods League, and the lumber company from which the purchase was made.

The action adds 1,664 acres to the 38,864-acre state park and will extend the 25-mile Avenue of the Giants northward by seven miles.

The state is contributing \$1,925,000 toward the purchase -- \$1,500,000 from the park bond fund and \$425,000 from the general fund.

The Save-the-Redwoods League is contributing \$1,575,000, making its first payment of \$1,075,000 now and the other \$500,000 about July 1, 1968. The League contribution includes a \$600,000 gift from the Ford Foundation and contributions by many of the League's 40,000 members and various foundations.

The federal government is giving \$3,500,000 from the Dep't of Interior's contingency fund. The federal government has sent the first payment in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the state.

In addition, the Pacific Lumber Co., San Francisco, made a gift of 39 acres valued at \$40,000, to help round out the deal.

This makes very satisfying reading; we included a breakdown on the financial aspects of the transaction because it would be helpful to us if we could learn why the taxpayers and donors through the Save-the-Redwoods League are paying at the rate of about \$2500 an acre, and the tract donated by the lumber company is valued at about \$1000 an acre. We are sure there is an explanation.

The Oregon State Game Commission estimated that there were 550 individuals in the flock of Blue-winged Teal on Racetrack Lake, near Portland, this past fall. This is an extremely large number for this part of the country, and gives some indication of how this species has expanded in the West in recent years.

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Field Notes..... Shumway Sufel
Activities..... Otto Widmann
Typing... Caroline Adams, L. Jenner,
B. Jenner, & Staff

Deadlines: Feature Article - 1st of Month
Other Material - 10th of Month

Please Phone 876-0202 If You Can Help
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Birding

CONTINUED

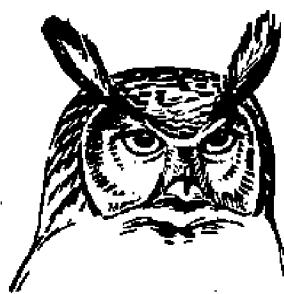
The list of birds to be seen is long; those species of interest to the visitor from the West are listed below:

Breeding birds are starred (*): Least Bittern (lower swamp), American Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk (fall), Osprey, Virginia Rail* (lower swamp), Common Gallinule, Woodcock, Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers, Wood Duck*, Laughing Gull, Yellow- and Black-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker (rare), Eastern Kingbird*; Flycatchers, Great Crested, Yellow-bellied, Traill's*, Least; Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee*, Catbird*, Brown Thrasher*, Wood Thrush, both Kinglets, Black-capped Chickadee*, Tufted Titmouse*, Vireos, -White-eyed, Yellow-bellied, Red-eyed*, Warbling*; Warblers, -Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Pine, Palm, Prairie, Ovenbird*, both Water-thrushes, Chat*, American Redstart; Rusty Blackbird(fall), Baltimore* and Orchard (rare) Orioles, Scarlet* and Summer Tanagers, Cardinal*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak*, Indigo Bunting*, Sparrows - Savannah, Vesper, Field*, Swamp* and Lincoln's.

PELHAM BAY PARK - During cold weather (November-March) the birder will do well to visit this area in the northeastern Bronx. It fronts on Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay, and contains deciduous woods, thick stands of conifers, plantings, and extensive areas of fresh-and salt-water marsh. Take the East Side Drive north to the Major Deegan Expressway. Exit onto the Cross Bronx Expressway (Int. 95) eastward; proceed to the Bronx River Parkway, north. Take this road to Pelham Parkway, eastbound. Pelham Parkway merges with Shore Road, which traverses the Park. After passing under the New England Thruway, turn right into Rice Park and park on the waterfront. The rafts of Greater Scaup on Eastchester Bay may reach 20,000 individuals; other birds to be seen include Horned Grebe, Old-squaw, and White-winged Scoter. Shore Road then passes over the Hutchison River; at the traffic light turn right(east) onto City Island Road. At the circle, the first right leads to a parking lot and beyond to Rodman's Neck, a triangular peninsula separating Pelham and Eastchester Bays. This wooded and marshy area is filled with fringillids; owls frequent the conifers, and shorebirds, gulls, and ducks can be viewed from the shore. The second right off the circle leads to City Island; at the tip of the island is a wooden pier which is an excellent vantage point for loons, ducks, grebes, and gulls on Long Island Sound. Take some of the cross streets right (west), to the Pelham Bay shore; the rare Iceland, Glaucous, and the common Greater Black-backed Gulls are often seen. The third right off the traffic circle leads to Orchard Beach. Scan the waterfowl resting on the "Lagoon" and drive across the parking area to the beach. To the right (south) and across the parking area and

several concrete paths is a low hill; just over the crest is a large marshy meadow and beyond, a broad expanse of meadowland, wooded copses, and stands of evergreens. One of the finest areas in the entire city, in winter it invariably contains Short-eared Owls (wet meadows); Hawks - Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, Rough-legged, and Red-shouldered; winter Finches - Pine and Evening Grosbeaks; Sparrows - Vesper, Savannah, Tree; and occasionally a wintering hali-hardy Palm Warbler or Catbird. The long, sandy beach is a favorite hunting ground for Snowy Owls during flight years. Walk to the left (north) along the boardwalk to the terminus. The jetties and rocky islands here are excellent for European Cormorant, Purple Sandpiper, and rarely, Harlequin Duck. Walk inland to the hill just behind the boardwalk (Hunters Island). This hill contains two extensive pine groves where Barred and Long-eared Owls winter.

Return to the traffic light; turn right (north) onto Shore Road. The road passes a large parking area on the left (west) sunk below the level of the road. Park and follow the path, under the railroad bridge, to the "Heron Slough." This area and the wooded margins surrounding it should be explored thoroughly. In the marshy areas, hawks, waterfowl, and gulls are seen. In the wooded and brushy margins, Slate-colored Junco, sparrows, finches, and Great Horned Owl (remote mature stands) can be found. The yews surrounding the Split Rock Clubhouse often contain Sawwhet Owls. Just north of the preceding area, on the right (east) of Shore Road, are the iron gates of the access road to historical Bartow Mansion. Behind the mansion the gardens, conifers, and deciduous woods hold such birds as Barn Owl, sparrows, Carolina Wren, juncos, and in the small marsh between the mansion and the lagoon shore, rails and herons. Follow Shore Road to the Westchester County line and scan the lagoon (right, east) for waterfowl and explore the meadows and brushy margins (left-west) for landbirds.



(Ed. Note: Because there are two more extremely helpful charts with the article, "Birding the New York Area", and limitations of space do not allow room in this issue, we shall continue the article in our February issue. Also we shall have the conclusion of Jim Huffman's exciting "New Guinea Adventure" in the next issue.)



ATTENTION!
REMEMBER THE DATE

★ ★ ★

Tuesday, January 9, 1968

Los Angeles Audubon Society

ANNUAL DINNER

**FOX & HOUNDS
RESTAURANT**

2900 WILSHIRE BLVD.
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.



\$5.00 including tax and tip

Social hour 6:30 Dinner 7 pm

PROGRAM

**Arnold Small
RETURN
TO
EDEN**

Sound Film depicting
Animals, Birds, People
of Central East Africa

FOR RESERVATIONS WRITE :

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY — In the regular banding program at the Observatory this past year we have handled well over ten thousand birds. This has provided us with much new information about local species. The Limantour Estero project has expanded this fall to include a program of shorebird banding, and our exploratory Farallon Islands trips were a marked success. Of course, these are just highlights of a dynamic program well worthy of your continued support. Our new location, with its scenic beauty and ample opportunity for banding and observing, has encouraged participation by an increasing numbers, the most important factor in our success to date.

Income from memberships must provide all maintenance of buildings and equipment, utilities, insurance, production of Newsletters and the Annual Report, materials for our voluminous records and reports, accommodation of our growing library, nets, traps, bird food, etc., and salary for personnel -- one person, who gives continuity to the program, and who co-ordinates the work of the volunteers and other personnel. Our income has not kept pace with the

demands of our basic program -- we face a serious shortage of funds in the next few months and may have to sharply curtail our operations. We think the Observatory is the most important happening in American ornithology in many years. We urge you to help us succeed.



In order to further the work of
POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY

I am glad to contribute \$ _____

- Member \$5 annually
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- Contributing Member \$25 (and up) annually
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PALOMARIN RANCH, MESA ROAD
BOLINAS, CALIFORNIA 94924

BIRDS

By G. Shumway Suffel

January and February are the best months for water birds. Ducks, geese, gulls, and divers are here in abundance. Hunting season is over, which means that State and Federal Wildlife Refuges are open to birders, and that most duck clubs are available for birding, if permission is obtained. The south end of the Salton Sea hosts tens of thousands of Snow Geese, thousands of Canadas, and hundreds of White Fronts. Among the thousands are a few Ross' Geese, and last winter there was one Blue Goose. Two rare small gulls (Laughing and Franklin's) are stragglers there, and should be looked for. In certain immature plumages they are almost impossible to tell apart; but again there is one point - difficult to see - which is infallible. The dark band across the tail of the Laughing Gull includes the outer retrices (tail feathers). On the Franklin's Gull the outer tail feathers are light, the rest of the tail dark-banded. The coastal gulls and divers must wait until another time.

Perhaps the most interesting event in November was the return of an adult male Hepatic Tanager to the Hillcrest Golf Course for the fifth winter. An immature and an adult male were found there on Feb. 3rd, 1964, by David Gaines and Larry Sansone. Since then an all red male has been found every fall, in the same place, at the same time of day, acting in the same way. It seems probable that this is the same bird year after year. On this assumption, there has been some speculation that this bird does not return to its normal range in the pine-oak woodlands of Southeastern Arizona, but rather, summers in our local mountains. Some credence is given this theory by the finding of an adult male Hepatic by Larry Sansone in the San Bernardino Mts., east of Big Bear Lake, last summer.

The high point in our observations certainly has to be the Ferruginous Hawk observed from the 13,000 ft. level in the White Mountains by Dennis Coskren. Two Rough-legged Hawks, along with several Ferruginous, were seen by Jay Shepard in the area west of Lancaster, where they will probably winter. Lewis' Woodpeckers, as anticipated, have been seen at many places in the Southland - Death Valley, Trabuco Canyon, Santa Barbara, as well as the mountains. Pauline Cole and Eva Milsap found two female Hooded Mergansers at the mouth of the Ventura River in mid-November. More than 100 Mountain Plovers were resting in the plowed fields of the Irvine Ranch on Nov. 19th.

The pelagic trip from Monterey produced good numbers of alcids - maybe 200 Cassin's, and 100 Rhinoceros Auklets - but few Shearwaters. On a last-minute trip out of San Diego on Dec. 9th, Bruce Broadbooks reported thousands of Manx Shearwaters, several Kittiwakes and Jaegers, and three Common Murres - which are "Uncommon Murres" in our southern waters. This may well be a Fulmar winter, since twenty

As many of our readers are aware, the Nest Record-card Program is now completing its third year on a continent-wide basis. We appreciate the assistance of the hundreds of persons and Bird Clubs whose enthusiasm and patience make this program possible. We are anxious to solicit help from as many clubs and cooperators as possible. If you are interested in helping in this research, please get in touch with the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University for instructions and nest-record cards. Before the new nesting season begins, we urge all present contributors to return any completed cards. We also request that participating clubs and birders order additional cards, if necessary, well in advance of the 1968 nesting season.

Please write to: (Mrs.) Edith Edgerton
Nest-record Card Program
Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850



Editor's Note: We are particularly pleased to learn that our own Alice Fries turned in the third highest number of nest-record cards by an individual -- 255! All of our members are urged to report observations of nests of common and abundant birds as well as rarities; this program is making a valuable contribution to the science of ornithology.

or more were seen in the waters off Monterey, and one was recorded southeast of San Clemente Island by Ralph Mancke on Nov. 18th. Paul Steinbeck saw 15 Snow Geese at Lake Elsinore, and believes that two of them may have been Ross' Geese. He wants confirmation from other observers, as this would be a life bird for him.

A super-rare Yellow-billed Loon (probably the first record south of Washington State) was found by Jerry Brady near his motel in Inverness, home of the famous Black Rails. The loon lured Herb & Olga Clarke, Arnold Small, Rich Milne, Jay Shepard, Dennis Coskren, and Larry Sansone on an exhausting one-day trip to Tomales Bay, north of San Francisco. All hands declared it worthwhile. Shirley Wells popped in on Eleanor Pugh in Cambria for a few hours of birding, and they came up with the second Ruff of the season. A Yellow-shafted Flicker (or a hybrid, as many are in the West) was seen and confirmed by Don Falconer on the Palos Verdes Golf Course on Dec. 9th.

Death Valley is certainly the best winter place for rare-bird finding. The Thanksgiving weekend produced a Tree Sparrow, three Rusty Blackbirds, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a Vermilion Flycatcher, and an Indigo Bunting for those from the Bay region and San Diego, who had the time and the "expertise" to find them. We three Angelenos were not so equipped.... (no names please).