

A Bird's-Eye View of the Birds

by Jim Clements

At first I thought it was earlier than usual. A faint blush of pink tinged some high cirrus clouds above the Sierra crest. Cloud's Rest, Mt. Hoffman and the tip of Lost Arrow Spire glowed with the early morning rays of the sun, but on the rim above Yosemite Falls, it was strangely quiet.

The noisy Steller's Jay, a rummaging towhee, the busy junco, an early-rising woodpecker--there were none of the familiar sounds this morning. Just a faint scraping sound came from high in a Jeffry pine overlooking our camp.

As the light improved, I detected a movement some 150 feet above me. A Douglas squirrel was industriously gnawing at one of the largest pine cones I had ever seen. The squirrel worked his way around the cone chewing vigorously all the while, and once even got on the cone and worked for a while--like the man sawing off the limb between the tree and himself!

It didn't occur to me until this particular moment that my wife Mary, my son Dan, or myself were in the direct line of fire for this arboreal missile. Seconds later, however, the cone was hurtling downward, with the chickaree in wild pursuit down the trunk.

The free-falling projectile hit Dan, who was sleeping on his stomach, square on his bottom. Even with the cushioning effect of the down sleeping bag, and his own ample padding, he came up like he had been shot. Hearing the scolding squirrel, which by now had reached the base of the tree and was anxious to claim his prize, Dan immediately sized up the situation. He picked up the bristling pine cone lying next to him and hurled it at the furry bombardier.

....continued on page 68....



He missed. But utter bedlam ensued. Chick-arees from far and near arrived, racing madly up and down trees, leaping from one branch to another, screaming insults at us and at one another. A flock of Steller Jays arrived, and right on their heels came the nutcrackers. Grouse whirred by, flickers called back and forth, a Pileated Wood-pecker screamed from the forest, and the whole rim of Yosemite Falls was plunged into the wild-est, most discordant symphony we had ever heard. It was as if we had arrived a half-hour late for the symphony, and burst in to find every musician playing his instrument in a frenzied pitch--with no conductor in sight!

As suddenly as it started, the noise stopped. The jays and nutcrackers departed, and the chick-arees went off to bombing practice elsewhere. Only "Norden," our noisy gladiator, remained. He cautiously dragged the foot-long cone over to the trunk of the Jeffry pine, and with his back to the tree and a watchful eye on Dan, settled down to breakfast.

While Mary prepared our breakfast, Dan and I walked over to the rim. A light pall of smoke was building up on the valley floor, and even at six a.m. Yosemite valley was alive. Cars and people, motorcycles, more people... same old story down below.

We long ago discovered and put into practice Clements' Law of Proxemics, viz.: the number of people in any given area is inversely proportional to the square of the distance times the cube of the height from that area. My wife the math major, who propounded this theory, explains that given 100,000 people in the valley on a Fourth of July weekend, just hike four miles and climb 15 feet and you'll be all alone. Surprisingly, she was absolutely correct... there wasn't a soul on Lost Arrow Spire!

Mary had come along to take some pictures and help us pack up the heavy supply of ropes, pitons, bolts, slings, carabiners, binoculars and other paraphernalia peculiar to climbers. Lost Arrow Spire is similar to the thumb in a pair of mittens, and to reach the thumb one must descend the face of the sheer wall for some 400 feet, and then climb the 500-foot exposed thumb.

"Well, we're here," I said to Dan as he prepared to belay me down to the saddle connecting the thumb with the main wall.

"We are here... because we are not all there," he replied, looking past me at the cold granite walls.

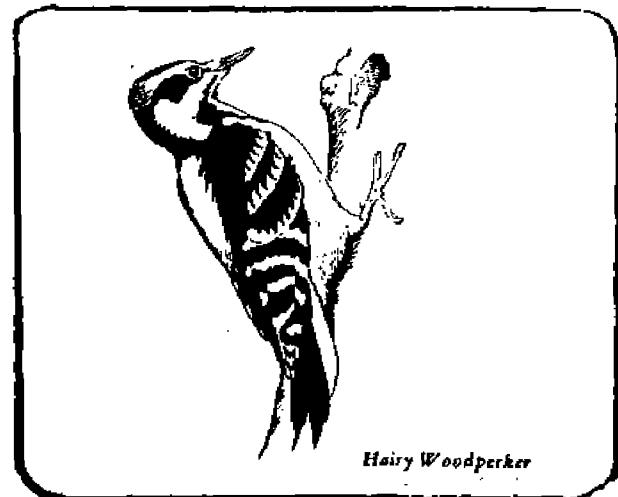
We rappelled down to the saddle, and soon Dan was moving out along the ledge to start the first pitch of the climb. Artificial climbing is very slow, and while tiring for the leader, the belayer has very little to do except be alert and stop

the leader in case of a fall. The wind is usually blowing, making conversation difficult, if possible, so hours are spent in quiet contemplation of your surroundings.

As the hours passed, the most minute details gave the greatest pleasure. A bit of lichen, a single flowering penstemon, were wonders to behold on the marble-like face. It seemed impossible that anything could grow or exist here. Yet on one pitch, I watched four tiny spiders march across a 90° slope, with over 3,000 feet of air below them. I felt so helpless watching them proceed across the polished granite... no ropes, pitons or bolts... just Nature's wonderful gift to an almost microscopic creature.

And at one point, when Dan and I were sitting on the Salathe Ledge, with our feet dangling out over 4,000 feet of nothing, a magnificent Golden Eagle sailed by, hovered in mid-air and watched us from 50 feet away for a few moments, and just silently glided by.

Mid-morning a few Violet-green Swallows glided past, floating and banking and flashing their metallic sheen to a small but immensely appreciative audience.



Hairy Woodpecker



But the most fascinating display of all was put on by the White-throated Swifts. They teased us into wanting to join them in their aerial romps. The swifts didn't glide by--they roared by. Six inches from our heads they came, two or three at a time in perfect formation, zooming past our ears at sixty miles an hour. The higher we went, the more intense became their display, until at the summit of the Arrow, with a brisk wind and afternoon thermals rising from the valley, they were breathtaking in their acrobatics.

The return to the rim was almost anti-climatic. Tired, sweating, exhausted, we prissiked up the 400-foot wall to the rim where Mary was waiting. The three of us sat on the rim watching the declining sun turn everything a soft yellow.

A Hermit Thrush welcomed the evening with one of the most beautiful of all bird songs. Its floating notes captured for us the speed and agility of the swift, and the grace and beauty of the eagle. We had not only had a bird's eye view of the birds, but for a brief moment we had joined the eagle and swift in their own environment.

It was twilight as we passed our Jeffry pine, and a Great Horned Owl sounded from deep in the forest. Dan picked up a large pine cone and absent-mindedly tossed it against the sturdy conifer. I'm sure "Norden" would have disapproved!



About the Author

The name of James F. Clements is no stranger to the pages of the WESTERN TANAGER ("Fiasco in Penasco", Sept., 1962; "Running A-fowl in the Sage", July, 1963, etc.). However, he is so busy with his vocation and avocation (printing and mountain climbing) that he does not find time to attend many Audubon events. This is regrettable, since personally, as in his writing, Jim can always provide that touch of humor that is so refreshing in these troubled days.

Jim lives in Pasadena with his wife Mary and sons, Bob and Dan. The Clements' came to southern California from their native Minnesota in 1952. Jim is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, but did some graduate work in the "School of Hard Knocks". He tells us that he shovelled coal on a collier plying to Aruba and Curacao, Venezuela, and served in the Merchant Marine and in the U.S. Navy in WW II (here Jim says he got in 18 months of pelagic birding). He says he cannot remember when he was not interested in birds.

TRI-COUNTY CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Conducted nature hikes of the dry river-bottom area of the Santa Ana, north of Redlands, will be held at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 6. Sponsored by the Tri-County Conservation League, the walking tours of the relatively flat area formed by Plunge Creek where it empties into the Santa Ana River will be led by naturalists from University of California, Riverside, and Riverside City Museum.

To reach the area, drive about three miles north of Redlands on Orange Ave., then east on 3rd St., and jog left past the East Highland Post Office; then 1.4 miles east on Greenspot Road to the Plunge Creek bridge. Park on south side, off pavement.

Vegetation is in open clumps in the area, so walking is easy. Dominant plants are Yerba santa, wild buckwheat, and prickly pear. Sycamore, juniper, holly-leaved cherry, and many other trees and shrubs are scattered throughout. Cottontail rabbits have made a complete network of trails through it all. It's a fine place for picnics or for just walking.

Groups interested in a showing of the Tri-County League's 20-minute colored slide tour of the Santa Ana, "Why Save a River?" are invited to phone or write the speaker's bureau chairman, Mrs. Joanne Clark, P.O. Box 5513, Riverside, Calif. 92507; phone 686-3746, Riverside.

IS THERE INTELLIGENT LIFE ON EARTH?

Dr. Thomas Harvey, Professor of Biology and Ecology at San Jose State College, posed this question to members of the Sequoia Audubon Society. One would be inclined to answer negatively when considering highlights of his talk: world population is increasing at the rate of 2% per year (70,000,000 increase this year); some parts of the world already suffer food scarcity; the U.S. is approaching its limit on available water; 400 acres of land in California each day are removed from open space and agriculture for housing and other buildings; agriculture is removed to dry inland valleys, necessitating vast quantities of water to be furnished for irrigation; one million acres per year of U.S. land are being paved; radioactive fallout moves through the food chain from plants to man, as well as DDT and other pesticides which are used extensively and remain intact for several decades within living organisms; most critical of the pollution problems is air pollution - yet we continue to pave acres of land for freeways and parking lots to accommodate more automobiles; there is \$10,000,000 smog damage each year to California agriculture; the rate of the dread lung disease, emphysema, in the cities is twice that of rural communities.

Dr. Harvey said that in his opinion a person could serve no greater purpose than conservation in this age of the ecological crisis when not only the habitat of wildlife, but man's planet Earth, is being ruined.

Audubon Activities

By Otto Widmann



Feb. 25 - CHATSWORTH RESERVOIR - Precisely at 8:30 a.m., Harold Swanton led all 68 of us through the Fallbrook gate into the parklike area around Chatsworth Reservoir. This was the largest gathering we have ever had for a field trip. It was a beautiful day; a warm wind came up later, but when we entered, the hills were perfectly reflected on the calm water. We spotted 10 deer first, then dozens of Meadowlarks; and on the water, some dozen Common Mergansers. Hundreds of ducks and geese were on the other side of the lake, and two Black-crowned Night Herons roosted on the closer island. The water was extremely low because of repairs and changes. Flocks of about 80 to 110 Canada Geese were mirrored in the lake as they flew by. There were Pied-billed and Western Grebes. By far the spectacle of the day was the ducks: Mallards, Baldpates, pintails, Blue-winged, Green-winged, and Cinnamon Teal; Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback, Ring-necks; some Bufflehead and many Ruddies. Water Pipits and Lark Sparrows ran ahead of us in the grass. Among the hawks were Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered. A Sora Rail tantalized us with its in-and-out-of-the-reeds tactics; good thing it did, because here we found the Blue-winged Teal! The same pond had Common Snipe, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, and Spotted, Least, and Western Sandpipers. This small area gave such excellent birding that Harold Swanton suggested that efforts be made to have the Water Department save this pond untouched for further good birding and breeding grounds. In consolidating the list at lunch in a pleasant green meadow, Harold totalled 73 species. The find for the day was a Hooded Merganser.

Al Myers tells me it has been two years since he has birded with us. Welcome back! Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Cleminshaw made their first trip with us, also Jerry Lundstrom and Jim Logan. More new faces: Albert Van Kirk and Josh Newman. Mr. & Mrs. Yet Sui and family were not only with us for the first time, but they also joined the society. And welcome to our trips, Mr. & Mrs. W. N. Lewis.

March 10 - TUJUNGA WASH - Warren Blazer explained the ecology of the area before he led us a short way up the wash at Tujunga. The wind began after a time, and continued stronger the rest of the day. The 41 of us managed to stay in the warmth of the sunshine. Bob Nordahl, of the "Pioneer Naturalist" distributed his paper, and explained the activities of the junior members of the San Fernando Audubon Society. He was most helpful in explaining to us about the natural features of the area, as well as identifying the birds. We have seen more on previous trips, but we did get to see the Great Horned Owl in flight, and later, perched in a sumac bush. Swallows

were Violet-green, Rough-winged, Barn, and Tree, and we saw quite a number of White-throated Swifts. We all got to hear the Cactus Wren in "song" as well as the Bewick's; there was a brief sighting of Rock Wren. At Wentworth Pond: Lesser Scaup, Cinnamon Teal, four Canvasbacks, and Ruddies. At Hansen Dam: hundreds of Ring-billed and Western Gulls riding out the wind. A pair of Mallards flew close by. Costa's and Anna's Hummers were in the tobacco bush. While we lunched at the sunniest table we could find at Orcas picnic area, Western Bluebirds, Oregon Juncos, and hundreds of Starlings moved about. White-crowned Sparrows are still with us. The heavy wind after lunch made further birding impossible. Altogether we had 41 species. Many thanks to Warren for conducting this always interesting trip.

From the local newspaper, A. C. Kickbush took several pictures of the younger members, including the Shaffer children, Beverly, Mindy, and Steven, also Peter Krueger (San Fernando). A special welcome to Mina Dell, Lillian Reynolds, and Virginia Miller, our newer members, out to add life birds to their lists.

March 12 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - We had a minimum of business & announcements, since we were anxious to see the program for the evening. Laura Jenner, Program Chairman, introduced Bill and Ann Barry, who had arrived early in order to have their really amazing screen and sound apparatus in perfect working order for their film, "Wild Wings of the Water World." From Everglades country in Florida, through Montana and Oregon, and at Honey Lake in N.E. California, they have captured extremely fine studies of water birds, - feeding, nesting, and on the wing. As background music, the Barrys chose appropriate excerpts from Telemann, Vivaldi, and Villa-Lobos, to supplement Mrs. Barry's comments on the many studies they had made. Particularly excellent were those of the Roseate Spoonbill, the Trumpeter Swan, and the Mother Canada Goose and her family, although it is unfair to single out these few.

Among those enjoying the film were Shirley Lotwin's guest, Betty I. Matchett, and a first timer, Floy Paxton.

PLAN PELAGIC TRIP

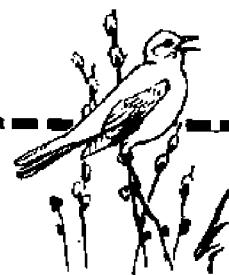
The Pasadena Audubon Society is planning a pelagic trip for Sunday, May 12th. It will leave Davey's Locker, Newport Beach, at 6:30 a.m. and return at 8:00 p.m. They have the choice of visiting open ocean south and southwest of San Clemente Island in hopes of seeing Albatross, Shearwaters, and Petrels, plus migrating Arctic Terns and Sabine's Gulls; or of visiting the islands. Checks should be mailed to Ralph Mancke, 115-B S. Chester Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91106, (tel. 793-4083). Fare is \$12 per person, with a special rate of \$8 per person for students (for the first ten sending money). All minors must be accompanied by a guardian. Bring warm clothing, dramamine, and food. NO REFUNDS.



WILLIAM T. WATSON, PRESIDENT
1249 N. EDGEWATER AVE., APT. 12
LOS ANGELES 90029 681-0570

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

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY & NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046 878-0202



April

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | 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 | | | | |

1968

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

Apr. 9 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. Pasadena Audubon members Ed and Fern Sanders return with a program entitled "Birder's-eye View of Florida and the Gulf Coast", an interesting combination of films and slides of this fascinating area. Audubon House will be open before and after the program for sales and library.
Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

Apr. 13 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Chantry Flats & Santa Anita Canyon, 8:00 a.m. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead, north to Foothill Blvd., east to Santa Anita Ave., then north to end of Santa Anita Canyon Road. Prepare for a hike down to the canyon stream and falls. Dippers have been observed all winter.
Leader: Harold Baxter 355-6300

Apr. 20 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Morongo Valley & Salton Sea. Meet between 7:00 & 8:00 a.m. in Covington Park, Morongo Valley, about ten miles north of U.S. 60-70 on Twenty-nine Palms Highway. Group will camp Saturday night at Finney Lake (about 3 miles south of Calipatria on Highway 111). Turn into State Waterfowl Management Area (Ramer Lake) and follow signs to Finney Lake. This trip is designed for those who wish to study migrations in Salton Sea Area. Bring campfire wood & water. Good motels in Brawley, about 1/2 hour south on Highway 111.
Leaders: Shumway Suffell (Sat.) 681-6941 or 797-2965
Otto Widmann (Sun.) 221-8973

Apr. 27 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP Morongo Valley & High Desert. Meet between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. in Covington Park, Morongo Valley. See April 20-21 instructions for route. This trip is planned for those wishing to remain in the high desert and Morongo Valley area. Motels available in Desert Hot Springs, Yucca Valley & 29 Palms. Those camping may wish to stay at Indian Cove, Joshua Tree National Monument, about 5 miles east of Joshua Tree. Bring wood and water.
Leader: Jim Huffman 545-1224 or 545-2640

May 2 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Audubon House

May 7 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park

May 11 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Santa Clara River Wash & Elizabeth Lake Road.
Leader: Sandy Wohlgemuth 344-8531
ALWAYS bring lunch and binoculars on field trips
PLEASE no pets, and no collecting of any kind
EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES

Headquarters Report

By Abigail King, Headquarters Chairman



Many changes have taken place at Audubon House in the six months since Olive Alvey has been our permanent secretary. First, we are happy to announce that Mrs. Clair White has joined the staff, since Olive found five days a week too demanding. Louise has been active in the society for many years, and has considerable knowledge and experience in office management, which is proving invaluable to us.

Olive keeps the house in perfect order, and exercises her natural artistic talents by keeping us supplied with fresh flowers in attractive arrangements. She has been assisting Mary Hood, our President Emeritus, who has been checking over the exhibits in the museum, replacing a few and repairing others. Louise, in addition to taking charge of mail and phone orders for the sales department, is helping Bess Hoffman, the librarian, with the indexing of new books and other library activities.

Florence Myers, who has long been a volunteer worker in the house, is in charge of the mailing files, and acts as our liaison with Leonie Ferguson, the registrar. This is a very exacting job, due to the necessity of keeping the list up-to-the-minute in order to have it accurate and complete when the "Tanager" is ready to be sent out.

The recent hike in postal rates has made it necessary to make a choice: whether to send the "Tanager" first class, or to obtain a permit as a non-profit organization for bulk mailing. First class is prohibitively expensive, so we have elected to use the latter method, even though it will add considerably to the time and labor of getting out the "Tanager" each month. Undelivered "Tanglers" will no longer be returned to us, so if you have moved recently, or if you plan to move soon, will you please send a post card to Florence Myers at Audubon House, in order that you may continue to receive your "Tanager" without interruption.

The address labels are typed at the house, which leaves two additional steps that must be taken care of before the envelopes are stuffed for mailing. The first step is done by just one volunteer, Stephanie Mangold. Stephanie attaches labels to each of over a thousand envelopes. She has never missed a month or an envelope; and although we are occasionally late in getting the labels to her, she is always prompt in returning the addressed envelopes to us.

Once the envelopes have been addressed, they must be separated into zones, to conform with very stringent postal regulations. This is a time-consuming process, and a great deal more than our tiny staff can take care of. So:

If YOU can possibly spare a few hours, one day a month, to aid with the sorting, will you please call Audubon House? WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Audubon House is open every week day between eleven and three, for anyone who wishes to take advantage of our library facilities, to add to their own library through our sales department, or to enjoy the exhibits. The garden with its native plants is looking especially well just now, thanks to the many hours of hard work put in by Otto Widmann.

NOTE: The house will be closed on Good Friday, April 12th.

Your editor wishes to add a few words to Abigail's report; first, we have only been able to give such complete weekday service at the house because of a generous bequest which enabled us to hire competent help. Soon this particular financial aid will be used up. We appeal to anyone who is financially able to help maintain the house staff to do so; this contribution would of course be tax deductible.

Also, we would be remiss if we failed to congratulate Abigail King on a job well done as chairman of the house committee. This particular chairmanship involves many hours of purely voluntary work, and Abigail's executive ability is shown by the present smooth working of the Audubon House schedule.



THE WESTERN TANAGER
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 Santa Monica Blvd. L.A. 90046
Free to Members... Others \$2.50 Annually

EDITOR... Betty Jenner, 639 W. 32nd St.
L.A. Calif. 90007
Phone 748-7510

Art Editor..... Bob Sandmeyer
Field Notes..... Shumway Suffel
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
Fold & Stuff the TANAGER

THE AUDUBON SCENE

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Near Salinas, two wild swans brought pleasure and beauty to many people. One was wantonly killed, the other maimed. The escaped Hornbill from the L.A. Zoo was shot because it made a good target. A Whooping Crane was shot by a goose hunter only two miles from the Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas (he notified authorities when he realized his mistake - but that doesn't bring back the Crane)... Executive Vice President Callison issued a statement following the shooting of the crane, pointing out two things: 1. The Refuge area is not large enough to fully protect the wintering cranes (that's why Audubon leases and patrols 5700 acres on nearby Matagorda Island) 2. A hunter was able to mistake a crane for a goose, showing that there is a great need to train hunters to look before they shoot. This education is not only our responsibility and that of the government wildlife agencies; it is also the responsibility of the sporting arms and ammunition industry.

Eugene S. Dziedzic, Supervisor of Washington State Game Bird Management, recently advised the Audubon Office that a sighting he had reported to us of a Whistling Swan on Clear Lake in Skagit County had later been positively identified as a Trumpeter Swan. The bird had been shot by poachers and was picked up on Dec. 31st.

Mr. Dziedzic called from Olympia on Feb. 20th to advise that 18 more Trumpeter Swans had been sighted on a slough of the Skagit River, and said the location

NOTES, March, 1968
Seattle Audubon Society



"They're pretty scarce nowadays, Son, but when I was your age we shot 'em by the thousands!"

TV INCITES CHILDREN'S "REVENGE" ON EGRETS

KRON-TV (NBC) showed Hitchcock's movie, "The Birds", at a time on a Saturday night when it would reach a mass audience of gullible youngsters. The following morning, some Golden Gate members found boys in Berkeley's Aquatic Park throwing rocks at a group of Snowy Egrets. When asked to stop, the boys said they had seen birds killing people in the movie. They wanted to "get even" with the birds! We expected this would be a typical reaction of many children in our parks. THIS IS ANOTHER FORM OF POLLUTION - television's pollution of children's minds.

THE GULL - March, 1968 Golden Gate Audubon Society

Camp Denali, a wilderness retreat on the north boundary of Mt. McKinley National Park, has established a special week-long program of birding, nature study and outdoor activities, to run from June 28th through July 5th. The week has been reserved in the name of the Seattle Audubon Society, but participation is open to any Audubon Society member.

This was done to accommodate Audubon members who may be attending the meeting of the A.O.U., to be held on the University of Alaska campus June 20-23, and who plan on a further vacation in Alaska. The cost for this Audubon Week will be \$215.00 per person, including everything from the pickup at McKinley Park Station to the return. Further information may be had by writing Camp Denali, Box D, College, Alaska.

Alaska - a State that has encouraged the recent slaughter of 1,000 Sea Otters - needs conservationists to help prevent the extermination of its wildlife!



Mrs. Rulon Ashcroft
15645 Superior St.
Sepulveda, Calif. 91343

Miss Betty Sachs
1605 N. Martel Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90046

Mrs. Nell E. Spradlin
151 Medio Drive
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Nellie Whelan & Family
469 Midvale Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

DON'T DELAY— MAIL TODAY

CALIFORNIA CONDOR SANCTUARY FUND

I want to help safeguard the Audubon Sanctuaries and hereby contribute \$____ to the California Condor Sanctuary Fund.

Name _____;

Address _____

Date _____

(Make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society. Contributions to the Audubon Society are deductible in computing income tax returns.)

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
7377 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90046



World Wildlife Fund

Suite 728

910 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, U.S.A.
Telephone (202) 296-0422

ABOUT WOMEN'S FASHIONS

The World Wildlife Fund wants You to Know:

Fashion trends that encourage the wearing of Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and other rare furs, are destroying these magnificent animals at a rate greater than their ability to reproduce. Some will soon be gone forever from this earth.

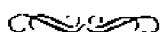
The Polar Bear is being exploited commercially for rugs and household decoration; baby Hooded and Harp Seals are being ruthlessly slaughtered to wrap milady in style.

The demand for Sea Turtles, Alligators, and Crocodiles for shoes, handbags, and cosmetics is such that poaching and relentless destruction has reached alarming proportions.

What You Can Do

RENOUNCE the wearing of products made from rare and endangered wild animals.

CONTACT your favorite stores, protesting the sale of items made from endangered species. Your action will be helping in a critical emergency.



Los Angeles Audubon Society
Sirs:

I have been delegated by the faculty of Art and Music at California State College, Los Angeles, their students, and friends, to submit the enclosed contribution to the Audubon Society, in memory of Dr. William E. Daywalt and his wife, Mrs. Stephanie Daywalt, of Santa Monica.

Both passed away in February. Both were active members of the Audubon Society.

The enclosed amount (\$160) will help further some program of local or regional interest. You may apply it as the Audubon Society chooses.

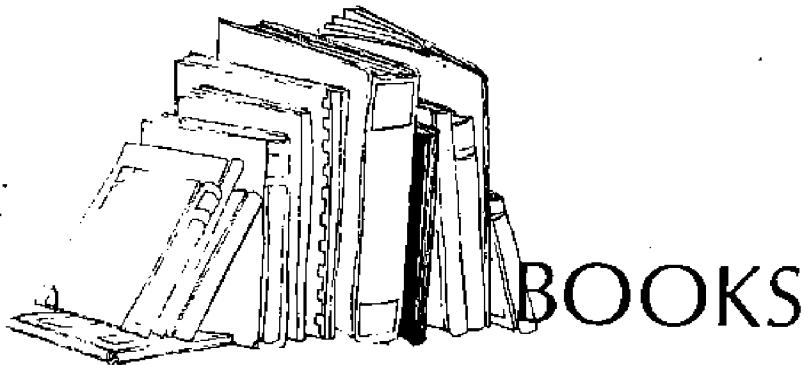
Sincerely,

Donald K. Marion

Art Dept., CSCLA

It is with the deepest regret that we have occasion to print the above; at the same time we wish to express the thanks of the Society for the thoughtfulness and appropriateness of this memorial to our friends, the Daywalt's.

Both of them were sincere conservationists and delightful field trip companions. It is impossible to put into words how deeply we feel their loss.



BOOKS

CHECK WITH GRACE NIXON

SALES CHAIRMAN

FOR

BOOKS, RECORDS, EMBLEMS, ETC.

DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS ON

SOME ITEMS



CONSERVATION NEWS

HERE'S A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO SAVE THE CORKSCREW!

Better still, make it three beautiful ways! For three (tax-deductible) gifts of \$100 each, you can get a signed and numbered reproduction of three paintings by outstanding bird artists, commissioned expressly to raise the remaining funds needed to save the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, near Naples, Fla.

It was the idea and gift of Wood Hannah, Sr., of the Frame House Gallery, Louisville, a prominent Kentucky business man and Audubon Society leader. Mr. Hannah commissioned three new paintings of birds at the Corkscrew: a Canada Goose by Ray Harm; a Barred Owl by Don R. Eckelberry; and a Snowy Egret by Guy Coheleach -- all artists familiar to AUDUBON magazine readers.

There will be 500 numbered collector's prints of each painting, the same size as the originals: 20 by 26 inches. For each \$100 gift for the Corkscrew, the contributor will receive, while they last, his choice of prints. This will bring in the needed \$150,000. Checks, payable to National Audubon Society, should go to our New York office.

President Emeritus Carl W. Buchheister, who now makes Florida his part-time home, has been named consultant to the Florida State Parks on natural history, education, and conservation.

The Student Conservation Association, Inc., has about 100 openings for qualified high school, college, and graduate men and women to work in forest and national park jobs this summer. The association's address is: Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Mtd. Rte. Box 304, Oyster Bay, N. Y. 11771.

Eagle goes free -- An off-course, immature Bald Eagle that wound up caged in a Chicago zoo a few weeks ago is now free. Raymond Mostek, Illinois Audubon president, heard that the zoo planned to keep the eagle, and called federal authorities, who ruled that the bird should go.

At the Feb. 9 meeting of the Altacal Audubon Society at Orland, an interesting discussion about the Golden Eagle took place. Ranchers northwest of Orland are complaining about over 100 eagles that are killing their lambs. Certain facts were told at the meeting: the sheep men do not have lambing sheds, thus exposing their sheep to the bad weather, weakening the lambs and making them vulnerable. Little sympathy was shown for the plight of the sheepmen, and a resolution was passed supporting the enforcement of the laws in regard to protecting eagles.

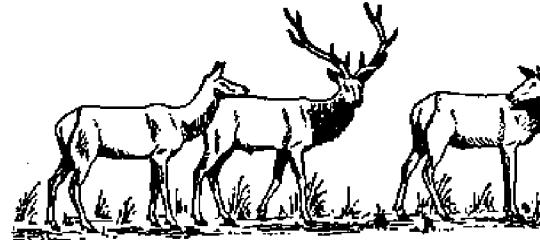
RUSSIA'S GREATEST LAKE POLLUTED

From an ideological point of view the latest news from Russia might cause a wry chuckle. It seems that Soviet commissars of industry can trample as roughshod over The People's natural resources as any Capitalistic captain of industry.

But it's a sour joke. The news is that, despite protests by Russian scientists and conservationists, a huge wood-pulp plant is pouring chemical wastes into Lake Baikal, in volume the largest body of fresh water in the world. The pollution threatens unique plant and animal life that evolved over millions of years in this peculiarly cold and mineral-free environment.

GIVE TO THE CONDOR FUND - NOW!

Censored! In case you think conservation is a nice, safe activity, note what happened to an exhibit on "Save Biscayne Bay" that Audubon submitted to the Dade County (Fla.) Youth Fair. The exhibit was barred: too controversial.

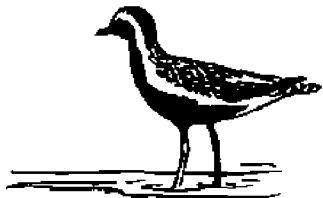


You will not want to miss two events being sponsored by the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk. The first is a field trip on April 21, which will be led by naturalists who will pre-run the trip and locate the best places to see and photograph the Tule Elk. Assembly time is at 8:30 a. m. at the Mary Austin House in Independence, Calif. Early birds may join a led trip on spring migrant birding nearby. Wear warm clothing; Owens Valley can be windy and chilly. The tour is scheduled for 9 - 12 noon. However, why not double the fun and plan to go up on Saturday and participate in the Eastern California Museum Ass'n dinner meeting, Saturday, April 20; write to the Museum, Independence, Calif., for more information.

The other event is the annual membership banquet, Saturday, May 18, 1968; 6:30 p. m., at the Chalon Mart Restaurant, 1919 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. Tickets are \$4.50. The featured speaker will be Alfred G. Eter, PhD., distinguished ecologist, lecturer, and Field Representative of DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE.

Make checks to: Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk, - 5502 Markland Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. 90022 (no return of tickets, please).

southern California BIRDS



By G. SHUMWAY SUFFEL

Spring migration is building up, and nesting is under way. Sounds inconsistent - "cart before the horse"? Not really. Our equable climate and exotic plantings provide ample food for nestlings, even in late winter. Anna's Hummers nest almost throughout the year. Thrashers start in January; while other common residents - Mockers, Jays, and House Finches - set up nestkeeping in February or March. Even the early migrants start their family chores upon arrival, - a Rough-winged Swallow repeatedly tried to get a three-inch twig into a two-inch hole (crosswise, of course), at Upper Newport Bay in late February, while Cliff Swallows were carrying mud to a traditional nesting site under a bridge nearby. So, keep track of your nesting birds, and keep records on the "Nest Record Cards" available at Audubon House. These are filed and fed into a computer at Cornell University as a permanent, nationwide record.

Back now to migration: the vast majority of the northern and mountain nesters are starting north now, building to a peak about May first, tapering off to early June. The first Orioles and Black-headed Grosbeaks are already here. Vireos, Tanagers, and small Flycatchers arrive in April; in fact John Dunn had a Warbling Vireo on March second. Now is the time to become thoroughly familiar with our twelve West Coast Warblers. They are in bright summer plumage, and should be easy to identify. At the same time, listen carefully, and try to tie in their call-notes and songs. This spring study will be invaluable next fall when the warblers return in dull winter plumage (not to mention those miserable, nondescript immature females), and when the Eastern vagrants, some two dozen of them, mostly immatures, will spice the Fall migration. Vireos and small Flycatchers are similar and difficult (some even impossible) to separate in the field. This is particularly true of the genus Empidonax, in which the Dusky and Hammond's Flycatchers are identifiable only by habitat and song, if at all. One hears, now and then, that "they" (impersonal and unidentified) should "lump" some of the species of Empidonax, since they look so much alike. However, species are not given nomenclature by the American Ornithologist's Union for the benefit of amateur bird watchers; they are recognized on the basis of the birds themselves - their anatomy and habits. The birds themselves have no trouble recognizing members of their own species. If they did not, then there would be hybridization, a review of their status, and possible "lumping".

April is an excellent time for shorebird study. It is our best chance to see them in their "courting clothes" - the jet black underparts of the Black-bellied Plovers; ditto for the Goldens

(Jim Schlesinger reports at least three at Marina del Rey on Feb. 25th); the rusty underparts of the Knots and Dowitchers, the square black patch on the Dunlin's belly, the rusty head of the Avocets, and many other colorful changes. Best of all - keep your eyes open for the rarer migrants - Pectoral, Baird's, and Solitary Sandpipers. They are seldom seen in the Spring, and almost never in Winter.

An "eye on the sky", especially on cloudy days, should reveal Vaux' Swifts, a rare Black Swift if you're lucky, Purple Martins in the lowlands, and those hard-to-find Bank Swallows. Rufous, Black-chinned, and Calliope Hummingbirds may be seen along the coast or on the deserts.

All of the local "staked-out" birds mentioned in the last TANAGER were still present in early March. However, they will probably be moving on as the migratory urge hits them. Dorothy and Harold Baxter saw a Black-billed Magpie at Upper Newport Bay on Feb. 11th. It would be interesting to know whether our recurring local reports of Magpies are of escaped birds. All are of Black-bills, although the Yellow-bills are closer geographically; also, Black-bills are commonly kept as cage birds and are unprotected in California.

This was certainly the winter for Common Scoters. In addition to those previously reported, there were seven at Carlsbad, one at the Venice Pier, and ten at the Ventura Marina. This surely must be a high count for our area. Six Black-legged Kittiwakes rested on a sandbar at Malibu Lagoon on Washington's Birthday (Ellen Stephenson), while nearly 500 Mew Gulls gathered along the ocean side of Cabrillo Beach (Jerry Johnson).

The "grapevine" brings word from Eleanor Pugh that an immature Broad-winged Hawk has been found in the Morro Bay area. This is the sixth sighting this winter against only one previously in California's ornithological history.

Harold Ferris reports another Townsend's Solitaire in the lowlands. This one was at the Boy Scout Camp east of Brea on the third of March.

A trip to Lake Matthews with Bruce Broadbooks in late February produced seven Eagles - three Golden and four Bald (two of them being being striking adults with snowy white heads and tails). Smaller birds included a Sage Thrasher and several Sage Sparrows. A long one-day trip around the Salton Sea for five Audubonites on March second showed the geese still there by the thousands, but they must be starting to migrate, since they have been heard overhead in Pasadena. A single Blue Goose was with the Snows, but the most surprising finds were a Bendire's Thrasher (possibly new to that area) and fourteen Fulvous Tree Ducks. Neither of these species should be wintering in California, --but they may be early migrants. An intensive search for Stilt Sandpipers was unsuccessful, probably because the shallow ponds, which they favor, were flooded by the Sea which is high at this time of year.

Wonderful days are ahead -- may you all enjoy them to the fullest.