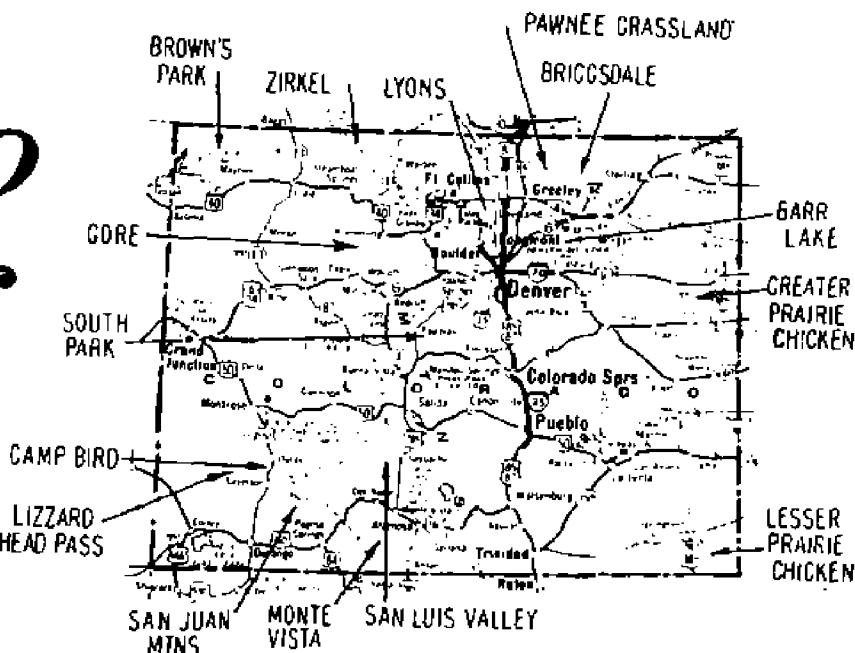


# A Colorado Gazetteer

By HUGH KINGERY

## PART 1



California bird-watchers should know that Texas has more bird species than California, but which states rank next? No, not Florida. Arizona is probably third, and fourth is Colorado, with 438 species recorded--only 23 less than California had listed in 1965.

Why Colorado? Because within its landlocked borders meet East and West; its boundaries surround a striking variety of habitats because of the east-west confrontation and because of the elevation differential. From the low point, at the exit of the Arkansas River from the southeastern plains of the state (at 3350 feet) the state rises to Mount Elbert (14,433 feet), 3,000 feet above timberline. Colorado habitats include high plains grassland, eastern woodland, irrigated and unirrigated farmland, pinon-juniper pygmy forest, sage brush flats, ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, aspen, spruce-fir, alpine tundra; each contributes its ecological groups. The cities, reservoirs, and tree-lined streams attract additional species. So Colorado has variety.

Only one species is restricted within its borders: The Brown-capped Rosy Finch, and even it has been recorded in New Mexico and Wyoming.

The Californian who visits Colorado should come principally to see the magnificent scenery in each season; he may in passing find a few birds he hasn't seen in California, or if he hits the interesting--but not as scenic--eastern plains, he should find some new eastern species.

There follows a gazetteer of my favorite bird places, a sort of supplement to Pettingill's Guide. Many mountain area roads are closed in winter by snow. Roads described in paragraphs preceded by an asterisk (\*) are inaccessible, except by sky or snowshoe, in winter.

### NORTH, WEST TO EAST

#### Dinosaur National Monument

In this largely pinyon-juniper habitat the Yampa and Green Rivers have carved deep canyons with spectacular rock cliffs like Steamboat Rock. In 1954 the monument was saved from damming principally through action by Californians. The Sierra Club fought a successful battle against an ill-advised dam.

Since then, Coloradans have become conser-

vation conscious. Now we fight our own battles--and the national ones. We claim at least some credit for the Wilderness Act and the excision of the Grand Canyon dam from the Central Arizona Project. Furthermore, we have shown the nation how to build state-wide coordinated conservation: Through COSC, the Colorado Open Space Council, most Colorado conservation organizations have affiliated to combine their power into an alert, effective effort.

\*The rivers of Dinosaur, still there because  
...continued on next page...

## GAZETTEER.....continued.....

of farsighted California conservationists, offer interesting western birds. In June, 1964, I spent four days in a boat on the Yampa and Green. Commonest and most interesting birds were the White-throated Swift, Violet-green Swallow, and Canyon Wren. They all typify the Colorado canyon country.

Just north of the monument, on the Green River, a new Wildlife Refuge has been established, principally for nesting Canada Geese. Also nesting in the vicinity is a race of the Sandhill Crane. At present under development, the refuge is located in and named for the famous outlaw hangout of the 1880's, Browns Park.

### \*Mt. Zirkel Wilderness

East on Highway 40 and the Yampa River is Steamboat Springs, and north of this spa lies the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness, spanning the Continental Divide. A beautiful area of forest and lakes, its stream bottoms contain the only Trillium which grows in Colorado. It also offers you the possibility to drive to one of the Colorado bird specialties.

Drive north from Steamboat Springs on 18 miles to Clark; turn east about 10 miles, to the Seedhouse Campground. You can camp here, or stay in Steamboat and drive out. The road ends at Slavonia, an old mining camp.

On a Colorado Mountain Club outing several years ago, everyone was impressed with the birds' Slavonia songfest--by both its volume and its early hour. I remember especially the Lazuli Buntings and Evening Grosbeaks. Other included Cassin's Finch, MacGillivray's Warbler, House Wren, Violet-green Swallow (one camper observed a scandalous domestic triangle involving the swallows). But the highlight of the week was the pair of Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers which seemed to be nesting in the swampy area just west of Slavonia. We saw them several times, and this is the only place I have seen this species without a five-mile walk. Nonetheless I recommend the five-mile hikes from Slavonia to Gilpin Lake and Mica Lake, and the three-mile hike to Gold Creek Lake--for the flowers, the scenery, and the spruce-fir birds.

The bird which best signifies the Colorado high country is the Hermit Thrush. His flute song fills the afternoon air of the high mountain valleys where the Englemann spruce and alpine fir grow. His companions include the Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Audubon's Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Gray Jay; in willow edge, Wilson's Warbler, Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrows. The nesting junco is the distinctive one, the Gray-headed Junco. You might find Blue Grouse and Goshawks.

### Rocky Mountain National Park

Hike the back-country trails in this park, in

order to best appreciate its magnificence. These trails, listed from west to east, are best: East Inlet (east of Grand Lake), Lulu City, Specimen Mountain; any of the Bear Lake/Glacier Gorge trails; for valley and brush birds, Cub Lake; and at a lower altitude, Gem Lake has surprising variety.

\*On your way over Trail Ridge Road, wander on the tundra; Good chance to find White-tailed Ptarmigan, Water Pipits, and Brown-capped Rosy Finches, if you get away from the road. Walk the path to the Toll Memorial, which leaves from near the Rock Cut. Look for ptarmigan on the north side of the road, and don't go where all the people are.

For ponderosa birds, explore on the east side of the Park, around the Beaver Meadows entrance or Moraine Museum, or at Tuxedo Park on the Bear Lake road.

In winter, Lake Estes always has a few Barrow's Goldeneyes. (Trail Ridge is closed by snow, though you can drive to 11,000 feet and hike up on the tundra to look for white ptarmigan). See Pettingill under Loveland.) Twenty miles southeast of Estes Park you probably can find nesting American Redstarts. To find them, drive to Lyons. West-bound through town, the main street ends in a T; take the right-hand turn - Highway 66. Within a quarter mile the road crosses the North St. Vrain twice. Park on the right, before the second bridge. Across the highway, American Redstarts have nested for several years.

## CENTRAL COLORADO, WEST TO EAST

### Colorado National Monument and Grand Mesa

(See Pettingill under Grand Junction.) West of the monument, in Glade Park, a variety of birds, not found in the canyons and pygmy forest of the monument, occur in the sagebrush and ponderosa.

### Black Canyon National Monument

If you want to see a canyon, see this one--carved deep and narrow by the Gunnison River. The Frontier Airlines planes take an extra loop around the Black Canyon to give the passengers a better look. (See Pettingill under Montrose.)

This is the best place I know to watch swallows: You can look down on them as they swoop and fly, feeding over the canyon. In July when I was there, in addition to the Violet-green Swallows, White-throated Swifts were common. I also spotted another Colorado specialty, the Black Swift.

### South Park

Highways 285 and 24 traverse South Park, a high mountain bowl surrounded by mountains, principal town, Fairplay. Best entrance is from Denver via Kenosha Pass (U.S. 285). Plan to stop

as you near the parking lot south of its summit to take in the view. In the 10,000 foot-high Park a combination of lush hayfields, dry parkland, ponds and mountains present an interesting and varied bird life. Here the plains birds, Lark Bunting, Horned Larks, and rarely Mountain Plover, nest. (Look for antelope and buffalo on Highway 24.) Prairie Falcons search for prey here. Mountain Bluebirds, blackbirds, Cliff and Violet-green Swallows nest abundantly. Baird's Sandpipers migrate through South Park, as do California Gulls and several species of ducks. At Antero Reservoir in November I saw an adult Bald Eagle sitting on the ice.

\*For mountain birds, visit Jefferson Lake, north of Jefferson. The road passes through willow stream bottoms, lodgepole forest, aspen, and ends up in spruce-fir.

If you want to walk for ptarmigan, go north from Fairplay on Highway 9, turn left at Placer Valley, and drive past the Montgomery Dam and as far up the valley as you can. Start walking, bearing left (SSW) toward the pass to the West. Up in this tundra you may find ptarmigan.

#### Aspen and Vail

Lively attractions, both summer and winter. These superb ski areas, and similarly, Steamboat Springs, Crested Butte, and Winter Park, are best for bird-watching skiers. From the chair lifts and ski trails you can spot Pine Grosbeaks, Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, Gray Jays, Mountain Chickadees, and occasionally others.

In summer, cultural affairs, particularly music at Aspen, attract many tourists. So does the magnificent scenery. All around you can find the typical mountain birds. The chair lifts, which operate in summer as well as winter, offer easy altitude gain; in summer you can walk down and spot birds along the way.

\*Near Aspen is the Snowmass-Maroon Bells Wilderness: drive to Maroon Lake. You will find the aspen and spruce-fir species, in the lee of the most-photographed Colorado mountain scene. For alpine species, drive to the top of Independence Pass.

\*Near Vail is the Gore Range Wilderness--a spectacular area of high peaks so wild that only a few have names. On the east side of the Gores, the Denver Field Ornithologists persuaded the Forest Service to set aside the Rock Creek Bird Nesting Area. Here nests the Fox Sparrow--its only known nesting site in Colorado--along with many other more common species: Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Dusky, Western, and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Tree Swallow, Warbling Vireo, Audubon's, Wilson's, and MacGillivray's Warblers, Gray-headed Junco, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Cassin's Finch, and others.

(To be continued)

#### About the Author..

I come by my interest in birds through the Boy Scouts --my scoutmaster told me I had to get a Bird Study merit badge, so I did --by teaching myself out of a Peterson Field Guide. This had its difficulties: it took me a week to figure out that that brilliant blue bird with the cinnamon breast as well as the brown bird so often near it, were both Lazuli Buntings.

In the summers of my college years I worked as a Ranger Naturalist in Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone National Parks. My outdoors interest comes out at present in my membership in the Denver Field Ornithologists (which club, by the way, will vote on becoming an Audubon Society branch next September), the Colorado Mountain Club, and various conservation groups. While living in L. A., I volunteered to be compiler of the Christmas Count; after months of planning, we turned in the lowest L. A. count in history -- 135 species! Last year I dubiously volunteered for a rerun, this time for the Denver Christmas Count. I am happy to report that we had the best count ever -- 93 species.

I am a native Coloradan, born and schooled in Denver. I was graduated with a BA in Zoology from Cornell University, and a law degree from the University of Denver. Now I'm an attorney for Husky Oil Company in Denver. Between colleges, while working in Los Angeles for IBM, I joined the National Audubon Society because a presentation at an L. A. branch meeting impressed me with Audubon's fine, constructive conservation program.



#### ANIMAL BEHAVIOR



"Both Sides of the Railings", an international symposium on animal behavior, was held in San Francisco on May 9, 10, and 11. The theme of the presentation was the present status of behavioral studies in animals, and their relation to the behavior of mankind, together with the role of the Zoo in the community.

A discussion of the value of zoos to the communities which support them and their present research value in biological and behavioral studies was presented as a justification of the existence of these institutions by such notables as William G. Conway, Director of the New York Zoological Park, Prof. H. Hediger of the University of Zurich and Zurich's Zoological Gardens; and Ronald T. Reuther, Director of the San Francisco Zoological Gardens.

The remainder of the program was a presentation of past and present studies of behavior in animals and man and conclusions that can be drawn from some of them. The presentations of Niko Tinbergen, Mrs. H. F. Harlow, Phyllis C. Jay, and Eckhard Hess were particularly engrossing. The panel discussions, presented as interlogues, were also rewarding.

One could conclude that biology is a long way from predicting man's behavior through animal studies, but this direction may one day help us understand ourselves.

Edward A. Nevin, D. V. M.

# AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

By Otto Widmann

May 11 - SANTA CLARA RIVER - ELIZABETH LAKE ROAD - The weather was cool & windy, with foggy overcast, cutting into our attendance, both birds & people. We had 47 species but very few individuals; most of the birds were residents. Of warblers we saw only the Yellow (two individuals) and a few Hooded and Bullock's Orioles. We had several Western Tanagers and a Warbling Vireo, and a fine study of Cliff Swallows, mud gathering, wings elevated, facial patterns clear. Sandy Wohlgemuth led the group in easy stages from one location to another, making sure we saw the White-tailed Kite, both hovering and a-roost. The Cowbirds were bedeviling the Ash-throated Flycatchers, so there may be foster children about soon. Harold Baxter says the flycatchers will build more nest over the intruding eggs rather than hatch them; any comments? Richard A. Stuart, a member of long standing from Oklahoma, joined us for the first time; he is stationed temporarily in Long Beach.

May 26 - PALOS VERDES - It was the day of the heat wave, although the weather was perfect when we met; it was a day of very few birds, but we did see some exotics. We had 40 people, and only 37 species of birds. We had guests: Agnes Brokafsky was the guest of Virginia Miller; the Bradley brothers brought Rusty Scalf; the milnes, Jacki Dyrk. Other first timers were Eloise Sprang and Phyllis Yates. The search began at Pt. Fermin; outside of a long string of 60 Brown Pelicans and a couple of Common Loons, there wasn't much at the park. At Averill Park were Doves, Robins, Blackbirds; then our leader, Shirley Wells, began pointing out nesting hummers, Allen's and Black-chinned. As we were about to eat lunch, Fire Finch zeroed in on a small 3-ft. clump of bamboo. Kay Hardt counted three and also saw their nest.

After lunch we went to the South Coast Botanic Garden Where we added more species, then the Bradley brothers suggested we go to their favorite nature trail above old Palos Verdes shopping center. By now the heat was bearing down, but here about 10 of us got to see the Hepatic Tanager.

Our thanks to Shirley Wells for leading the group through this long hot day.

June 8 - BUCKHORN - CHILAO - Amazingly, trip after trip this year, the number of birds is exceedingly low. We had 39 species, but I would say we had less than 100 individuals; even at that, we had 10 more species than the last two years. The wind was raw until about 11 a.m., unless one stood in full sunshine. There were clouds and fog at 6000 feet; as a matter of fact, all birding at Chilao was done between drifts of heavy clouds at ground level. At the 6500-foot level we had Band-tailed Pigeons, Quail, and Mourning Dove.

The best family group representation - Picidae - were Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy, Nuttall's, and White-headed Woodpeckers. There were three flycatchers: Western, Olive-sided, and Western Wood Pewee. At Chilao we found Purple Martins as usual, and a few Sittidae, mainly White-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, and many Brown Creepers -- many of them with great mouthsful of moths. There were Tanagers, Cowbirds, Solitaires, and Cassin's Finches. Sparrows were Chipping, Black-chinned, and Fox. There was a lack of warblers. Jane Maxwell dropped by to bird on her way home to Massachusetts. Our thanks to Don & Kay Hardt for their conscientious leading of this field trip.

June 11 - EVENING MEETING - After Pres. Bill Watson thanked his cabinet officers for their help, he thanked each chairman in turn for his cooperation. Then the gavel was given to our new president, Miss Laura Lou Jenner. She in turn gave Bill an engraved plaque, with gavel attached, for his greatly appreciated services to the Society. Two new chairmen were introduced: Ginny Johnson, membership, and Bruce Broadbooks, field trips.

The first of three films, "Above the Timberline" dealt with tundra growth and the animals that depend on it. The second, "Big Game Holiday", viewed the animals at Tweedsmuir Park - sheep, elk, goats, caribou, deer, moose, and the smaller animals. These color films of the living animals were trophies indeed! Walt Disney's "Lemmings and Arctic Birds" was slightly contrived, but illustrated the point he wished to make about the lemmings. The waterfowl scenes were exquisitely done, as always. -- Refreshments furnished by members were served by our Social Chairman, Ruth Wood.



Editor's Note : Regretfully, we must mention that Otto has decided to relinquish the writing of the "Audubon Activities" column, as well as the Field Trip Chairmanship. He has earned a vacation from these duties, indeed, for probably no one has attended more activities than he. Our sincerest thanks for three jobs well done --since he also has brought our Audubon House Garden to its present beautiful appearance.

## WILLIAM N. GOODALL TO RETIRE

IN JULY

For fifteen years, Bill Goodall has served the nine western states as West Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society. He has been the organizer, advisor, and constant support of the thirty-three Audubon Society Branches in the West. For eleven he directed the Audubon Camp of the West, nine years in the Sierra and two years in Wyoming. Every two years he has organized a four-day conference at Asilomar. His energy, enthusiasm, and unfailing good humor are legendary.

We're not saying good-bye, Bill! Have a good vacation and then come back and see us again!



Los Angeles Audubon Society



HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY AND NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE  
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# JULY-AUGUST

# calendar

## JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			7	8	9	10
			14	15	16	17
			21	22	23	24
			28	29	30	31

## AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
			4	5	6	7
			11	12	13	14
			18	19	20	21
			25	26	27	28

July 13

SATURDAY - POTLUCK PICNIC - Ferndell, Griffith Park. Meet at 5:00 p.m. at the picnic area opposite Ferndell Museum. Section 7 has been reserved for us. Bring hot or cold dish or salad or dessert or what-you-will. Provide your own table service & hot or cold drink. We will plan to eat at 5:30 p.m. Come earlier if you wish to bird the area. The park does not permit soliciting.

July 28

SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Mt. Pinos. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking area at the end of road atop Mt. Pinos. Take U.S. 99 to 2.2 miles beyond Gorman of the Ridge Route. Exit right at Frazier Park but go left under bridge. At Lake of the Woods, bear right and follow road through Cuddy Valley to top of Mt. Pinos - paved all the way. We will either walk or ride to summit, about two miles. Bring lunch and water. Condors are usually sighted on this trip.

Leader: Bruce Broadbooks 670-8210

Aug. 24

SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Newport Back Bay. Meet 8:00 a.m. on Coast Highway at intersection with Warner Avenue. This road meets Coast Hwy. just east of Sunset Beach. We will bird the Bolsa Chica Lagoons and then convoy to Newport Bay along Coast Highway.

Leader: Otto Widmann 221-8973

Sept. 14

SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Malibu Lagoon. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Malibu Bridge.

Leader: Les Wood - 256-3908

ALWAYS BRING lunch and binoculars on field trips

PLEASE no pets, and no collecting of any kind

EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES

Two Additional Field Trips of Interest: 1) A boat trip out of San Diego, from 10:00 p.m. July 26 to 10:00 p.m. July 27 - \$17.50 per person, including a bunk. Reservations should be made to:

Jean Craig, 712 Tarento Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92106 - 714-223-6718

And: A field trip in Southeastern Arizona, led by Jim Lane, - July 13 - 21. Meet Saturday, July 13, at Bog Springs Campground in Madera Canyon; arrive at your convenience, since the group will stay there until Tuesday. Tuesday night, camp in Huachuca Mts.; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights, the Chiricahua Mts.

Your editor has literature regarding Catharine Noble's fabulous Mexican birding tours, and about Orville Crowder's world-wide Nature Tours. If you are interested in taking trips of two weeks or longer, please call 748-7510. (No, I'm not the agent for these tours, but the pamphlets make fascinating reading: you'll read about birds you never knew existed!)

GRACE NIXON, SALES CHAIRMAN, ANNOUNCES THAT THE HARD-BACK "GOLDEN FIELD GUIDES", (ROBBINS, ZIM, ET AL) ARE NOW IN STOCK. THIS IS THE EDITION YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.

LETTER FROM SOME 600 - BIRDERS  
TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

Mio, Mich.  
June 13, 1968

Dear friends,

At 9:59 on the morning of Wednesday, May 15, we crossed the state line into Georgia, leaving Florida behind but bringing with us some of the happiest memories of our travels to date. In six months we had added 27 new species to our life list. We cannot speak too warmly of the hospitality we received; there is something quite special about the "binoculars" set. Among our pleasantest memories will always be the three Christmas Counts we took part in - Cocoa, South Brevard County, and Kissimmee Valley. It was exciting to be birding in virgin territory, with some of the best birders in Florida.

Some birds stand out more conspicuously than others in the pleasure and excitement they give us; perhaps it is related to the effort expended in finding them. For us, the Dusky Seaside Sparrow, the Everglades Kite, and the Mangrove Cuckoo will always have a special quality.

We had missed the Dusky Seaside Sparrow in December, but believed it could be found more easily in spring, so returned to the Cocoa area in April. We got up at four o'clock and joined some other birders at Merritt Island Refuge. The birds simply couldn't escape us this time! Sure enough, they came to the top of tall grasses and sang for minutes at a time; we had fine observations with the 'scope at close range.

To see the Kites, we engaged a man with an airboat and went about nine miles into a portion of the Everglades known as Sawgrass Recreation Area. Our best count was six Kites in view at one time, and we visited several perching trees and watched them remove the snail from the shell with their remarkable beak, - a most satisfactory observation of a new bird. These air boats seem able to go anywhere, through narrow channels in the sawgrass that are kept open by frequent use, over low vegetation, "anywhere there has been a heavy dew". We got a much better sense of the Everglades as a "river of grass" than we did from driving the car.

When April came we had to choose between going north with the spring and the spring migration, or remaining in Florida until a number of summer nesting species returned. We chose the latter, and so we saw our first Swallow-tailed Kites and Gray Kingbirds. Our search for the Mangrove Cuckoo had been a long one, - in the Keys in February, in the "Ding" Darling Refuge on Sanibel Island, in Everglades National Park, - but that "little bit of luck" was lacking. So the first of May found us on the way to Key West again. We stopped at Tavernier, and contacted Sandy Sprunt. We had a very friendly visit at the Audubon office; when we reminded him of the morning at Asilomar when he and Roger Peterson and Arnold Small and Guy McCaskie and the Adamses and some others had gone to Moss Landing he said that he did, indeed, remember the experience well- that it was his first King Eider. We asked his advice on the Black-whiskered Vireo and the Mangrove Cuckoo; he said that the first bird would be very easy. He stepped into the

yard, turned on the sprinklers, and in a matter of minutes the Vireo appeared, just like that. It is a very well-marked bird, sings almost continuously, and is abundant on the Keys. Although he had no direct help to give us on the Cuckoo, but suggested some good warbler birding about two miles back along the highway. As we drove, my eye fell upon a bird on the power line, and I said to Marion, "That's a Cuckoo!" The only question was - which one? We stopped and got out as quickly as we could - and it was in fact a Mangrove Cuckoo. We took some good looks from where the car was stopped, then walked back for a closer view. After it dropped into the trees, we searched for an hour but could not see it again, although we heard it call four times. Early the next morning we returned to this spot, and you can imagine our pleasure at finding it again; it perched on an exposed branch, called repeatedly, and gave us a fine show. Our pleasure knew no bounds since many visitors to Florida fail to find this elusive bird.

On May 4 & 5, we took a trip to the Dry Tortugas with the Tropical Audubon Society (Miami). It was a fine experience, and I managed to get taken over to Bush Key and to photograph the Sooty and Noddy Terns that nest there. We are now making our way north, and couldn't resist another stop at Mio for another look at the Kirtland's Warblers. While I have been writing this, Marion took a short walk and found her first Black-billed Cuckoo (she missed it last summer in New England) which is the 600th bird on her life list. My list is 601, and so we both have achieved one of the purposes of our travels. It seems incredible that in less than four months we will be in Monterey for the annual pelagic trip, where we hope to see many of our friends from Los Angeles Audubon!

Warmest regards,  
Russ & Marion Wilson

A note of explanation to our newer members: Russ & Marion were stalwarts of L. A. Audubon for many years, and are now taking a well-earned trailer trip all over the United States, -- primarily for the purpose of seeing new birds. We think that they should write a book about it, and not just a letter!

The Western  
Tanager



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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FREE TO MEMBERS - ALL OTHERS \$2.50 yearly

# The AUDUBON SCENE

News of other societies

## DEVELOPMENTS AT TUCKER SANCTUARY

After months of work and investigation into possible programs for the best future of Tucker Sanctuary, the Tucker Sanctuary Committee will soon be meeting with representatives of California State College at Fullerton and of its established Foundation, to discuss the transfer of Tucker Sanctuary to that Foundation. This discussion follows the directions given by the Board of Directors at a recent meeting, when it was decided that this offered the best means of insuring the continuation of Tucker as a wildlife sanctuary devoted to public education in conservation.

For the past several years, steadily rising costs have made Tucker an increasingly heavy burden upon this Society's resources. Expenses have outstripped contributions, and we have been unable to secure grants which would allow us to maintain and improve the Sanctuary. CalState Fullerton has proposed a three-part program of training student naturalists, ecological and biological research, and other educational endeavors which would guarantee public access, and probably expand the scope of the Sanctuary's activities. If the transfer is made, it will be made contingent upon the continuation of such work.

PHAINOPEPLA - June, 1968  
San Fernando Audubon Society

Under our State's water use plan, by 1980 some 16,000 dam or water diversion site permits will have been issued. "New schemes are constantly proposed and evaluated, and larger projects often engulf several smaller ones." A case in point is now coming into focus.

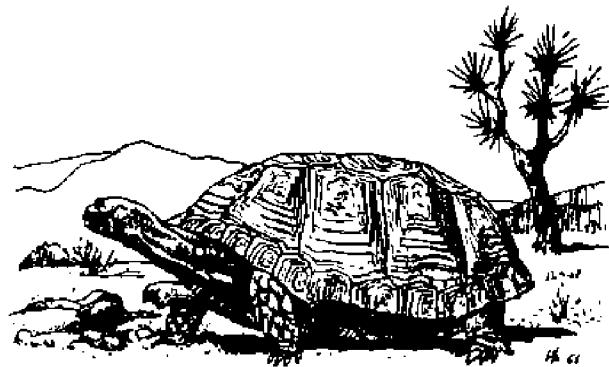
The Dos Rios Dam, on the Middle Fork of the Eel River in Mendocino County, was intended to have a maximum surface area of 6,000 acres. However, because of the expected million-acre-foot deficit annually by 1980, the dam proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers is much larger -- a rockfill dam over 700 feet high which will encompass over 7,000,000-acre-feet of water! It is obvious that the new dam will, in the words of the compiler quoted above, "engulf several smaller ones" - or at least eliminate the possibility of their construction. It should be noted that a seven million acre foot reservoir behind a seven hundred foot dam would cover more than ten thousand acres in order to provide the minimum acre footage. Depending upon the slope of the reservoir walls as much as one hundred thousand acres of land, or more, might be required.

It is therefore understandable why the flooding of Round Valley by the Dos Rios Dam is meeting with some local opposition. What may not be so easily understood is the comparatively small clamor aroused. A glance at a highway map of

Mendocino County should provide the explanation - Dos Rios is a mere hamlet; Covelo is not much larger; and these are the only communities directly involved. The Round Valley Indian Reservation lies in the affected area but how many Indians are resident there, or whether they have an effective voice in what the government proposes, is not known. **YOU SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DAM BUILDERS - TODAY THEY ARE ACROSS THE STREET - TOMORROW THEY COULD BE IN YOUR BACK YARD!**

THE SANDERLING - June, 1968  
Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society

Editor's Note: Read "Cry California" for an account, and pictures, of this lovely, tree-covered countryside which will be drowned for the sake of a larger population in Southern California. Is there no other solution?



**DESERT TORTOISE (gopherus agassizi)** - Of the four species of true tortoise found in North America, the desert tortoise is the only representative found in California. The range extends northward from the Sonoran desert through the tip of Utah, across southern Nevada and into the Mojave Desert of California. A large adult is 13" in length and may live to well over 50 years. In the heat of the summer the tortoise is active only during the morning and evening hours. Deep burrows are dug for shelter and hibernation. The natural diet is made up of grasses and several other edible desert plants. The tortoise is protected by law, and should not be removed from its arid environment.

--Dan Leavitt  
Courtesy of San Diego  
Audubon Society "Sketches"

As Shumway Sufel entered his downtown Pasadena office, he found a partially mummified bird near the street entrance, with pink feathers on its breast. A House Finch? No, it had white feathers too. It was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Where did it become mummified and how did it get on the sidewalk? Two possibilities exist - 1, it had mummified on the second story roof and then blown down in the wind, or 2, it had lodged between the grill and the radiator of a car (possibly an eastern one) and been discarded when discovered.

## GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS - By James A. Lane

While in Texas last May, Wes Hetrick and I attended the spring meeting of the T.O.S. (Texas Ornithological Society). It was held at the proposed Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which will enclose Guadalupe Peak, the highest point (8,751') in the state. The real reason for creating the park is not the peak, but the fossil-laden limestone cliffs, which expose the geological history of this ancient sea like an open textbook. These towering cliffs reach their climax in El Capitan, the most photographed natural wonder in Texas. In this same formation are the Carlsbad Caverns, some thirty miles to the north.

The group gathered at nearby White City, New Mexico, and what a varied group it was! One of the first arrivals was Dr. Richard Albert of Alice, the only surgeon for a large part of south Texas. At a previous meeting he was bitten by a rattlesnake, and in order to show that the wound would not be fatal, he did not bother to have it treated. He was quite sick for a week, but otherwise showed no ill effects. Other early arrivals were a young doctor and his wife from one of the larger cities. She was gushing about how they had flown their plane to the Carlsbad Airport, rented a car, and driven the twenty-two miles to White City. I mentioned that Dr. Albert had also flown in, and she immediately wanted to know where he had landed. She was completely squelched when he replied in his best Texas drawl, "Oh, over there in that pasture."

A car-load of ladies headed by Norma Stillwell (she and her husband Jerry were pioneers in the making of bird-song records) arrived with bags of groceries and plans for camping out on the hillside. Much to their embarrassment, they had forgotten their stove, but Wes and I came to their rescue. With their food, our stove, and the good company of Dr. Albert, who had borrowed a sleeping bag and given up his \$16 room at the motel, we had a rollicking evening under the stars.

The next morning we rolled out early to prepare for a trip up McKittrick Canyon, which will be one of the main attractions in the park. A large part of the canyon was donated to the National Park Service in 1959 by Mr. Wallace Pratt, but the additional acquisitions needed have been delayed by the present financial crisis. The owner of another well-preserved section is eager to have the government buy his land, but the rancher who owns the over-grazed, worn-out area at the mouth of the canyon is holding out for more money. Special permission is required to cross his land, so we gathered in a long line of cars to be ushered over five miles of dusty roads. Cars are not allowed in the canyon proper, so at the entrance we parked in a big circle. It looked as if we expected Indians to come swooping down out of the rugged mountains.

As soon as Wes and I learned that only one person in the whole group had ever been in the canyon before, we decided to stick to ourselves and avoid the mob. However, the first bird I found was a Green-tailed Towhee and everyone rushed our way to see it. These mountains are the eastern limit for many western birds, and many of the east

Texas birders were adding new birds to their life lists. Levy and Sharon Davis from Lake Charles, La., who are good birders, but had never been west before, added twenty-two lifers to their list. Wes and I had spent the previous week in Arizona, so we were not finding anything new, but a casual remark on our part such as, "There's a Scott's Oriole" or "That is a Black-chinned Sparrow singing" would start a stampede of people eager for a lifer.

The lower part of the canyon is wide, arid, and covered with prickly pear, juniper, and white-thorn acacia (one of the principal indicators of the Chihuahuan Desert). Here Brown Towhees, Black-throated Sparrows and House Finches were common. California birders would not be very excited, but the eastern flatlanders were. However, many of the birds which are so well known to us in California sing differently in Texas. I spent a great deal of time chasing down a loud melodious trill which I finally traced to a Brown Towhee, a big difference from the feeble "chink" I hear in my garden in Santa Ana. The numerous Rufous-crowned Sparrows also had a varied song, which I kept trying to make into something new. I even tried to make the beautiful song of the Black-chinned Sparrow into that of the Field Sparrow, but I should be forgiven for who would expect to find these attractive birds singing by the dozens.

As we climbed higher the canyon walls closed in and soon towered thousands of feet overhead. The water changed from isolated puddles to a lazy brook and finally, to a leaping stream with remarkably clear, cold pools. In the riparian woodland of gray oak, walnut and Texas madrone we found Western and Hepatic Tanagers, Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Solitary and Warbling Vireos, and many other birds which are common in western mountain canyons. Here and there grew a stunted Yellow Pine or Douglas Fir, and from nearly every one of them came the warbling trill of the Grace's Warbler. One of the most impressive sights was seeing Scott's Orioles feeding in the massive, six-foot flower stalks of the huge Faxon Yucca. Certainly the most memorable sound was the song of the Canyon Wrens, whose liquid warble came marble-dropping down from each and every rocky ledge.

After our twelve-mile hike, we still had pep enough to visit the excellent desert oasis of Rattlesnake Springs near White City and to take a special night tour of the Carlsbad Caverns. The next day there were other trips to the mouth of the caverns, where the Cave Swallows nest, and to the high country near Guadalupe Peak, where there are Yellow Pine forests with Steller's Jays and Pygmy Nuthatches. Wes and I had to leave early, but we shall always remember untamed McKittrick Canyon, land of towering cliffs, rattlesnakes, birds, and trout in a clear mountain stream.



Editor's Note: James A. Lane is the author of the immensely popular "A Birdwatcher's Guide To Southeastern Arizona", and also the more recent "A Birdwatcher's Guide To Southern California". During the two years that he worked on the latter, he travelled over 35,000 miles back and forth across Southern California - more than most of us do in a lifetime. Jim is a first rate field man, and has produced a guide which is valuable not only to the casual visitor from the East, but to those of us who have lived here for a long time. Not only birds, but mammals and reptiles, botanical and geological subjects are covered. The reason for his visit to Texas as told in the foregoing article, is that he is undertaking the Herculean task of writing a guide to the birds of Texas. Now that should be a book to treasure, for Texas birds are among the most exciting of any in our nation.

Both of Jim's books are available in our sales department.

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# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS



By G. SHUMWAY SUFFEL

July and August are normally rather dull bird-wise, at least locally. Nesting in the lowlands is nearly over, and the fall migration has not begun, except for the earliest shorebirds which drift south as early as July. Again our motto must be "lift up thine eyes unto the hills". Fortunately, our local "hills" can be very productive; from Mt. Palomar to Mt. Pinos there are many fine areas for summer birding. Kim Garrett reports a Spotted Owl in Santa Anita Canyon, and farther up, at the falls, he saw Black Swifts. Near timberline, Clark's Nutcrackers, Williamson Sapsuckers, and Red Crossbills can be found, even along Angeles Crest Highway. There is good reason to believe that MacGillivray's and Nashville Warblers nest in the San Gabriels - an interesting field for study, as their nesting is not recorded south of the Sierras.

A late summer trip to the higher parts of Yosemite Park might add new birds to your list. Great Gray Owls, Pine Grosbeaks, and Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers are found near Bridal Veil Campground, on the Glacier Point Road. Higher up, near timberline, Gray-crowned Rosy Finches and Nutcrackers should be looked for. Further afield but well worth the effort are the mountains of southeastern Arizona - the Chiricahuas, Huachucas, Santa Ritas and Santa Catalinas are names to conjure with. These mountains, once the last refuge of the warlike Apaches, are today the summer home of many Mexican birds which are not found elsewhere in our country. Yes, these were Army men - officers and doctors with ornithology as a hobby - who came to hunt Apaches and found new species of birds, some of which were named for them or for the ladies they left at home. (Major) Bendire's Thrasher, (Dr.) Coues' Flycatcher, Lucy's (Baird) Warbler, and Grace's (Coues') Warbler. Spring reports from the Jenners and Bruce Broadbooks tell of abundant winter rains and wildflowers in profusion. Trogons have returned to the canyons in unusual numbers. The Amethyst-throated Hummer returned briefly to Ramsey Canyon and was later found dead by Mrs. Peabody, its guardian for the past several summers. If the July and August rains are adequate, you will find the country unbelievably green, - streams flowing and roadsides muddy, - a pleasant contrast to our brown countryside. But don't be misled - these are tropical storms, and it is hot and humid in the lowlands. Above 5000 ft. the temperature is pleasant, but if you're camping be prepared for rain. Jim Lane's guidebook (available at Audubon House) is invaluable whether you are a first timer or an old hand.

How would you like to have a Gray Vireo at your birthday party? Abigail King did, and she loved it. The place was Round Valley Campground, east of Big Bear Lake; the time was the evening of June 3rd. The "party" was Grace Nixon and Ellen Stephenson; the attraction was that Dennis Coskren had found these very local and hard-to-find little birds singing on the pinyon-juniper slopes above Round Valley in late May. While looking for these same elusive vireos on Memorial Day, Bruce Broadbooks heard a grosbeak-like song, which,

when traced down, proved to be a male Hepatic Tanager. More remarkable still is the fact that Larry Sansone and Dennis Coskren saw a male Hepatic Tanager at the same place, on May 21, 1967. This must be more than coincidence (see the January "Tanager" re: the Hepatic at Rancho Park, winter after winter); it seems Hepatic Tanagers must be creatures of habit with a strong sense of location - so strong, in fact, that even when they're lost and out of range, they return to the same spot, at the same time, year after year.

The Mississippi Kite found by Guy McCaskie at Furnace Creek Ranch on June 2nd (second California record) was very much in evidence, despite high winds and blowing dust, on June 5th (David Gaines, Dennis Coskren, and Shum Suffel). A singing male Baltimore Oriole, discovered by Kim Garrett in Brush Canyon, Griffith Park, on May 23rd, was seen and heard frequently by many birders subsequently. This is the first summer record for our area. (By the way, nesting birds are abundant in Brush Canyon; a visit there for the morning or evening singing is indeed rewarding.) A small flight of Elegant Terns was noted on May 21st when six were seen flying past the Huntington Beach Pier, with hundreds of Common Terns; later the same day, nine were seen at the Bolsa Chica Lagoon. Dan McFadden, who lives in the Silver Lake area, had a Sage Sparrow coming to his feeder regularly in May - most unusual habitat for this bird of the open, sagey flats. From Pt. Loma comes word that Alan Craig netted a male Kentucky Warbler on June 3rd - a first record for California; and later that same day, on the other side of Pt. Loma, Ginger Coughran netted the same bird and a Connecticut Warbler! To date, the Craigs have banded over thirty species of Warblers in the San Diego area - more than most of us will ever see in this state.

Jerry Johnson reports the last little "ripple" of the spring migration on May 25th. He found flycatchers, warblers, and vireos in good numbers in the willow clumps at Marina Del Rey. Traill's Flycatchers were notably late and conspicuous this spring. They were as common as Wood Pewees at Morongo Valley on May 25th, and were fly-catching from the tops of the mesquite and even from the power wires; this in contrast to their usual habit of staying well inside the foliage of streamside willows. David Byers reports Traill's from Tapia Park on the 26th, and the Jenners' downtown yard provided the necessary food and cover for a Traill's for more than a week, until June 9th - a late date locally. It should be mentioned that our Traill's do not necessarily show eye rings - a point not mentioned in most books.

After a brief visit to the high country and an even briefer snow storm (on June 6th!), at Onion Valley we (D.A.G., D.C., & G.S.S.) dropped down towards Independence and found Nighthawks flying at 5 P.M. Simultaneous identifications of "Common" and "Lesser" were resolved before blows were struck. A close study showed that this was a mixed flock of about equal numbers of both species. Surely, this must be one of the few places where these sibling species occur and fly together.

