



The Western Tanager

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 36 · NUMBER 1 · SEPTEMBER 1969

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Occasionally it is good to pause and reflect on the hopes and goals that we may have for the Los Angeles Audubon Society. This is especially true in the beginning of a new season and with a new slate of officers taking over the reins.

Much excellent work has been accomplished in the past and it is our intention to continue to build our Society into one in which an ever increasing membership will be proud to be associated with.

We are an organization composed of people who appreciate and want to protect our natural outdoor environment and all the creatures which reside therein. But because this is strictly a hobby with most of us, we intend to function in a manner so as

not to diminish our enjoyment of a very pleasant avocation. We are vitally concerned with conservation and will be active in this field, often in conjunction with other organizations.

We have planned an outstanding series of evening programs and field trips as can be seen by perusing our new yearbook. The Western Tanager and additional publications under consideration will bring a wide variety of interesting information to each member. Other activities will be announced from time to time.

Audubon House, with the library and sales department, are at the disposal of all our members, and I highly recommend these facilities be used whenever possible. A

(Please turn to page 4)

HAVING A LARK IN SPAIN...Jim Clements

Big lists are something of a rarity in Europe. Even the most ardent birder has trouble once he gets over the century mark. But Spanish birding can be most rewarding because of the excitement of the species regularly found in the Iberian peninsula.

Spain is of particular interest for birders with limited time because it encompasses not only a great variation in terrain, but almost within sight of the Mediterranean the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada top 10,000 feet.

My own tour of the Iberian peninsula began with the tiny principality of Andorra, located high in the Pyrenees mountains. The official language is Catalan, but everyone is tri-lingual (French, Spanish and Catalan) with a little Basque thrown in for good measure. The prices are a birders' delight. Our room for three (with petit dejuner) was \$4.00. The dinner bill for the three of us, with two superb bottles of vino tinto, came to a staggering \$5.00. The only problem I had was getting in and out of the hotel for early morning birding. In Switzerland you could get out of the hotel at 5 a.m. to go birding, but you couldn't get back in again without waking up the keeper. Here in Andorra they had the place barred shut...you had to call out the guard to lower the portcullis, as it were! With a wild variety of life birds singing, I dragged the poor innkeeper out of a deep sleep at 5 a.m. and demanded to go bird watching. Even in June, it is very cold in the mountains of Andorra, and the man eyed me as if I were mad. He checked the room, and with my son Dan there as sleeping collateral, opened the door and I was free to bird.

A wild stream cascades down a deep canyon alongside the only road in Andorra. I perched on a small foot bridge over the stream and soon had a nice list working. European Dipper, Jay, Goldfinch, White Wagtail, Coal Tit, Great Tit, and Song Thrush. My most exciting find of the day was a diminutive Mamora's Warbler. Even over the roar of the stream, the tiny warbler scolded me soundly for trespassing in its territory.

The only disappointment in Spain was no doubt due to a preconceived idea which has come from travelling in Mexico and Central America for so many years. But there are no vultures constantly circling overhead like we regard as part of the Latin American scene. In driving from north to south, east to west, over 3,000 kilometers in Spain, we saw only one group of Egyptian vultures.

The road from Sanlucar to Seville crosses a small part of the only major undeveloped coastal section left in southern Europe...Spain's remote Coto Doñana. In this area alone the birder can find many of the rarer European birds. The cultivated bottomlands of the Guadalquivir River resemble the Camargue of the Rhone to a certain extent, but the only outstanding bird I saw in the Camargue was the flamingo. Here on the Spanish coast were a raft of herons... Squacco, Purple, Grey, Cattle and Little Egrets.

An occasional roadsign is the only visible evidence you are not in the Orient. Mile after mile the delta of the Guadalquivir was planted to rice...and workers in their thatched hats were out in the rice paddies just like a classic oriental picturebook scene. But the tern-like birds flying about were certainly different from anything I had ever seen before. The long forked tail and chestnut wingpits were distinctive even at a distance...my first pratincoles!

Larks were everywhere in this area. Concentrated in one field were six different larks - Thekla, Crested, Short-toed, Lesser Short-toed, Calandra and Skylark. When I think of how I struggled all through Europe trying to identify each lark as it came up... and then to get all six in one field at the same time...and all singing and displaying at once! What a fabulous display. Along this stretch of coast occur many of the most exotic European species. My first bee eater practically caused me to drive into an irrigation ditch. The silhouette is so distinct, and I had been looking for it for so long, that when I finally did see it perched on a wire along the road, I put my rented VW in neutral and just let it coast past the vividly colored bird. I was still watching it some fifty feet later when I heard the VW gargling, and looked around to find I had gone off the road into the soft, muddy bank of the irrigation ditch. Three farmers helped me get the car back on the road without any problem.

The biggest problem I had, and one that most foreign birders must run into, was the lack of Spanish names for the common birds of Spain. Peterson's European guide carefully gives the Dutch, German, French and Swedish names for the species...even if it doesn't occur within thousands of miles of Sweden or the Netherlands. I saw a magnificent pair of Bonelli's Eagles near Granada, and was trying to describe the bird to my waiter at dinner that night. He was an extremely helpful chap, and knew the local birds

AUDUBON CALENDAR

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY AND NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE
PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046 876-0202

Mrs. Abigail King, Executive Secretary
700 Halliday Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90049
476-5121



1969 SEPTEMBER 1969

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	
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AM 11 PM 12 FG 13 FM 23

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

September 9 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Dr. Gerald Maisel of Los Angeles has recently completed a safari to East Africa and will present the first program of the 1969-1970 season. The program will feature Dr. Maisel's exceptional bird and animal photographs. Refreshments will be served. Program chairman: Arnold Small.

September 13 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Malibu Lagoon north to mouth of Santa Clara River at Ventura. Meet 8:00 a.m. on Pacific Coast highway just west of the bridge over Malibu Lagoon. Information: Bob Blackstone 277-0521.

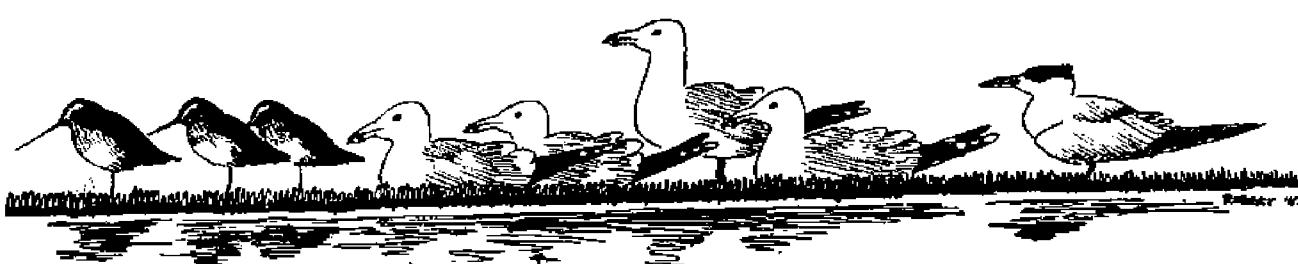
September 21 SUNDAY - BIXBY SLOUGH (Harbor Park Conservation Trip). Join us in a dry weather repeat of the hike-in last March. This two hour wilderness (?) walk should serve as an interesting first hand report on the park's progress. Get some exercise and the latest facts on the bird sanctuaries. Meet in parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Coast Highway and Vermont.
Leaders: Bill Holden and Shirley Wells

September 27 SATURDAY - SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - Tijuana River bottoms in San Diego

September 28 county. This area is famous for exotic migrants and vagrants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oscar's Restaurant in Imperial Beach. Go south on 101 to Imperial Beach. Imperial Beach turnoff becomes Palm Avenue. Proceed 3/4 mile on Palm to restaurant. Leader: Larry Sansone 870-6398.

October 4 SATURDAY - PELAGIC TRIP. Save the date! Joint pelagic trip to Monterey with Golden Gate Audubon Society. Here's your chance to pick up albatross and rare alcids. Details in October Tanager. Or call Herb Clarke CH 95537.

October 11 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP - Cabrillo Beach and vicinity. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Cabrillo Beach museum. 3720 Stephen M. White Drive, San Pedro. South on Harbor Freeway to San Pedro, south on Pacific Avenue to 36th Street, turn left and follow signs to museum.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
(cont. from page 1)

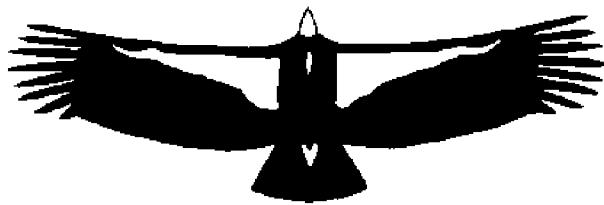
large portion of our operating expenses, which are considerable, are paid for by profits from our excellent sales department.

It is regrettable that most of our 1,300 members do not give a thought to the immense amount of effort that makes all these activities possible. A comparatively small number of dedicated people working long hours with little or no recognition is responsible for our society attaining the success we have all enjoyed. Think what we could accomplish if just a very few more of our members would lend a helping hand when requested or even volunteer without a formal request.

There is no special skill or physical effort required as the tasks are light and not of long duration when shared by several persons. The close association with other people with similar interests is most pleasant and many times instructive. Just check with Audubon House or any of our various officers and committee chairman for any of our many activities in which you might be interested.

We are all looking forward to the new season and I personally wish everyone a most pleasant year enjoying the wonderful world of nature.

Herb Clarke



Condor warden John Borneman has asked all Los Angeles Audubon Society members to report all condor sightings to him as soon as possible. A report of condor sightings should include the date, place, time of day, and the number of condors seen.

Reports can be mailed or phoned to:

Mr. John Borneman
206 Sunridge Drive
Ventura, California 93003
Telephone 805-642-9589

HAVING A LARK IN SPAIN
(cont. from page 2)

quite well. In fact, he was responsible for my getting four new birds the next morning: Spanish Sparrow, Little Owl, Red-rumped Swallow and Quail. Since there is very little overlap with the new world birds, there are very few linguistic carry-overs, particularly with the nonbirding common man in the street. Eagles are aguilas everywhere in the Spanish-speaking world, and anything that swims--from a grebe to a swan--is a pato, and that is about the end of it.

I defy you to try to describe in basic Berlitz a Giant Bustard. Or how about a Hoopoe, or Roller? I finally solved the problem of communication as best I could by sitting down with my waiter after dinner, and having him go through Peterson and naming every bird he could from the pictures. He came up with names for over 50 of the common Spanish birds, which I was delighted with. Just as most American children know crows, robins, jays, hawks, owls, gulls, even if they aren't birders, so my waiter Carlos knew his share of the birds...much to his surprise also, I might add!

One of the biggest surprises in Spain was birding in the Sierra Nevada mountains near Granada. I had seen ski posters extolling the virtues of Spanish skiing, but not until I was on a tour of the Moorish castle of the Alhambra in Granada did I actually believe there were 10,000-foot snow-capped mountains that far south in Europe.

What birds do occur are a pleasure to watch, because there are absolutely no trees at all. Above 5,000 feet there is a light ground cover, but even up to the perpetual snow line, a great deal of terracing has been going on for centuries. Three of Europe's wheatears occur commonly here--the Pied, Black-eared, and Wheatear. The dipper frequents the high mountain torrents, and this must be close to its most southerly range. Bonus birds here were the Alpine Accentor, and a host of finches, including the Brambling, Chaffinch, and Serin. And in a small bush at the 9,000-foot level, I recorded my one and only flycatcher in Europe, the boldly patterned Pied Flycatcher.

Several shrikes are quite common on the barren slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and in one curve in the road where I stopped for a San Miguel beer, I recorded an elusive Rufous Bush Chat. I was so impressed that I sent Dick Whittinghill of KMPC a post card for the story record series he has going...relating that every time I see a Rufous Bush Chat now I think of San Miguel beer.

CONSERVATION CORNER...Joann Leonard

I want to thank Herb Clarke for inviting me to serve as conservation chairman for the coming year. Each member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society is invited to join the conservation committee. We have a good start with the help of some talented people... including Ria Odenheimer, Durrie Parks, Earl Mahaffie, Helen Bayne, Joan Mills and Carol Levinthal. So if you're wringing your hands over our conservation problems, ring me up instead (654-9594) and we'll start doing things to help solve some of them.

AVAILABLE AT AUDUBON HOUSE

A complete list of California legislators, including the makeup of all standing committees. Also a listing of California congressmen, showing their committee assignments. These listings are invaluable. We urge every member to request a copy...and use it.



"LAKE ERIE...It's eerie!!!"

"To fly over Lake Erie and look down on the cloudy mass of murderous pollution is like reading the flyleaf of a book on the end of civilization." So stated former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall.

Each day 120 municipalities fill Lake Erie with 1.5 billion gallons of inadequately treated wastes. In addition, the lake ingests over a ton of industrial chemicals a MINUTE from industrial plants. Most beaches are unsafe due to pollution. Even wading is not too pleasant, with an average of 30,000 sludge worms for each year of lake bottom. There are almost no fish for lack of oxygen in the water. The Cuyahoga "River" entering the lake at Cleveland is so turgid with oil and other inflammables that recently it burst into flames--nearly destroying two bridges. Many experts feel Lake Erie is too far gone to be restored.

Can a "Lake Erie" situation happen here in Southern California? Marine biologist Rimmon C. Fay thinks so. "California's greatest recreational resource, free to everybody, is not being protected by the very people whose job it is to protect it. If it keeps up, the ocean off Southern California could easily become as biologically degraded as Lake Erie is now," writes Fay.

Who can prevent this from happening? You, you, and YOU! People, concerned people, and more concerned people will be the ones who will do it...if it is to be done. Each person and his views, opinions and desires is very important. When you are concerned--act! If you worry about water or air pollution, write to your congressman, senator, state senator, and assemblyman, and let them know you are worried.

When you write a letter, make as many carbon copies as you can. Send these copies to others who you feel will be interested in the subject, and who hopefully may be of influence in affecting legislation. For example: chairmen of legislative committees... secretary and undersecretary of the Interior and HEW...various administrators and commissioners...leaders in industry...you will be surprised of all the people you will be able to think of who can help further the conservation cause.



"WONDER WHY" DEPARTMENT

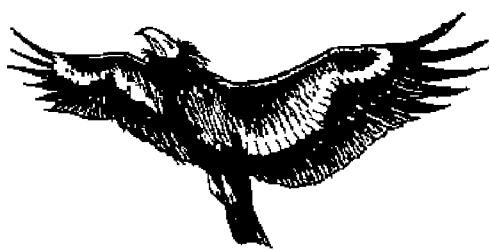
If you wonder why, with all the evidence pointing to the vast environmental damages and dangers of DDT and related chlorinated hydrocarbons, the Assembly Agriculture Committee wasn't concerned enough with our welfare and killed a bill that would have phased out the sale and use of DDT in California.

Remember that agriculture is still the number one industry in California...and California is the number one agricultural state. The majority of California farmers still favor the use of the persistent pesticides, and the petrochemical companies, many of which are based in California and who manufacture most of the organochloride pesticides have a desire to assure that their largest market isn't snatched out from under their feet.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

August 9 CONDOR WATCH ON MT. PINOS

It was a beautiful day. The weather was not only perfect but the birding was superb. We came to see the condors and they were all over the place. John Borneman, our condor warden, would call out, "They're over here." Someone would reply, "No, they're over here." This from another hill, another vista. Leonie Ferguson and I were greeted by 13 condors as we arrived at 9 a.m. The display filled us with awe and at the same time complete satisfaction. We were seeing the remnants of an extremely endangered species, feeding in their natural habitat. Some of the condors circled endlessly, giving us plenty of time to observe their flight and there were cries of delight when the naked orange heads shown in the sunlite. The birds were coming and going all day. In the afternoon eight condors circled against the radar tower. Their huge shapes doubled for us as their shadows wove endless patterns against the mountain side. It was hypnotic trying to differentiate between the bird and the shadow. Some perched below and all available spotting scopes became riveted on them.



We had guests from across the nation. Helen Jordan is a Los Angeles member living in Detroit, Michigan. She spent two weeks crossing the country to be here for this field trip. From the Golden Gate branch Stanley and Gertrude Bialos came to see the condors. Sandra Stout brought eight girl scouts along... one recently arrived from Germany. There were so many first trippers there is not space to name all of you, but we do welcome you. Abigail King compiled a list of 36 birds seen on the trip by some 75 observers. Impressions: a display of 29 ravens rapidly using a thermal; a group of three Sharp-shinned and one Cooper Hawk battling aerially... a Red Crossbill... Clark Nutcracker... Bluebirds (both Western and Mountain) all over the place. By rough estimate at 2:30 p.m. we had seen 10 condors. This was a treat I hope to see many times again. Thanks to Bob Blackstone for leading the group for the day.

Otto Widmann

July 12 POTLUCK PICNIC at FERNDELL

At the appointed time guests and members left the hot sun to descent into the sycamore and alder shaded picnic area at Fern dell. They came laden with their favorite dishes and casseroles--roasts, salads and desserts. In short order 45 of us had two picnic benches covered with the widest variety of foods. There were hardly any duplications--amazingly enough. Other tables were prepared and then everyone descended on this marvelous smorgasbord and began filling up the wildest array of dinner plates. We had guests from San Fernando Audubon Society: Rowena Branson and the Blossoms, Gene, Am and Joel, Virginia Fitzgerald and Ruby Hartoebben had read of our activities in the Western Tanager and decided to take advantage of our hospitality. Both have since become members of our chapter, and both were on the condor trip on August 9. We welcome you heartily to both the society and the picnics!

Shirley Wells accomplished a feat by getting her husband, Gordon, to come along. He took time off from the space program in Houston to be with us. After the eating noises had subsided, the conversation began. I heard of trips planned or recently finished and they all sounded good. Let's face it...wanderlust is in our blood and we don't suppress it. Birding areas throughout the world have become our pastures, and those areas at home are not forgotten either...witness our attendance at our field trips. We are interested and we are doing something about it, and our annual picnic is a good place to talk about it. Fern dell in Griffith Park is easily accessible and a delightful spot to assemble. I enjoyed the picnic tremendously.

Otto Widmann

THE D O D O

Most of us are familiar with all the Audubon publications named after birds... Western Tanager, Wrentit, Auk, etc., but did you know there is another conservation publication in the Los Angeles area named after an extinct bird? It's called the DODO.

Published by the Conservation Club of UCLA, the DODO, in keeping with its name, dedicates each issue to an extinct or declining species of animal, "preferably one destroyed or being destroyed by the greed, stupidity, rapacity, vindictiveness or wastefulness of man."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS
(cont. from page 8)

The second U.S. record of the Five-Striped Sparrow was recorded at Roadside Rest in southeast Arizona's Patagonia. It was the first opportunity for birders from all parts of the country to see this strictly Mexican bird. Those who searched before the rains started in mid-July were well rewarded, but the late comers were disappointed. Among those disappointed were many of our members...in fact, it looked like an LAAS field trip had descended on Santa Rita lodge in Madera Canyon on July 25. Betty and Laura Lou Jenner returning from the Chiricahuas; Paul and Pat Hessler birding their way back to Ohio; David Beyers and John Dunn ending a two week birding stay there; and the Suffels on a short visit to one of their favorite spots.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Joseph R. Baumfeld
8558 Walnut Drive
Los Angeles, 90046

Mr. George A. Bennett
4416 Ledge Avenue
North Hollywood 91602

Mr. James G. Cansler
1525 Ellesford Avenue
Rowland Heights 91745

Mr. and Mrs. J. Byron Cole
10327 Glen Barr Avenue
Los Angeles 90064

Mr. Charles R. Day
2136 North Beachwood Drive
Los Angeles 90028

Mr. Jonathan Dunn
17437 Rancho Street
Encino 91316

Mrs. Virginia L. Fitzgerald
526 North Lake Street
Los Angeles 90026

Mr. Dan N. Force
1058 Chautauque Blvd.
Pacific Palisades 90272

Mrs. W. G. Grommon
2510 Eucalyptus Avenue
Long Beach 90806

Mr. Lowell C. Grundmeier
1246 Oak Hill Avenue
South Pasadena 91030

Miss Anna Marie Hager
2601 South Figueroa St.
Los Angeles 90054

Miss Ruby Hartoebben
2967 Leeward, #3
Los Angeles 90054

Mrs. Irene Haudahl
4555 Long Beach Blvd.
Long Beach 90802

Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman, Jr.
3806 San Rafael Avenue
Los Angeles 90065

Mr. Jerry Hopkins
8649 Crescent Drive
Los Angeles 90046

Mrs. Alexander King
10787 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles 90024

Mr. K. S. Larson
9414 Lloydcrest Drive
Beverly Hills 90210

Mrs. L. R. Lindley
616 North Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills 90210

Mrs. J. R. Madden
521 North Market Street
Inglewood 90302

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mann
115 South Catalina Street
Los Angeles 90004

Judge Francis X. Marnell
3467 Flower Street
Huntington Park 90257

Mrs. Eugenia M. Newell
Post Office Box 5
Sunland 91040

Mrs. Colleen M. Peck
221 Paseo de Gracia
Redondo Beach 90277

Miss Diane Powell
500 North Kenter Avenue
Los Angeles 90049

Mrs. Elizabeth P. Rusher
220 East Hyde Park Blvd.
Inglewood 90301

Mr. Lawrence E. Rutledge
88 Dapplegray Lane
Rolling Hills Estates 90274

Miss Dorothy D. Rypka
1900 East Pine Avenue
Compton 90221

Mr. Gary J. Shapiro
1238 Sunnyhills Road
Oakland 94610

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Shearer
12725 Sunset Boulevard
Brentwood 90049

Mr. I. M. Spaulding
2111 Parnell Avenue
Los Angeles 90025

Dr. Elizabeth Stein
2725 Oakhurst Street
Los Angeles 90034

Mrs. James S. Stoker
1334 San Vicente Boulevard
Santa Monica 90402

Miss Naomi Teven
335 North Palm Drive
Beverly Hills 90210

Mr. Richard A. Voit
3000 B Strand
Manhattan Beach 90266

Although the Salton Sea and the Colorado River will still provide good birding in September, it may not be necessary to go so far or to be so hot. The coastal marshes will be excellent for shorebirds, with a good chance for Bairds, Pectoral and Solitary Sandpipers, particularly where there is fresh water. Coastal promontories and valleys with trees and water should be good for migrants, and for those challenging vagrants.

From north to south try the Oxnard Pt. Mugu area, Pt. Dume, the Malibu canyons, Pt. Fermin, the Dana Point-San Clemente section, Point Loma, and of course the Tijuana River Valley. Good birding!



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS...G. Shumway Suffel

September may not be the end of summer for Southern Californians, who well know it can be the hottest, driest month of the year, but for the birds it is definitely autumn. Nesting is long past, family responsibilities are fulfilled, and migration is in full swing. For birders, this is the most challenging time of the year, for these birds are not all as brightly garbed as those we saw in full nuptial plumage last spring. Among the ducks particularly, there are no handsomely marked drakes...no long-tailed gray and white pintails; no iridescent green and chestnut-headed teal; and no cinnamon colored teal. They all look like females. They are in post-breeding "eclipse" plumage.

Nor are these dull plumages confined to the ducks. The immature passerines (over half the fall population are immatures) are a nondescript lot and this is where the challenge lies. Flycatchers look like vireos, vireos like warblers, and warblers like other warblers. This is a birder's post-graduate course in field identification. These are the difficult ones...those that make birding as fascinating for the experts as it is for the neophyte. So sharpen up now, and you'll be ready for the even more difficult strays and vagrants which are more likely in October. Rare birds are found by those who know what to look for!

The only real summer shocker was a Sooty Tern reported on the beach at Venice by Larry Sansone. The bird is previously unreported on the west coast.

Several observers reported the lone Snow Goose at Upper Newport Bay, and the three Flamingos at San Elijo lagoon, which have been seen along our southern coast for several years (undoubtedly escapees).

Black Swifts were found near Santa Anita falls above Arcadia, at the San Jacinto River Falls near Idylwild, and at Big Falls near Fallisvale in Mill Creek Canyon. Nesting has been suspected at these locations, but it remained for Jay Sheppard to locate nests at the latter spot and to see an adult brooding - young bird and protecting it from the spray of the falls.

Spotted Owls evidently are regulars in summer in the wooded canyons of our local mountains. Don Sterba, returning from Santa Anita Falls in the early evening, heard an owl, answered it, and during the ensuing conversation the bird flew over him several times. Lois Baylen heard a call like a Barred Owl (probably a Spotted) in Rubio Canyon, just above her Altadena home. Gene

Anderson of U.C. Riverside found an adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at nearby Reche Canyon in June. Some 20 Elegant Terns at Huntington Beach (John Dunn) were early arrivals. Kittiwakes summered along the coast and at the Salton Sea in unusual numbers. Jan Atwood saw twelve at the north end of the Sea in mid-July, while ten to 20 were reported from the Santa Monica-Malibu area by many observers. These birds are the remnants of an unusually large winter invasion along our coast. The fact that nearly all are still in winter plumage suggests a glandular unbalance, possibly caused by the ingestion of oil or other chemicals.



The Salton Sea and the lower Colorado River again proved to be happy hunting grounds for the indefatigable Guy McCaskee. Guy and Alan Craig heard Black Rails calling in the lower Colorado River valley on June 15, where they were previously unrecorded. The next Saturday, Bruce Broadbooks and a group from San Diego coaxed a rail into plain sight with tape recorded calls, and later the same day Bruce heard more rails at West Pond near Imperial Dam. Subsequently several LAAS members found it easy to get answers to taped calls, but difficult to bring a bird into view.

On the 27th of June, Guy found a Sabine's Gull trying to land on the freeway near El Centro (the second inland record for this pelagic bird) and on July 12 he and Gene Cardiff saw two adult Black Skimmers near Salton City (the third West Coast record). To top it off, he found an immature Roseate Spoonbill in a flock of 100 Wood Ibis near the Red Hill Marina at the southeast end of the Sea. All these sightings were broadcast on the rare bird alert. The rails were heard by all who played taped calls and seen by a few; the skimmers were not seen again; and the spoonbill was seen the next day by the Suffels and on Tuesday by Larry Sansone, but could not be found on Saturday by the many weekend birders.

Despite the fact that Guy visits the Sea every other weekend, this area is so fruitful that others can still find noteworthy birds. Wayne and Ruth Lohr reported two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at the southwest corner of the Sea July 25, while Jim Lane and Gary Van Essen found an American Redstart and a Great-tailed Grackle in the Finney-Ranier Lake area on June 17.

(Please turn to page 7)