

The Western Tanager

VOLUME 37 1970-71 NUMBER 1 SEPTEMBER

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

by BETTY JENNER

That high, mysterious mountain range had lured us for years, ever since we had first seen it as we looked east from the Mammoth area of the high Sierra. Articles about the ancient bristlecone pines to be found there served to heighten our desire to go to the White Mountains of California. However, it was not until accounts of the interesting bird life of the area kept cropping up in field notes by David Gaines, Shum Sufel, etc., that we finally made the trek ourselves to this little-known segment of our state.

Before we left, in the last week of August, 1969, we tried to find out about road conditions, but discovered that no two maps or articles agreed on the kind of driving conditions we would encounter. This, then, is being written to encourage others to make the trip, as we found good roads, exciting scenery, and some very good birds.

For those who have never heard of our White Mountains, I'll mention that to reach them from Los Angeles you drive through Lancaster, Mojave, and north by way of #14 and #395 to the town of Big Pine in the Owens Valley. Because of the heavy rain and snowpack of the previous winter, we were amazed to find Owens Lake filled with water—almost like a shimmering blue mirage in the desert! Owens Valley was a lush green, with rushing streams still flowing from the Sierra. Incidentally, for those of you who haven't travelled that route for some years, there are several good campgrounds with shade and water, on or near the highway.

At Big Pine you will turn east on #168, the Westgard Pass road. There is a campground right at the turn; here we filled the camper's water tank, half-a-dozen plastic gallon jugs, and a five-gallon plastic container with water. This gave us sufficient water for our five days' stay at a dry camp.

This trip is not for those who can't take altitudes. From a 4000' elevation in the Owens Valley you will go up to nearly 9000' at your campground, and 11,000' at Patriarch Grove. For the normal person, reduced activity is advised, at least until one's lungs become accustomed to the thin air. *Continued on next page*

REPORT from the PRESIDENT

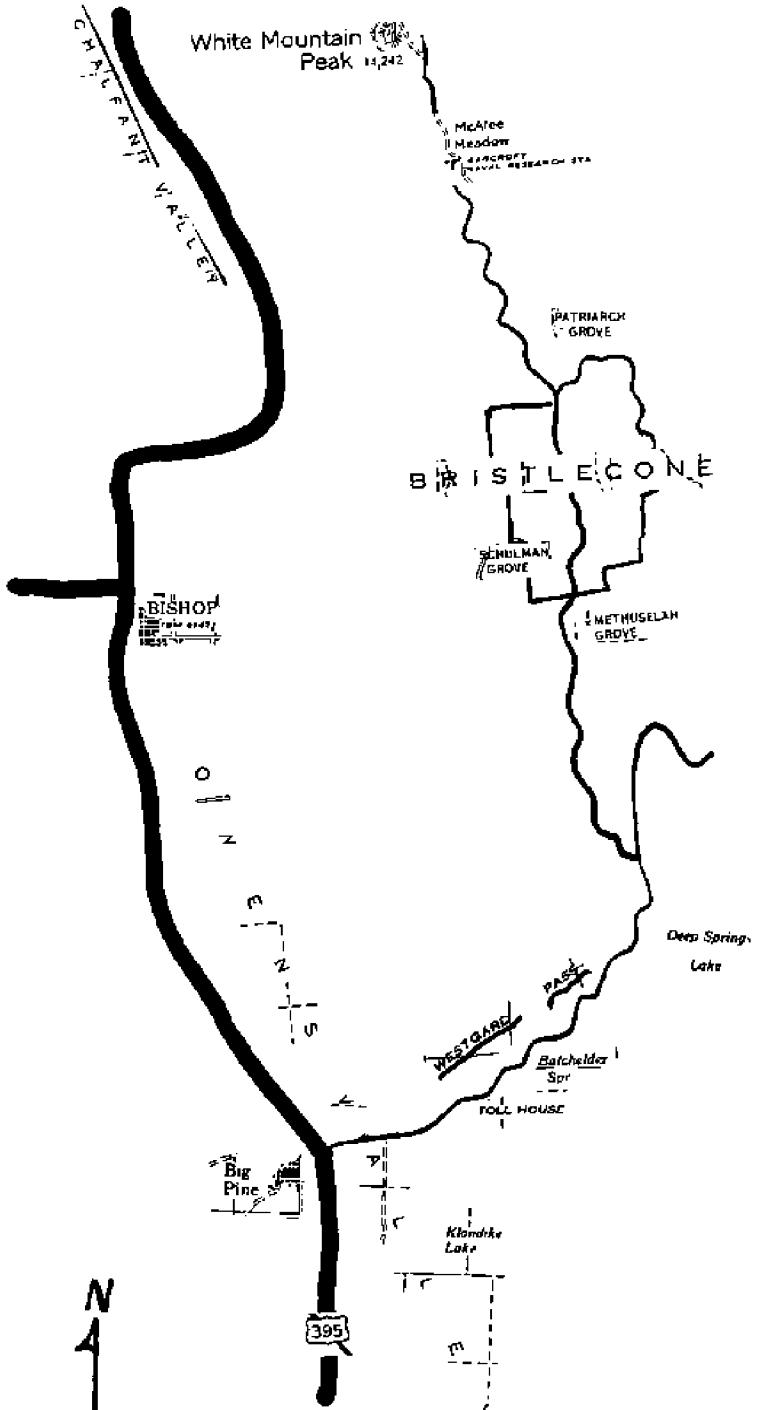
The sixtieth anniversary year was one of steady progress for the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Our membership maintained its steady growth with the evening meetings and field trips well attended. Audubon House facilities were improved and we have had some encouragement in our battle to help save our deteriorating environment. Following is a brief review of some of our activities along with what we hope to do in the future.

We are fortunate in that most of the members of last season's Executive Board have agreed to stay on for the coming year. There are still a few openings to be filled and I will be in contact with various members of the Society to join our excellent team in assuming these positions as well as to help in new projects we plan to undertake.

Ginny Johnson, our Registrar of Members, reports that as of July 1, 1970, our membership totals 1,529, up from 1,213 as of July 1, 1969. We want to intensify our efforts to increase greatly our membership even more this year. Here is one area in which each individual member can help in his own way at his own pace. The more members we have, the more effective we can be in fighting to preserve and improve our environment as well as enabling the Society to offer a more elaborate and interesting program of activities. Mrs. Johnson will gladly assist with literature and advice to those who wish to contact prospective members.

The Program Chairman, Arnold Small, has scheduled a new season of excellent programs, both informative and entertaining. Details will be announced in "The Western Tanager". Do yourself a favor by attending our evening meetings and by all means bring interested guests. Many announcements are made and much information

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The Westgard Pass Road follows the route of the old mining road constructed ninety years ago. It is well-paved and well-maintained. A few miles east of town you will observe, to your left, huge metal discs supported by steel frameworks. These are ninety-foot parabolic radio telescope reflectors erected by Cal-Tech—here, scientists have located stars which are a mind-boggling six billion light years away.

Eight miles east of town is Toll House Spring, positively the last place where drinking water may be obtained. The few cottonwoods are likely to have interesting birds in them—occasionally rarities—attracted by the water. As the road ascends, it winds through towering walls of sandstone encrusted with lichens, then emerges to a plateau covered with one-leaf pinon pines and Utah junipers. Wildflowers and sage are abundant. This is a good area for Pinon Jays.

Continued in next column

Thirteen miles from Big Pine, a sign directs you to the bristlecone area. The road is paved, with no problems. There are occasional 12% grades, but the family car or camper can make it easily as far as the first bristlecone grove, Schulman Grove. Remember, no water is obtainable beyond Toll House Spring, and you'll find no hamburger stands!

Grand View Campground is about five miles up this road, and is where we headquartered. Our campsite was in the midst of pinon and juniper, at the edge of a sage flat. The air was so bracing, and the quiet so relaxing, that we found it difficult to leave camp at all. It is an unimproved forest camp; but who needs improvements when a family of Black-throated Gray Warblers feeds practically at arm's length from you, and a Gray Flycatcher family feeds around your camp all day! Incidentally, we needed those flycatchers; flies were the only annoyance we encountered. (That is, except for the two-wheelers who put-putted back and forth on the one road.) Sparrows were Lark, Black-throated, Chipping, Brewer's, and Black-chinned, with Green-tailed Towhees and abundant House Finches. There were many other species, but this is not primarily a list.

AUDUBON CONVENTION IMPRESSIONS

The 1970 Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society was held in Seattle, Washington, May 14-18, with headquarters in the Washington Plaza Hotel. The National Headquarters staff and the Seattle Audubon Society organized the meetings, affairs, and field trips very efficiently.

Dr. Elvis Stahr, the President, reported on the role of NAS in the national scene. The grants, totalling one million dollars, received by NAS are in jeopardy in future years because of the effect of the new laws affecting foundations. This could seriously affect many of the programs now under way; for example, the suits prosecuted by NAS (with others) to prevent dredging for shells in the Whooping Crane Refuge at Aransas; drainage of the Everglades; destruction of environment by construction of new bridge over the Potomac, and many others. He mentioned the potential benefits of the Environmental Quality Act, although little specific has yet resulted. Dr. Stahr emphasized the principal means of effecting legislation in the field of conservation and environmental quality is through individuals expressing their own views to the law-makers. The Society may disseminate information, but may not express views of its membership. (The Los Angeles Chapter's Conservation Chairman is actively engaged in

Continued on Page 4

Report from the president

Continued . .

is made available which cannot be obtained in any other way. In addition, the social amenities and refreshments are all very enjoyable. Caroline Adams, in her position of Social Chairman, has done an outstanding job in making these after meeting get-togethers such a great success.

Bob Blackstone, the Field Trip Chairman, has planned an augmented program of field trips for both beginning and advanced birders. By popular demand, we are inaugurating a series of pelagic birding trips. In addition to his duties of Finance Chairman, Jim Huffman is our first Tour Chairman. He will investigate the feasibility of the Society conducting birding tours overseas for our members.

One of our most important activities is in the field of conservation. Last season, a regular series of Conservation Committee meetings was started and will continue this season under the able direction of Kathy Brooks, Conservation Chairman. These meetings were attended by many young people whose enthusiastic dedication was primarily responsible for preventing oil-well drilling near the Sespe Condor Refuge. Our BAN DDT program is attracting nationwide attention and hopefully we will be successful in eliminating the use of this pesticide in the very near future. This committee helped get letters written and petitions collected for other worthwhile objectives, also. The Condor Fund campaign reached an all time record of over \$1,900.00. This money was given to National Audubon to help in its campaign to save the California Condor. In addition, our Society gave four one-half scholarships to qualified outdoor leaders to encourage them to attend Audubon Camp of the West. Shirley Wells, the Education Chairman, has and will continue to spread the gospel of Audubon in the South Bay region of the county, where it has been very well received.

Gil King, at a moment's notice assumed the reins of Editor of "The Western Tanager" in mid-season. He and his staff have made our publication one of the finest of its kind in the country, as attested by the many favorable comments we have received. Future plans include further improvements such as more illustrations and guest articles.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is unique in having a facility such as our Audubon House in Plummer Park. This building serves as our official headquarters as well as houses our excellent library, carefully watched over by Bess Hoffman; our Sales Department, ably managed by Grace Nixon; and a small but very impressive nature museum. This facility has proven so popular not only with our membership, but with

the general public, that we have added a full-time paid staff member, Janis Robinson, and two part-time helpers, Olive Alvey and Louise White, all under the direction of Abigail King, Executive Secretary and Headquarters Chairman.

A new service at the House was initiated last season. We now have a telephone taped message to enable members and out-of-towners to find out about the current birding situation and Audubon activities at any time day or night. The message is brought up to date at least once a week and is reached by a special telephone number -- 874-1318.

To complicate the normal problems of day-to-day operations, Audubon House was burglarized several times near the end of last season. This necessitated some very expensive security measures as well as costly replacement of several items, some of which were not covered by insurance.

Many other members have contributed time and talent to keep Audubon House and the Society operating smoothly. To name a few, Otto Widmann, Hans Hjorth, Les Wood, Earl Mahaffie, various members of the Executive Board and the diligent volunteers who help mail "The Tanager" every month. To these and other unheralded workers the Society owes its most profound thanks and appreciation.

I have tried to show here what a dynamic, progressive organization the Society is. I am convinced that the vast majority of the members have little or no knowledge of what is going on behind the scene because things seem to run so smoothly. All of these activities are the result of the hard work done by a comparatively few people. Our programs are of such wide range that there is some of interest for anyone and everyone who would like to participate actively. Don't wait to be asked, call Audubon House or any officer of the Society and volunteer. Many hands help make the work easier and at the same time, very enjoyable.

Our expanding program of activities requires money. We have three basic sources of income--memberships, merchandise sales and donations. Ginny has been doing a good job with the membership program, but as I have mentioned, she needs your help. Grace has been able to stock an outstanding array of nature books and other such merchandise in our Sales Department, and many of these items are offered at a discount to members. Mail and telephone orders are accepted if you are unable to come to Audubon House. Special orders are also welcomed.

Up to now we have made very few appeals for cash donations. If we are to continue our wide range of activities and service to the community, we must have additional funds. At the June meeting I announced the establishment of an Audubon House Fund. Donations to this fund will help pay for the maintenance and improvement of Audubon House as well as support the general ex-

Continued on next page

President *Continued...*

penses of running the Society. This will be a continuing appeal and all donations are tax deductible. Please send or leave your donations at Audubon House and acknowledgment will be made whenever requested. Consult the Treasurer's Report in this issue of "The Tanager" for a general idea of the Society's financial condition.

I greatly appreciate the honor of being President of such a fine organization as the Los Angeles Audubon Society. I have enjoyed working with the many talented and dedicated people who have made this Society what it is today. With your continued support we will be an even more effective force for the preservation and appreciation of our natural environment in the coming year.

HERBERT CLARKE

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CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT

7-1-69 to 6-30-70

<u>INCOME</u>	\$ 21,112.94
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National Audubon Dues
Donations
Merchandise Sales
Miscellaneous

<u>EXPENSES</u>	\$ 27,203.88
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Audubon House
Permanent Assets
Merchandise Purchases
Employees Wages
Western Tanager
Conservation
Miscellaneous

<u>TOTAL ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY</u>	\$ 39,047.54
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Includes library, exhibit
material, merchandise for
sale, fixtures, stock, etc.

A bequest of \$10,302.20 was received, \$5,000.00 of which was used to help defray expenses, and the balance put into savings.

The audited detailed financial report is available for inspection by any member.

OLGA L. CLARKE, Treasurer
(Final Report)

National Audubon

Convention **CONTINUED**

getting a list of the bills of importance, and of the names of individuals to whom to write.) Dr. Stahr also appealed to the membership to give credit to those legislators who "stick their necks out" in the many issues which have been successfully concluded.

Economic Feasibility and the Ecological Revolution: Dr. H. Dewayne Kreager

Dr. Kreager made the valid point that many of the benefits we value in our culture cannot be obtained without destruction of some ecological factor. (No one could have seen 600 birds without the automobile—behind which lie the oil fields, the tankers, the off-shore drilling.) So, according to him, the only way to save the environment is the unlikely prospect of giving up some material benefits we want. However, as he spoke, there were freighters boarded to the masts with logs—for Japan, from our forests. We could give this up. No doubt the companies he is director of keep the lights burning in their offices all night—that is power we can do without.

A New Role for the Army Corps of Engineers: Major General C. H. Dunn

This listener went away believing this was just another attempt to whitewash the Corps of Engineers un-understanding history. Repeatedly he emphasized that his audience was only a small minority of the population. Yet he made it quite clear that the decisions to embark on the typical corps project had been made with one or two individuals representing a particular commercial interest: the claim that the Corps never has done anything not approved by the voting public through Congress. Our trouble is that we can only appear at hearings if we hear about them and if they occur not during working hours—even then each one of us can only represent ourselves—not a cohesive force. Since we do not, in fact cannot as a society, organize as a political force we are repeatedly overrun by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Economic Policy and Natural Resources: Prof. James Crutchfield

On the constructive side, Dr. Crutchfield gave a very thoughtful discussion of how the situation could be improved, which was very encouraging, even though conditions will get worse in the immediate future. Society cannot write off or delay improvement by looking for items to give up, but by making better choices of what conditions for living are preferable. As an example, Southern California grows surplus crops, at the same time that a reduction of 5% of the crops would remove the need for additional water from northern states to California. The untouchable users, almost all being inefficient users, of agricultural water are not now made to pay the

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Los Angeles Audubon Society

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

1970		September					1970	
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				

Sept. 3 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8:00 p.m.

Sept. 8 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m. Illustrated program on work of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory at Bolinas, Calif., describing the unique stations on the mainland and Farallon Islands.

Sept. 12 SATURDAY - PELAGIC TRIP - The research vessel, VANTUNA, will leave Terminal Island (Berth 206, Fellows Co.) at 6:00 a.m. for a 12-hour cruise as far out to sea as possible. Reservations are all taken; however, cancellations are possible. Cruise leader: Erwin Woldman, 346-9226.

Sept. 12 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Malibu Lagoon and north along the coast to the mouth of the Santa Clara River at Ventura. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Pacific Coast Highway just west of the bridge over Malibu Lagoon. For information call: Bob Blackstone, 277-0521.

Sept. 26-27 SATURDAY - SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Tijuana River area (south of San Diego). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Oscar's Restaurant on Palm Avenue in Imperial Beach. Go south from San Diego on U. S. 101 to the Imperial Beach turnoff, which is Palm Avenue, then proceed 3/4 mile to Oscar's on the right. This area is famous for exotic migrants and vagrants. For information call: Bob Blackstone, 277-0521.

Oct. 1 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 3 SATURDAY - The Golden Gate Audubon Society is again sponsoring a boat trip for HARDY seafarers to study migrating sea birds off Monterey. Three boats will leave Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey at 9:00 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. Fare - \$7 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail with a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED envelope (names and addresses of guests must be included) to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Calif., 94109. Details will be sent with acknowledgment. Reservations close September 20 or earlier if boats are filled. Leaders to be announced. Valeria G. DaCosta, Boat Trips Chairman.

Oct. 6 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m.

Oct. 10 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Cabrillo Beach and vicinity. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Cabrillo Beach Museum, 3720 Stephen M. White Dr., San Pedro. Go south on the Harbor Freeway to San Pedro, then south on Pacific Avenue to 36th Street. Turn left on 36th and follow signs to museum. Leader: Shirley Wells, 831-4281.

**Audubon
Bird Reports
874-1318**

*Conservation meetings
every fourth Wednesday*

Next Conservation Meeting: September 23, at 8:00 p.m.

audubon activities

FIELD TRIP - Greenhorn Mountain, June 27-28. Leaving Bakersfield where we all met, Burrowing Owls are seen behind the usual farmhouse. Departing the brown foothills for Live-Oak country, we are soon being entertained by Acorn Woodpeckers from all sides. Lunch was at Cedar Creek campground where a Warbling Vireo was singing overhead, and a Solitary Vireo nearby. Birding along the road from Panorama Campground in the early afternoon, a Townsend's Solitaire was seen near the roadside. Its behaviour seemed unusual, but was soon explained when our attention was called to a nest in a small cavity in the bank by the road. Why with the entire mountain to choose from did this pair nest practically within arm's reach of passing vehicles including huge logging trucks?

Yellow Warblers seemed to follow our group most of the afternoon, singing all the while with enough variations to keep us intrigued. And there were Chickadees with their minor off-key Spring song, and a Fox Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee competed with each other. But for us the piece de resistance was the exquisite, flute-like song of the Hermit Thrush. Having had Herrnits in our garden each winter without any song, this was a special pleasure and made the trip a complete success.

We have been interested in the reaction of birds to tape-recorded songs, and have had good success in bringing in such birds as Trogons, a variety of Warblers, Vireos, Flycatchers, and Sparrows. This is a great help with birds often difficult to spot high in the Evergreens. Late in the day on the edge of the Campground the recorder was tried on a Golden-Crowned Kinglet, usually difficult to see. After the first few notes it popped into the open almost too near for binoculars, another success for the recorder. Marjorie and Freeman Tatum



FIELD TRIP

Mt. Pinos, July 26th A good group came to Mt. Pinos in hopes of viewing condors. Thanks to Marion and Russ Wilson who were on hand and were the first to spot the birds coming over, many people did see at least one. There were several Clark's Nutcrackers near the top, as well as a family of Green-Tailed Towhees. A family of Townsend's Solitaires was seen by many in the campground. Among other birds were Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds, White-headed Woodpeckers and a few of us were fortunate to find Mountain Quail with young on the way up the mountain. Otto Widmann **Leader**.

Convention

Continued..

true cost of their water. The value of destroyed water caused by pulp producers never figures in the cost of pulp.

The performance of the Army Corps of Engineers is calculated by the Corps and Bureau of Reclamation, as a Benefit-Cost ratio, by a method that leaves out or under-estimates many factors. The scenic or scientific values of areas about to be destroyed are based on a very limited view of their appeal. The discount rate is carried at an unrealistic value of 4%. Fragmentation of costs and localization of benefits lead to inflated estimates of the "value" of most projects.

An Ecologist's View of Progress:

Dr. Lawrence B. Slobodkin

Dr. Slobodkin, Head, Department of Ecology, University of State of New York at Stony Brook, also gave a thoughtful and actually encouraging analysis of the factors influencing our environment. Population growth and its needs of course are the primary distinctive factors. Dr. Slobodkin believes that a frontal attack on population growth, by more pills, taxes on children, etc., are unlikely to succeed, at least alone. The real factors, and ones that are discernible in the more advanced countries of Europe, are rather indirect, such as equal rights for women which gives them something to live for other than raising children; better social security, so that poor people do not traditionally raise children to look after them in their old age. He, too, emphasized the need for the management of our requirements and resources—we too live on a finite closed spaceship, and we need control of resources and expenditures on the Earth just as much as on the small three-man Apollo's.

The Alaskan Environment: Mr. James King

Mr. King of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries gave an alarming picture of the effects of "improvements" and "developments" of Alaska on the wildlife in arctic regions. Fueling accidents, fouling of water in the leads as the ice opens up and breeding birds feed, cause precipitous decreases in bird population. There have been found one thousand miles of beaches with oiled birds, from which it is appalling to estimate the actual total loss of bird life. These events are not "incidents" because they happen at the central spot of convergence of twenty million birds, for the critical moments of their lives, breeding in the unique arctic waters.

THE 1971 NATIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

Announcements!

We take great pleasure in announcing the marriage of Miss Janis Lee Leventon to Mr. Richard Robinson on July 2, 1970. Jan is the efficient and popular Audubon House office manager and Dick, a familiar figure on LAAS field trips is responsible for the recorded Audubon Bird Reports. We hear that the bride and groom were showered with birdseed rather than the traditional rice on their departure for a birding honeymoon in Canada.

STARTING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, AND CONTINUING THROUGH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, THERE WILL BE A SERIES OF EIGHT HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS. THESE SESSIONS ARE ESPECIALLY PLANNED FOR NEWER BIRDERS, BUT EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THE GROUP WILL BE LED BY JOAN MILLS, ASSISTED BY JEAN BRANDT AND ABIGAIL KING. IF INTERESTED, CALL JANIS ROBINSON AT AUDUBON HOUSE, 876-0202 BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. OR ABIGAIL KING AT 476-5121.

Golden Gate - The Gull, 1970 edition, is missing from the Audubon House Library. Will you please return it?

help-please
call Kathryn at 479-0830
in the evenings to
volunteer for

typing . . . mailing . . . running errands . . .
participating in telephone alert chain . . . printing
or duplicating ecology resource materials for
distribution . . . speaking . . . writing letters
. . . carrying petitions . . . distributing materials
at fairs and conferences . . . making posters
. . . drawing cartoons & sketches for "Western
Tanager" . . . attending hearings . . . analyzing
federal, state, & local legislation which affects
our environment (in general) and birding (in particular)
directing subcommittee activities.

Audubon House
Sales Department

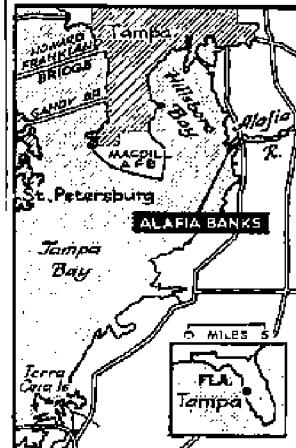
WE HAVE SO MANY NEW TITLES IN OUR BOOK DEPARTMENT THAT WE CANNOT POSSIBLY LIST THEM ALL. IF YOU ARE PLANNING A TRIP ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD OR IF YOU HAVE A VERY SPECIAL INTEREST IN A PARTICULAR GROUP OF BIRDS, COME IN AND SEE US OR CALL US FOR INFORMATION.

THE BOUTIQUE NOW OFFERS AN EXTENSIVE VARIETY OF COUROC TRAYS AND GLASSES ALL WITH BIRD DESIGNS.

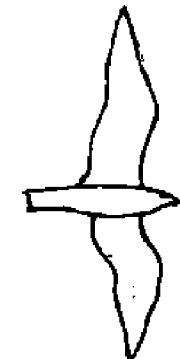
The Sales Department now has available excellent teaching aids and educational materials for sale. Ecology packets include a large chart, teacher's manual and student manual (extra student manuals may be purchased). These are good for classroom, youth groups, and home use.

A BIRD SANCTUARY SET UP IN FLORIDA

Audubon Unit Leases Island
for Displaced White Ibises



The New York Times Aug. 2, 1970



The Western Tanager

Official Publication of the
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environment besieged



by

KATHRYN BROOKS



"THE DODO" URGES RECYCLING WASTE

Thanks to Jay Gould and Ernie Ryles of the UCLA Earth Action Council (P.O. Box 24390, L.A. 90024), we now have a comprehensive list of locations which collect and recycle solid waste, i.e. glass jars, bottles, cans, newspapers. To quote the EAC publication, "If waste recycling doesn't seem important by now, it may be of interest to note that 3.5 billion tons of solid waste are produced in the United States every year. To put this figure into perspective one may imagine the entire Panama Canal being filled four times yearly by this solid refuse. With resources being depleted and land fill areas reaching holding capacity, it becomes apparent that recycling is not just important; it is a necessity. Sadly enough, only 20 percent of the used paper and 30 percent of the aluminum by-products are currently being recycled. To complicate matters further, the government, as usual, has been remiss by favoring big industry. Tax advantages for exploitation of resources, not recycling, are curtailing constructive efforts to recycle garbage."



INTERLANDI © 1978, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I understand it was spared after a spirited, but belated, letter-writing campaign!"

Reprinted by permission from *Interlandi and the Los Angeles Times*.

Centers Collecting More Than One Item

Newman Center, 840 Hilgard, Westwood 90024. (Phone 213, 474-5015, Father Collins) This center is collecting newspapers, all-aluminum cans, glass jars, bottles. The Garage is open all day. No payment, no minimum, no pickup. The money will go to feed the needy in L.A.

Ecology Action, W.L.A. Recycling Center, 2021 Barrington Ave., L.A. Ca 90025, in parking lot behind co-op market. (Phone 213, 473-3498, Israel Feuer) It is collecting newspaper and cardboard, preferably tied, all aluminum products, glass jars, bottles, rinsed, and sorted by clear, green, and all others. Open for delivery all day, no payment, and will pick up.

Pacific Palisades Junior Women's Club, 1141 Via De La Paz, Pacific Palisades, Ca (213, 459-1987, Mrs. Jules Gimbernat) Deliveries to be made from 9-3 on 11th of each month through September 1970.

Clareville Seminary, 26812 W. Mulholland Dr., Calabasas, Ca 91302 (Phone 213, 880-4440) This center is collecting newspaper, magazines, and cardboard, preferably tied, also aluminum products, glass, clothing and rags, and tin cans. They will pick up or you may leave them on grounds.

Community Involvement Project, San Fernando Valley State College, 18302 Plummer St., Northridge, Ca 91324 (Phone 213, 885-0353) Collects all salvageable goods, no payment, no minimum, no pickup. Items can be placed in garage.

Cal Tech Environmental Action Council, 1201 E. California Blvd., Pasadena, Ca (Phone 213, 793-8028, Dwight Carey) This group has organized six recycling centers, and is a good information source on reclamation. The six centers collect newspaper (tied), all-aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles (rinsed). The centers are:

Cal Tech Environmental Action Council Recycling Center, San Pasqual Ave., Between Michigan and Wilson, Pasadena, Ca (213, 793-8028 Dwight Carey)

La Canada Environmental Action Recycling Center, 459 Foothill Blvd., La Canada, Ca (213, 790-7310)

Pasadena High School Ecology Action Recycling Center, Corner of Altadena and Cooley Dr., Pasadena, Ca (Leave material outside Parking Lot Gate, every day)

San Marino High School Recycling Center, 2701 Huntington Dr., San Marino, Ca (Phone 213, 449-4968) Leave material in East Parking Lot

Upper Altadena Recycling Center, 3671 Leilani Way, Altadena, Ca (213, 797-0053, Tim Varnum)

Continued in next issue

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

Continued from back page

August. A few summering SCOTERS (one COMMON SCOTER, Jon Dunn). An early pair (female?) BLUE-WINGED TEAL at Upper Newport Bay on August 1st (Jon Dunn), a COMMON MURRE at Santa Monica (Randy Sumner).

Since the days when the Passenger Pigeons "blackened the skies" there have been few opportunities to see hundreds of thousands (maybe millions) of birds in migration, but one of these fell to our lot on May 20th. As Don Sterba and I stood on the breakwater at Pt. Hueneme with a strong onshore wind in our faces, we saw a column of SOOTY SHEARWATERS stretching from horizon to horizon like ants crossing a foot trail, from an inexhaustable source to an unknown destination. A rough count showed between 500 and 1,000 birds per minute passing a given point in a northwesterly direction. We went up the coast ten miles where we saw no shearwaters but did notice that there was no onshore wind. Upon returning half way to Ventura, where the wind was still blowing, we found the shearwaters again and saw them turning out to sea as a unit when they were no longer forced in

toward land by the wind. Strangely enough, in almost the same place on August 5th, we saw Sooty Shearwaters again, just offshore, but this time only thousands and proceeding down the coast in a more leisurely manner, feeding as they travelled. These movements are exactly as described by Ralph S. Palmer in Vol. 1 of "Handbook of North American Birds".

Those birders who are going on pelagic trips this month and next, will do well to study up on the shearwaters and petrels which may be seen off our coast in the fall. The petrels are particularly difficult as the plumage of all four species is entirely dark and are best separated by size, shape and flight characteristics. Palmer's "Handbook" (mentioned above) is excellent for these pelagics. Another tricky distinction is between the Common and Arctic Terns (see the first issue of "California Birds"). These birds are so difficult to separate that most small pelagic terns are best called "Comic Terns" for they could be either one. Among the species "not marked by Irwin Woldman, but possible" near San Clemente Island are Red-billed Tropicbirds, Least Petrels and Craveri's Murrelets.

From "The Natural History of Selborne" by the Rev. Gilbert White: Selborne, Sept. 14th, 1770.

Dear Sir, — You saw, I find, the ring-ousels again among their native crags; and are farther assured that they continue resident in those cold regions the whole year...

Scopoli's new work (which I have just procured) has its merit in ascertaining many of the birds of the Tirol and Carniola. Monographers, come from whence they may, have, I think, fair pretence to challenge some regard and approbation from the lovers of natural history; for, as no man can alone investigate the works of nature, these partial writers may, each in their department, be more accurate in their discoveries, and freer from errors, than more general writers; and so by degrees may pave the way to an universal correct natural history. Not that Scopoli is so circumstantial and attentive to the life and conversation of his birds as I could wish: he advances some false facts;

He also advances some {I was going to say} improbable facts;

CONVENTION

Field Trips

The National Headquarters Staff and the Seattle Audubon Society conducted three field trips on the Friday before and again on the Monday after the Convention meetings. The arrangements for these trips were exceedingly well planned, and turned out to be extremely enjoyable. We were fortunate that the weather on both days was perfect, and beautiful views of Mt. Rainier, the Cascades and Olympic Range were seen. The outstanding feature of the Cascade trip was the Dipper, which performed for everyone, at Snoqualmie Falls. A Swainson's Hawk was a good bird for many of us, but perhaps the most entrancing was a Calliope Hummingbird at Wenatchee Campground, who perched all day near his nest. Close up, extensive



smallest
hummingbird
of N.A.

views were obtained, which made this tiny bird a great "lifer" for many visitors from the East.

On the Mt. Rainier trip a Blue Grouse was heard booming, and seen in a pine tree at the edge of the road. Varied Thrushes were singing in the forest, just to mention another specialty of the area. The Whidbey Island trip was also enjoyed by all participants. Interesting notes to those of us from Southern California are: all the gulls in Puget Sound are Glaucous-winged; Vaux's Swifts visit downtown Seattle in the evening; Marbled Murrelets are trash birds at this time of year.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Birds

Once again we find ourselves at the start of the fall migration, after a relatively quiet but consistently hot summer. Shorebirds are back in fantastic numbers, particularly on the extensive mudflats (formerly ponds) of Upper Newport Bay. Since the salt ponds are no more, there are few phalaropes here, where there were formerly thousands feeding on the brine shrimps in those salt-saturated waters. However both NORTHERN and WILSON PHALAROPES have been found in great numbers in the non-tidal waters of the coastal lagoons and the Salton Sea. Terns of five species, along with the earliest gulls and ducks, can be seen along the coast, while small land birds will be going through in increasing numbers through this month and into October.

Certainly the most exciting bird of the summer (to early August) was the BLACK-BELLIED TREE DUCK found July 18th by Jerry Johnson on the ponds of the former San Joaquin Duck Club (now the property of U.C.I.) north of Newport Bay. Even though it may be an escaped bird, it is in fine plumage, flies well, and is not banded. This is the second or third record for California and the only sighting in recent years. In addition to finding a new California bird, the many birders who saw it discovered one of the finest fresh water marshes along the coast. Efforts are now being made to keep this area available for birders.

The long anticipated first nesting of CATTLE EGRETS in California became a proven fact last May when Guy McCaskie and Gene Cardiff found one hundred and twenty nests in a long-established rookery of Snowy Egrets on an island at the end of the New River dike near Westmoreland, Imperial County. This island has not been visited for several years, as it can be reached only by a shallow draft boat, and it is possible that Cattle Egrets have nested here for the last two or three years in smaller numbers. The finding of 500 Cattle Egrets in one field near Westmoreland on Aug. 8 about

finishes the story of Cattle Egrets in California. They are here in large numbers. They are nesting successfully. Now it is only a matter of how many to how far north and how soon.

The Salton Sea again provided the only opportunity to find many post breeding wanderers from Mexico. Several hundred WOOD IBIS, fifty LAUGHING GULLS and forty or more WESTERN GULLS (all of the yellow-legged Gulf-of-California race) were present in late July.

Occasionally we have an opportunity to follow the travels of an individual unmarked bird and this has happened twice this summer. Many birders will remember the front page picture taken in Orange County of a flying MARIBOU STORK (an obvious escapee) in the Los Angeles Times last May. The follow-up a week or two later came from the Santa Barbara Audubon Society returning from a field trip saw a very large bird perched on top of a pine tree near Lake Casitas - the Maribou Stork of course. More recently, Alan Craig found a REDDISH EGRET near San Diego on July 26th. This egret is a rare, post breeding wanderer to our coast from Mexico in the fall and winter, and July is the earliest record I can recall. The bird was not seen again near San Diego but on the evening of the 31st Gerald Tolman and Ron Pinkston found a Reddish Egret (almost surely the same bird) feeding actively above the big dike at Newport Bay. It could not be found the next morning and is presumed to be moving north along the coast.

Some summer reports include: an OVENBIRD (a rare vagrant) near Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego County, on June 19th by Alice Fries, and a very late TOWNSEND'S WARBLER at Buckhorn Camp, San Gabriel Mts. on June 14th by Otto Widman were probably both late spring migrants; an immature male INDIGO BUNTING, east of Riverside on June 15th by Dick Robinson was the only local report this year; an EASTERN KINGBIRD at the Brock Ranch between Holtville and Yuma on June 20th (Kay Yagii) was almost surely doomed at this late date in this desert environment; OSPREYS were widely but sparsely reported - one at West Pond near Imperial Dam on June 21st, another at the south end of the Salton Sea on July 15th and several sightings of what may have been the same bird, Laguna Beach, July 18th and 25th (Jerry Johnson), then above Newport Bay July 25th to early

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