

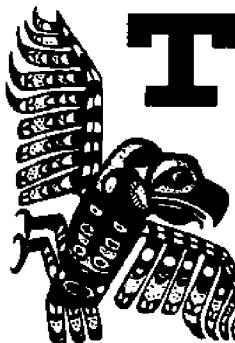
# The Western Tanager

Envelope Enclosed

VOLUME 41, 1974-75 No. 3 November

# CONDOR FUND DRIVE

## SEEING THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR



**T**here are two kinds of people—those who are amazed that anyone could see such a rare bird as a California Condor without going on an expedition, and those who feel because LAAS announces a field trip to Mt. Pinos the birds should be perched on every tree. The latter includes a subgroup who believe John Borneman knows the name and whereabouts of every one of the 50 or so condors. The fact is that although few in number the California Condor is not an impossible bird. It is not secretive, it is large, and flies over open barren country. But as Guy McCaskie defines "a good bird," it is not at a given spot at a given time, for anyone to see. This is in contrast with the Whooping Crane—one pays for a \$5 boat trip with almost a guarantee (when the birds are in residence), getting your money back if you don't see one.

### Locations *The Thunderbird*

The probability of sighting a condor is quite high, at the proper season, at several spots readily accessible by car from Los Angeles: the top of Mt. Pinos, overlooking the Lockwood and San Joaquin Valleys; the Edmonston Pumping Station east of Grapevine; Dough Flat in the Sespe Refuge. The latter two are the best choices in winter and spring. Mt. Pinos is the choice in July and August, especially after the deer-hunting season opens (and wounded deer die in remote areas).

Contrary to rules of energetic birders, the early part of the day is not good for seeing these birds. They usually roost until the updrafts start at 10:00 a.m. The chances of seeing the bird at Mt. Pinos in July and August is about 20% on any one day. When they are flying, often several are seen. As many as 14 have been sighted at one instant, some only a few feet above the mountain top (e.g., August 8, 1969). (Only one counts on your life list, however.) The maximum number in a sighting was 27, on October 24, 1968. Other good days were 25 August 25, 1969, and 22 on August 21, 1970.

In addition, Condors can be sighted about any time of year in certain parts of San Joaquin Valley and the Coastal Range, as far north as Monterey. On the other side of the valley birds have been seen all along the foothills of the High Sierra up to Fresno County, and many have been reported by individuals or organized birding trips to these areas, especially in the springtime.

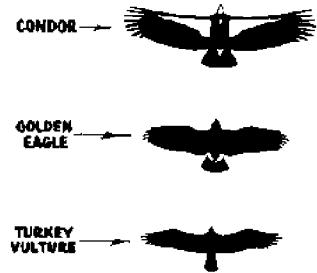
In the last few years there have been accounts of the possibility of the existence of a few California Condors in Northern Baja California. A feather was indeed found, but two expeditions, in 1971 and 1972 by John Borneman and Dean Carrier failed to sight any birds. There seems little likelihood that there are more than a very few birds in that region.

### Record Keeping

Many individuals send in reports of sightings to the Condor Technical Committee, c/o John Borneman, 1973 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93003, or Sanford Wilbur, 1190 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai, CA 93203. These reports are collated and cumulatively produce a picture of the geographical location as a function of the time of year. The distribution is shown in the map reproduced from an article in American Birds, Vol. 26, No. 33 (October 1972) by Sanford R. Wilbur, W. Dean Carrier, John C. Borneman, and Robert W. Mallette. The time of day, age classification and activity of the birds sighted are given, which aid in comparing and corroborating the records. The quality of the reports of course depends on the observer, and misidentifications with Golden Eagles, Turkey Vultures, and hawks are more or less weeded out. From 1966 to 1971, 2700 individual condor observations were received, mostly in the last three years. So the chances of an aware observer seeing a condor outdoors in the areas shown on the map are by no means small.

The Condor Naturalist of the National Audubon Society, John Borneman, or Sanford Wilbur, the member of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center working on the California Condor, can give recent information of the whereabouts of the 60 Condors. As described above, they are also interested in return in receiving reports of sightings for his records, especially those far away from the Sespe Refuge.

Photograph by John Borneman



John Borneman awaits the  
2 o'clock Condor.  
Photograph by Leslie Wood



Photograph by John Borneman

NOTICE Issue Number 4 (December-January) of "The Western Tanager" will be mailed later than usual, December 6. Issue Number 5 (February) will be mailed earlier, January 24.

# CONDOR FUND

## Recent Statistics

The statistics of sightings for this summer (1974) may be of interest to visitors hoping to see the Condor, in order to plan a trip.

A few sample days for Mt. Pinos are reported:

July 13 (4), July 16 (2), July 19 (4), July 20 (0), July 27 (0)

Aug. 13 (1 adult), Aug. 17 (2 adults, 1 immature)

Aug. 24 (3 adults, 2 immatures)

Sep. 4 (1), Sep. 7 (0)



Area where California Condors are seen (from "American Birds")

## Support the LAAS Condor Fund

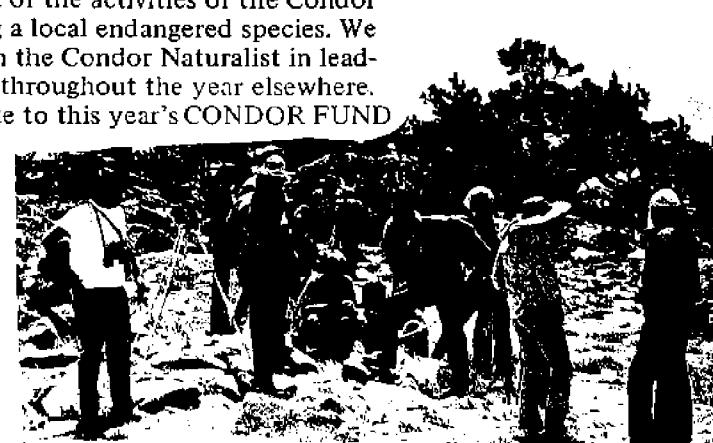
Every year the Los Angeles Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society, conducts a drive to raise a substantial fund, donated to the NAS for support of the activities of the Condor Naturalist. This is primarily an effort on our part to assist in preserving a local endangered species. We are fortunate that in return the chapter receives considerable help from the Condor Naturalist in leading Mt. Pinos trips to view the condors, and to assist in locating them throughout the year elsewhere. For these reasons we appeal to all members of the Society to contribute to this year's CONDOR FUND DRIVE.

With his help LAAS continues to assist visitors from all over the country to get a chance to see a California Condor—and if, dear reader, you are one of those who added to his life-list, please also make a contribution to our CONDOR FUND DRIVE.

Only an eagle



*"Condor! Condor!"*  
Photograph by Leslie Wood



# audubon activities

**CABRILLO BEACH**, Sept. 22. The day turned out rather hot, dry and glaring so the birding was not the best; however, we did have spectacular views of an immature and an adult PARASITIC JAEGER chasing terns at the pier. After checking out Pt. Fermin and Averill Parks for unusual migrants but finding none, the group went to the South Coast Botanic Gardens. Here a LAZULI BUNTING was seen but much diligent searching failed to locate the Indigo seen there a few days earlier. In spite of the unfavorable weather we logged 53 species. Leader, Shirley Wells.

**TRIPPETT RANCH**, Sept. 28. A congenial group of birders, several of whom brought picnic suppers, enjoyed a beautiful evening walk led by the park ranger and Harvey Kirk of the Sierra Club. Many chaparral birds were observed and at dusk we went to the clubhouse where Mr. Kirk presented a fascinating slide show of a canoe trip in the Ozarks, using a beautifully co-ordinated system of three projectors, three screens and taped music. The State Parks Department and the Sierra Club urge groups to use this park for nonvehicular activities such as birding, hiking and picnicking. There are no camping facilities.

**CFO PELAGIC TRIP, MONTEREY BAY**, Oct. 5. Starting just outside the breakwater, this unusually productive trip began with a close study of a THICK-BILLED MURRE. The highly curved culmen was quite visible, and could be compared with those of nearby COMMON MURRES in both winter and summer plumage. Outside in the long swell other alcids included a dozen small flock of CASSIN'S AUKLETS, one group of which performed their characteristic rapid bobbing up and down, presumably from great curiosity. A group of three murrelets near the boat were studied intensively, and were called XANTUS'. They had a blue cast to the grey, whereas the Craveri's has more of a chocolate-brown color. The bill of the latter species is thinner and the head flatter.

A remarkable feature of this trip was the numerous (8 or more) sightings of the dark-phase SOUTH POLAR SKUA. Recent trips have turned up this species, but in the light phase. It now seems that the only Skuas in Monterey Bay are the South Polar, but in both dark and light phases. The South Polar Skua has a small bill relative to the skuas on the Atlantic coast. Many SOOTY and PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATERS were seen, and a noteworthy two dozen or more NEW-ZEALAND (many very close to the boat). A great find for many on board was the rare PALE-FOOTED clearly seen among the Sooties. A few thousand BLACK and ASHY PETRELS were scanned for a small return of three FORK-TAILED. A cloudy day provided excellent lighting to make out the light upper and lower secondary coverts which give the Ashy its name. Finally, a single WILSON'S PETREL made another great find for the day. Two sightings of SABINE'S GULL and two COMMON LOONS still in good plumage and a few RED PHALAROPES completed an unusually long pelagic list. The passerine of this trip was a CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR, well seen off the stern, providing at least a year-bird for most on board.

**TIAJUANA RIVER TRIP**, Oct. 12. Unfortunately, as those members who attended this field trip are well aware, there was no leader. As of nine o'clock Friday night a member of the San Diego Audubon Society was planning to lead the group. However, during the night he suffered a heart attack and by the time word was received in Los Angeles next morning, it was too late to find another leader. Our sympathy goes out to the would-be leader and we trust he will make a prompt and complete recovery. We would also like to thank the San Diego Society for their efforts in providing a leader for the trip and thank him for his generous offer to lead the Los Angeles group.

## BOOK STORE

### NEW ARRIVAL:

**BOOK OF INDIAN BIRDS**, by Salim Ali, features illustrations and descriptions of 264 of the commoner birds of the plains, foothills, inland waters and sea coast. This new book is complementary to INDIAN HILL BIRDS by the same author, which covers 300 species of birds most likely to be seen in the hill-stations of India, and has color plates by G. M. Henry. Both will be of tremendous use in the field, as they are field guide size. \$8.95 ea.

For a lasting gift, this Christmas, or any special occasion, give a book from your L.A. Audubon Society Book Store.



*Paper - \$65 or 3/\$1.50. Cloth - \$1.25 or 3/\$3.50.*

### ANOTHER BAD YEAR FOR THE WHOOPING CRANES

The size of the world's only remaining wild flock of whooping cranes has dropped to 46, down from 51 last year and 59 in 1971-72. And the 46 include only one newly fledged bird. Three young had been reported last summer in Canada, where the cranes breed. Two of them made it safely to the wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, in Texas, earlier this fall, but shortly afterward one of them disappeared. No one knows how or why. Refuge biologists, and David Blankinship, National Audubon biologist who has been working with the cranes, have their fingers crossed that late arrivals from Canada may still show up, or that the aerial searches that have been undertaken will find some of the missing birds elsewhere in the Gulf area. But those hopes are slim. So far no trace of any of the missing birds has been found—alive or dead—and there's no evidence to indicate what happened to them.

*Summary by The Brookline Bird Club.*

### EVENING PROGRAM, Oct. 8.

Arnold Small lived up to his reputation for superlative programs with his presentation of the "land of the Incas." He explained that it is most difficult to get good pictures of birds in those surroundings, but showed many remarkable slides of the countryside—and birds as well. He pointed out that it is becoming rapidly more difficult to find undisturbed areas that harbor the endemic birds as the country is developed and cleared of vegetation. The program was a composite of several trips to Ecuador and Peru. For those interested in possible travel to these countries, Arnold told us that the roads and hotels are good in Ecuador and that it is easy to get around. However, by comparison Peru is considerably more difficult.

# Los Angeles Audubon Society

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

PRESIDENT Dr. Gerald Maisel  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Dorothy Dimsdale  
HOUSE CHAIRMAN Abigail King

Audubon House Hours 10 to 3, Monday through Friday

**Audubon  
Bird Reports  
874-1318**

Sun., Nov. 3. PELAGIC TRIP TO ANACAPA ISLAND on the Paisano out of Oxnard. Leader, Bruce Broadbooks. Price \$14. Send check and names of all in party to Joanne Gabbard, 1318 Euclid, Apt. #7, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Departure time and other details will be given with confirmation.

Thu., Nov. 7. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 8:00 p.m., Audubon House.

Sun., Nov. 10. McGRAH STATE PARK. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the park entrance, between Oxnard and Ventura. Take Hwy. 101 to Victoria off-ramp. Go under freeway to Olivas Park Rd., turn right on Olivas to Harbor Blvd., turn left on Harbor to McGrath Park entrance (on right). Shorebirds and wintering waterfowl. Leader, George Ledec.

Tue., Nov. 12, EVENING MEETING, 8:00 p.m., Plummer Park. John Ruthven, Internationally famous bird and wildlife artist whose work has appeared in AUDUBON MAGAZINE, will discuss art and conservation and display his original prints.

Sat., Nov. 16. MALIBU LAGOON. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on west side of lagoon. (Take Hwy. 1 to Malibu Creek Bridge.) Gulls, terns and wintering shorebirds should be abundant. Leader, Jim Clements.

Thu., Dec. 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 8:00 p.m., Audubon House.

Sat., Dec. 7. CARRIZO PLAINS. Take Hwy. 5 north to State 166 (Maricopa turn-off), go west on 166 to Maricopa, turn south on Hwy. 33 1.6 miles to Elkhorn Grade Rd. Group will look here for Le Conte's Thrasher and leave at 8:30 a.m. Be sure to have a full tank of gas before leaving Maricopa to join the group as we will not pass through California Valley. The California Valley Lodge is no longer in service. Motels are available in Taft for those who wish to stay overnight. Leader, Gilbert King. Sandhill Cranes should be seen in the evening or morning. Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Mountain Plovers are usually there. Other possibilities are: Sage Thrasher, Bald Eagle, Barn Owl, and Short-eared Owl, all of which were listed in '71.

Tue., Dec. 10. EVENING MEETING, 8:00 p.m., Plummer Park. Dr. Jared Diamond of the U.C.L.A. Department of Zoology will present Birds of New Guinea, illustrated with slides taken during his research in the highlands.

Sat., Dec. 28. CHRISTMAS COUNT OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY. To participate call Sandy Wohlgemuth, 344-8531.



## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

SMALL WORLD — Fran William Hall — Thu., Oct. 24

FISHEATING CREEK — Richard Kern — Mon., Nov. 18

FOOTLOOSE IN NEWFOUNDLAND — Tom Sterling — Tue., Jan. 28

"ANIMAUX SAUVAGES" (Wild Animals) — Henk Kegel — Tue., Feb. 18

WANDERING THROUGH FLORIDA — Roy E. Coy — Wed., Mar. 19

Send your ticket request with a check made out to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society now, so that you will not be disappointed, then mark the dates on your calendar.

All of the programs will be held at 7:30 PM in the Fulton Junior High School Auditorium, corner of Saticoy and Kester, in Van Nuys where there is ample free parking.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Wildlife Film Series

10th SEASON

P.O. Box 2504

Van Nuys, California 91404

*The Editor will be pleased to receive photo graphs or line drawings for publication in The Western Tanager. High contrast glossy prints are preferred, but we can also work from colored slides. All material will be returned after publication.*

Field Trip Information: The society cannot be responsible for transportation. Always bring binoculars and lunch. No pets or collecting permitted. On weekend trips leader is scheduled for Saturday only. The Los Angeles Audubon Society and its authorized leaders accept no responsibility for the protection or well-being of persons attending field trips, or for any accident, personal or otherwise, incurred during a society sponsored trip. For last minute changes or cancellations always call the Bird Report 874-1318 on the Friday before a scheduled trip.

## The Western Tanager

Official Publication of the  
Los Angeles Audubon Society

EDITOR . . . . . Gilbert W. King "The Western Tanager" is free to members of Field Notes . . . . . Shumway Suffel National Audubon Society assigned to the Los Angeles chapter. For all others annual subscription is \$3.50. For first class mailing, send \$1.00 to Audubon Calendar . . . . . Caroline Adams Mailing Supervision . . . Hans Hjorth House.

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS **continued**

and below San Diego. CLAY-COLORED SPARROWS are probably more frequent in fall than is generally thought (Pyle and Small shows no records prior to 1964), but are not easily separated from the more common Chipping and Brewer's Sparrows, even though they are brighter and more contrastingly marked than either of these (the often mentioned brown rump is difficult to see, but necessary vs Chipping Sparrow with gray rump). One was found near Marineland on Oct. 3 (S. W.), a second was seen below San Diego on Sep. 22 (Bruce Broadbooks) and a third was present on Pt. Loma from late September on.

With so many noteworthy birds in our own area, it is not surprising that our offshore islands, the Owens Valley and Central California also had an abundance of rare birds. To mention only a few: a CONNECTICUT WARBLER, a BAY-BREASTED WARBLER, a DICKCISSEL, four ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS and many more on San Nicholas Island (L. J., G. McC., and J.D.), California's first DOTTEREL on the Farallones, a CURLEW SANDPIPER at Bodega Bay and a RUFF near Martinez. Another RUFF was found near Hanford, south of Fresno by Jim Stewart from Louisiana. A GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER was seen at Deep Springs, with two TENNESSEES, and a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER and a LARK BUNTING in the Heindels' own yard in Big Pine, Owens Valley. As of early October, there are no indications of a winter invasion by mountain or northern birds - no early Chickadees, Nuthatches, Juncos or Varied Thrushes, but these may come later. If you can't stand the slow pace of winter birding after the excitement of the fall migration, bird your local park, cemetery or seacoast. There will be good birds this winter, but they will be scarcer and harder to find.

**Late Observations:** Runner up for the "Bird of the Year" was a VEERY (found by Hank Brodkin, again!) on Oct. 12 at Big Sycamore. It was still present on Oct. 15. The PIPING PLOVER has returned to Malibu Lagoon, hopefully for the second winter (Jerry Maisel).

## GREETINGS FROM THE SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS

Mr. Ray Adams of Hummingbird Corner in Pine Cove (near Idylwild) sends greetings to those Audubon members who were concerned about his safety and the welfare of his hummingbird clients.

Activity at his racks of feeders was not interrupted by the forest fire that came very close to Pine Cove last August. After the people were evacuated August 27, Mr. Adams obtained special permission to pass through the closed roads on each of the next two days to return to Pine Cove to care for his hummingbirds.

Since then life has returned to normal in Pine Cove. The hummers that now are busily enjoying the syrup in the feeders will soon leave this 6200 foot high mountain village for lower and warmer areas. They will return in April.

Bird watchers who visit this mountain area next summer are invited to stop at Hummingbird Corner and enjoy the antics of Anna, Allen, Black-chinned, Costa, Calliope and Rufous hummers.

## JAPANESE WHISKY

"Suntory" means "Three Birds", and the president of Suntory Limited, Keizo Saji donates one third of the profits of the billion-dollar Japanese industry to the preservation of the 490 species of birds found in Japan.

## THERE'S A HAWK IN THE BATHROOM!—William O. Wirtz II

We received our first raptor in distress, a starving young great horned owl which had hung by its jesses in a citrus grove for three days, on May 8, 1973. To date they have cared for 41 raptors, plus a crow, an opossum, and a coyote pup. They have also answered innumerable calls about injured and baby birds, funneled through the Humane Society of Pomona Valley, Inc., or local schools and libraries.

Sometimes the work is sad, for birds are hit by cars or shot, sometimes it is infuriating, for birds are brought in which have been found hanging from a tree by their falconers jesses, sometimes it is frustrating, for well-meaning, or selfish, individuals take baby birds from nests to raise as pets, feeding them such ridiculous items as hot dogs or oatmeal and milk. But it is infinitely rewarding when a recuperated or now fully grown hawk or owl flies off into the wild. Still we don't know how many of them will be able to put their human taught skills to use there - and survive! Sometimes a bird cannot be saved, and it is mercifully put to rest.

The project is being funded by the Humane Society of Pomona Valley, Inc., the Pomona Valley Audubon Society, and individual Audubon members, with donations coming from as far away as South Lake Tahoe and Pullman, Washington. When 18 birds were being raised simultaneously this spring it cost over \$60 per month to feed them, so donations from individuals are continually needed. Two local veterinarians, Dr. Alice DeGroot and Dr. V. E. Eberly, have generously donated their time to injured birds, and frequently medications as well. A roll of wire was donated by Conley Hardware, and Baker Lumber gave us a great buy on lumber. An M.D. from Temple City has donated medicines through the goodwill of salesmen from his drug suppliers. And the Zoology Dept. at Pomona College has generously loaned cages and the space for raising mice to feed the birds.

## EAGLE FEATHERS

*Special from the New York Times*

Wildlife Unit Opens Center for Eagle Feathers, Parts  
Special to The New York Times

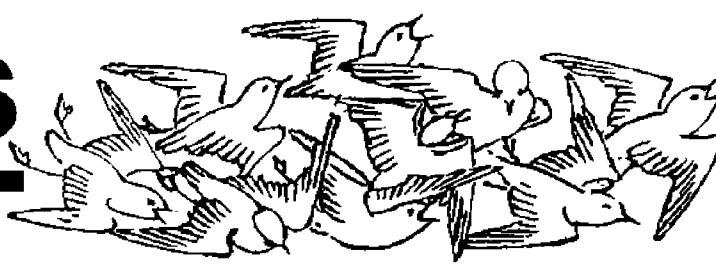
POCATELLO, Idaho, Sept. 28—A national eagle feather storage facility has been established here by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a holding and distribution center for dead eagles and their parts that have been seized, recovered or salvaged by Government officials.

"Persons finding dead eagles anywhere in the nation are instructed not to pick up the carcasses but to contact a Fish and Wildlife Service Office or their State Department of Game and Fish, notifying them of the bird's location," according to a spokesman for the service.

There is a fine of up to \$5,000 for taking, possessing or selling an eagle, or its parts, without a permit, the spokesman said.

He explained that Indians who are certified as bona fide practitioners of traditional Indian religious rites" will continue to receive permits authorizing them to get eagle feathers or to obtain the feathers from the Pocatello facility."

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Birds



## Shumway Suffel

**NOVEMBER** is winter for the birds — migration is over, except for a few stragglers, and most birds are settled in for the season. It is interesting to note that many birds return to the same place winter after winter and even set up loosely guarded territories similar to those in the nesting season. Several of our rare birds have been very local in winter — the Hepatic Tanager in Rancho Park for seven winters, the Harris' Sparrow at the Arcadia Arboretum for three winters, and the Coues' Flycatchers at Brush Canyon, Hollywood Hills and at Presidio Park, San Diego which stayed all winter but are not likely to return this year.

Certainly the SULPHUR-BELLIED FLYCATCHER discovered by Hank and Priscilla Brodkin in Big Sycamore Canyon on Sep. 22 has to be our "Bird of the Year," a first California record, seen by most active birders in Southern California. It was not always easy to find, however, and many of us spent the better part of a day and went back a second time before total despair turned to exaltation — "Eureka, there it is!" As so often happens when birders cover an area thoroughly, other good birds were found: the Brodkins already had an OVENBIRD when they found the flycatcher; two or three REDSTARTS and VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS were found by most searchers; a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER was discovered by Hal Baxter; a MAGNOLIA WARBLER by Ed Navajosky; a BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER was noted and a rare CAPE MAY WARBLER and an early WHITE-THROATED SPARROW by Mike San Miguel on Oct. 5. A very early MERLIN was found by George Ledec on Sept. 29, and, something to dream about, a possible BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO by Lee Jones and Ed Navajosky who glimpsed the bird in the willows.

Although Big Sycamore is one of the best fall birding spots locally, it is not the only place. Don Sterba, recently returned from three years in the Peace Corps in Kenya, gives us our first full report of a LOUISIANA HERON at Pt. Mugu lagoon on Sep. 21. Two raptors, very rare in California, were found near San Diego — a ZONE-TAILED HAWK on Pt. Loma on Sep. 13 (Terry Wahl from Bellingham, Wash. down for the pelagic trip) was seen again on Sep. 20 (John Butler), and a HARRIS' HAWK near the Mexican border on Sep. 21 (Guy McCaskie and Jon Dunn). OSPREYS were seen at China Ranch, Inyo County (Jan Tarble), near Ventura (Pam and Keith Axelson), at Big Sycamore (Larry Sansone), and at Marina del Rey (Hal Ferris). Larry also saw a PEREGRINE FALCON flying over Pt. Fermin on Sep. 22. As we said last month, BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS are rare on the mainland coast and common on the islands, but we have had two more reports in addition to the two birds at Marina del Rey on Aug. 26. There were three at Pt. Mugu lagoon on Sep. 23 (Jerry Johnson) and one at Laguna Beach Sep. 2 (Dr. Santaella). STILT SANDPIPERs were seen along the coast more often than usual — one at Goleta Slough Sep. 21 (Lois Boylen), two near Pt. Mugu on Sep. 17 (S. S. and Harry Kreuger) and one at Buena Vista Lagoon on Sep. 28 and 29 (S. S. et al.). The ALBINO NORTHERN PHALAROPE reported last month was seen again a mile away and three weeks later on Sep. 19 (a long way for a shorebird on migration). The Axelson's report a very early GLAUCOUS GULL and a PARASITIC JAEGER at the lagoon in McGrath State Park near Ventura on Sep. 22.

HELP THE CONDOR FUND LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY'S OWN

Jan Tarble's sighting of an INCA DOVE at China Ranch, southeast Inyo County in late September is more likely to be a wild bird than are Inca Doves in the southern part of the state where they may be escapes.

Phil Sayre is hoping that he can tempt a male BLACK-CHINNED HUMMER to stay at his feeder through the winter. It was seen there Oct. 9 which is late, but there are virtually no winter records. Our only report of a TROPICAL KINGBIRD came from Jon Atwood at Pt. Fermin Park on Sep. 18. Brad Schram verifies the presence of GREAT-CREST FLYCATCHER in Santa Barbara on Sep. 27 (This is the second mainland sighting in California, although several have been seen on the Farallone Islands). A YELLOW-GREEN VIREO in fine plumage was present on Sep. 19 and 20 below San Diego for the fifth California record (G. McC. et al.). VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS, considered rare ten years ago (Pyle and Small, "Annotated List 1964" cites only two fall records) were more common than Nashvilles in the fennel clumps along the coast during September — Kim Garrett saw four in Tuna Canyon and three at Marineland in one day, Sep. 12. They were also seen at Big Sycamore as late as Oct. 8 (H. B.) and near the willow clumps at Marina del Rey (H. F. et al.) with several more below San Diego. With the Virginia's and Orange-crowns at Marineland there was a single TENNESSEE WARBLER on Sep. 12, and another was at Malibu Oct. 5 (Arnold Small). Four on San Nicolas Island on Sep. 28 was an unusually large number. A LUCY'S WARBLER (rare on the coast) appeared briefly at the South Coast Botanic Gardens on Oct. 2 and a few days later as many as six BOBOLINKS were in the Sudan grass there (Eric Brooks). A PARULA was discovered in Pt. Fermin Park on Oct. 6 by Don Sterba and found independently by Jon Atwood the next day, (the only occurrence this fall). The only BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER to Oct. 9 was handsome male below San Diego on Sep. 29 (Hank Brodkin). An adult plumaged BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER stayed in the student gardens at U.C. Santa Barbara for at least a week after being found by Brad Schram on Oct. 3. Hal Baxter found his second CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER at Pt. Fermin on Sep. 27. BLACKPOLLs showed up at several coastal spots — near U.C.S.B. (Brad Schram), at Big Sycamore (many observers) at Tapia Park (Sandy Wohlgemuth), along Malibu Creek and at Pt. Fermin. Several others were seen in the San Diego area. It is a rare treat to see two PRAIRIE WARBLERS in one season. The first one was found near the willows at Marina del Rey by Larry Sansone on Sep. 16 (Larry found one there Sep. 6, '72) and the second near the Mexican border below San Diego on Sep. 28. The second OVENBIRD locally was spotted with the House Sparrows in Long Beach Recreation Park by Jerry Johnson on Sep. 30. Maybe YELLOW-BREASTED CHATS are garden birds after all. After saying they weren't last month, one visited Herb and Olga Clarke's Glendale garden on Sep. 19. At least two more male SUMMER TANAGERS showed up in September — one on the fifth at El Monte Nature Center (Dave Foster) and another at Tapia Park on the 18th (S. W.). The fact that many more male than females are reported shows that we birders are discriminating against the ladies because they are not as flashy as their mates, and seriously reflects on our expertise. At least four LARK BUNTINGS were seen in late September — at Big Sycamore, at Zuma Beach (J. J.), in the S.C. Botanic Gardens (Shirley Wells)