

WESTERN TANAGER

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A Schoolmaster's Hobby

by Ralph Hoffmann

*A case can be made for Ralph Hoffmann's **Birds of the Pacific States** as the finest American field guide ever written. Hoffmann was a Latin scholar and educator, a fine writer, and a field ornithologist in Ludlow Griscom's class. What distinguishes his book is his ability to forecast with near prescience the exact circumstances — region, habitat, season, feeding behavior, call notes, song, idiosyncracies — under which the birder is apt to encounter each of the subjects he profiles.*

*Hoffmann was born in Massachusetts in 1870, wrote **A Guide to the Birds of New England and Upper New York**, a pioneering work, in 1904, arrived in Santa Barbara in 1921 and spent the next six years researching his **Birds of the Pacific States**. Published in 1927, it remained in print for over 40 years. He died tragically in a fall from a cliff on San Miguel Island in July 1932, while collecting botanical specimens.*

I came across the following manuscript in his papers, kindly loaned to me by his daughter, Eleanor Hoffmann, who lives in Santa Barbara. It is undated, but was probably written before Hoffmann left New England in 1910.

— Harold Swanton

If every one present at that meeting had addressed us not on the Educational Value of Assyrian History or The Place of Ethics in the Primary Grades, but on his own particular hobby, with what enthusiasm and eloquence would he have spoken. Gardening, golf, fly-fishing, whist, first editions — each would have had its champion; and truly all are ancient and honorable mistresses of whom even pedagogy need feel no jealousy. But if there is a teacher anywhere so unfortunate as to have no avocation, one who does not look forward with enthusiasm to spending in some by-path an hour or two snatched from his work, then I earnestly advise him to beg, borrow or steal a hobby, and if he can get no other, I think that mine has still room for another rider.



"If a parent wishes to give his children three gifts for the years to come, I should put next to a passion for truth and a sense of humor, love of beauty in any form. Who will deny that birds are a conspicuous manifestation of beauty in nature?"

—RH

I happened the other day to attend a gathering of schoolmasters and met there a man whom I often see in a little club of naturalists to which I belong. At the dinner which followed the meeting some natural instinct led us to neighboring seats and before the oysters were on the table, we were deep in a discussion which had little reference to the program of the morning. We talked together as human beings, not as teachers.

If I am ever asked to address a body of schoolmasters, I shall tell them how it feels to have a bad case of bird fever. With me it has to be an intermittent fever. There are times when I try not to think about birds. About the last of September I consider it my duty to my employers and to the parents of my schoolchildren to put my opera glasses into a drawer and to shut my ears to the little voices that call to me from the trees and bushes, or from the sky at night. For about five months my conscience is fairly successful. Then some warm day in March when the wind is in the southwest, and there are great brown patches on the hillsides, I feel that I must get out into the apple orchards and listen for the first bluebird.

It is a difficult time for both teacher and pupil, but I try by mastering my own desires to earn the right to drive my slow team of youthful scholars before me till Saturday. Then I have a Sunday before me — a Sunday in May. No one, I believe, not a student of birds knows the delight that is contained in those few words. Your ordinary man, even if he have a hobby, especially if his hobby be whist or first editions, says to himself on Saturday night, "Tomorrow is a holiday; I can lie abed." But the lover of birds says to his wife, "Tomorrow, my dear, is the first Sunday of May. Do you suppose that I could have breakfast fifteen minutes earlier?" But it is wiser, I have found, not to depend on wives or even on cooks, for the sun will be half way to the zenith and the birds long past their first joyous out-burst before even the most obliging of cooks is up. Provide yourself therefore with a little alcohol stove, if you are a slave to coffee, or a dish of force if you are a free man and you can be brushing the dew, when your neighbor is barely half-way through his night.

When I start out thus of a May morning and come presently to some flock of migrant birds, I look eagerly for some rare species, some bird that I have read of often in Burroughs or Torrey, but have never seen. I quote . . . from Shakespeare's 43rd sonnet:

"How would, I say, mine eyes be blessed made
By looking on thee in the living day."

Such a meeting with a new bird gives one a peculiar thrill of exaltation and all the rest of the day one moves in a kind of rapture, all one's thoughts suffused with an inward glow.



"I have tried to make the book readable as well as accurate, and have depended as much as possible on my own field observation . . ." —RH

The study of birds during the season of migration occasionally takes on a somewhat ridiculous aspect, and may even exert an unwholesome influence. There are latent even in the amateur ornithologist two traits which it is well not to develop too far — the collecting instinct and the spirit of emulation. There is a very general practice among students of birds of keeping monthly or yearly lists, enumerating all the species seen. Everyone is naturally seized with a desire to lengthen this list as much as possible, so that the mere addition of a name becomes finally a matter of paramount importance. It makes little or no difference whether the bird was recognized by the enumerator or merely pointed out to him by someone else. Perhaps it was only a dark speck on the ocean, but its name swells his list. Ornithologists moreover like schoolmasters meet occasionally to exchange ideas or information, and in spring it becomes difficult not to yield to the human impulse to get ahead of the other fellow. As neighbors meeting on the platform for the morning train exchange the records of heat or cold taken from their thermometers, so the bird student is often eager to have the rarest bird or the earliest record to report.

But it is only in the first and most virulent stages of bird enthusiasts that a lover of birds displays these human frailties. Gradually the companionship of nature develops in him that breadth of view and evenness of temper which are such marked characteristics of the true naturalist. It is one of the most delightful aspects of the study of birds that one constantly meets on common ground such lovable people and often begins in a ramble through the fields an acquaintance which may ripen into friendship or even intimacy. I suppose that everyone might make a similar claim for his own hobby, but it seems to me that people whom I learn to know because we are both lovers of out-door things have an openness of mind, a simplicity and sweetness of character which makes friendship not only easy but delightful.

And it is not only among the living that we form friendships and intimacies founded on our common love of nature. We recognize in the authors on our shelves the same genuine note of joy in the open air and love for the fowls thereof. Selborne and Walden become places of pious pilgrimage. We hear in Shakespeare and Chaucer the echoes from English field and hedge-row. Each spring the maple-swamps and apple orchards, the bluebirds and the bobolinks recall some line from our own Lowell. We discover that it is not as students of birds but as lovers of birds that these great poets speak to us. Our common love draws us to them, and we listen with perfect understanding to Chaucer's confession.

"When that the monthe of May
Is comen and that the I here the foules sing
And that the floures gynnen for to spring
Fairwel my boke and my devocioun."



"Dreams, Books..."

by Dorothy Dimsdale

Norbert E. Gresey was a worried man. I could see it as soon as he came into Audubon House. I thought at first from his build that he was a football player until I noticed the binoculars around his neck. (Are there any birdwatching football players? I wonder.) Norbert was worried because on his last day in Los Angeles he had found a hummingbird's nest which looked like a pink plastic cup, and he couldn't identify it. My knowledge of nests is nil — or less — but luckily we have an excellent library at Audubon House, so Norbert went on his way, leaving me with his address in Illinois and the task of looking for his nest in the library and in the field.

To my surprise, it was very easy to locate in both places, and I was delighted to be able to write and tell him that it was a Black-chinned Hummingbird's nest.


This is just one illustration of how much one can learn accidentally just by *being* at Audubon House. In fact, the reason I was there in the first place the day I met Norbert was that another birder visitor had asked me whether the Black Phoebe "ants." You guessed it; I didn't know, and so here I was in the library. And with my usual indirect and unscientific approach, I got sidetracked. A book was open on the table and I glanced at it — a fatal move. I read: "Have you ever looked an Eskimo Curlew in the eye?" and I was hooked for fifteen minutes. Then I started to browse, anting momentarily forgotten.

There are bulletins at Audubon House Library with up-to-the-minute reports and newly discovered data; there are also true horror stories from the "good old days." Check "The Condor" for Jan/Feb 1900, and read the revolting story of the capture of a sleeping Condor. Then if you still have the stomach for it, read "Elephants" by Richard Carrington. Thoreau said: "Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other's eyes for an instant?" I wouldn't want to see through Richard Carrington's eyes for even a fraction of an instant, but what happened is fact and not to be dismissed.

There are also books to lift the soul. Edwin May Teale refers, not to a nest, but to the "birthplace" of a Spoonbill. John Muir: "But what rock is so caressed and fondled by clouds as Tissiak?" And when he thought he'd lost the sight of one eye: "The sunshine and the winds are working in all the gardens of God, but I — I am lost!"

Finally, having circled the library, I came across the reference I'd been looking for by Lovie M. Whitaker in the "Wilson's Bulletin," Vol. LXIX, 1957, pp. 195-262, including a list of 148 species known to ant. The Black Phoebe is not on that list. Oh well, I guess it was just sunning itself. What is anting? No one has a single specific answer, but to quote Whitaker:

"Anting may be defined as the application of foreign substances to the plumage and possibly to the skin. These substances may be applied with the bill or the bird may 'bathe' or posture among thronging ants which infest its plumage."

Well, if you want to know more, it's all there in the library, and much more. I also found this quote: "The world is a book and he who stays at home reads only one page." And as Wordsworth knew: "Dreams, books are each a world." 



April 26th — Birdathon

The time is fast approaching for the first National Birdathon. As Chairman of the Los Angeles Chapter Birdathon, I would like to share a few thoughts with you. I often imagine the Society has everything under control and doesn't really need any help from me. Perhaps some of you have felt the same way. If so, I would like to remind you of what I keep reminding myself — that there really is no such thing as "Audubon" independent of its members. The accomplishments of our organization are simply the results of the efforts of lots of people like you and me.

It is also important to remember that much of the important work done by members of Audubon requires money — publication of newsletters, bulletins and magazines, government lobbying, maintenance of sanctuaries, public education programs — all of these require money.

You may not want to go to all the trouble of gathering sponsors and going out birdwatching on 26 April; but I don't think there is any member of LAAS who cannot afford to sponsor someone for just 5¢ or 10¢ a species! If your "birder" sees 100 species of birds, all you owe is ten dollars. Even I can afford that, and my high school class voted me most likely to be impoverished.

I want to hear from all of you right now. Call me at home (213) 962-5588 or at Audubon House (213) 876-0202. Being Birdathon Chairman doesn't give me any real power to help the Society. I really need *your* help.

— David Mooney

Bird Texas with Golden Gate Audubon

Golden Gate Audubon Society is sponsoring a spring birding trip to Texas, 18-30 April. This is a repeat of the popular 1978 GGAS trip which recorded more than 280 species.

This trip will include the lower Rio Grande Valley, the coast, plus an optional trip to Big Bend National Park (until 3 May). Trip leaders are Kenn Kaufman and Mike Wihler.

For information and reservations, write or call Mike Wihler at 2445 Vicente Street, San Francisco, CA 94116, (415) 665-6567, mornings.

Raffle Benefits Mono Lake

The Bushnell telescope LAAS won last year in the state-wide Birdathon to benefit Mono Lake and the Condor Fund was raffled off at the annual banquet on 24 February. Dr. Taylor, a long-time birder, held the winning raffle ticket and stepped to the podium to accept the scope.

Selling the raffle tickets netted \$811.00 for LAAS; this has been added to our commitment to the Mono Lake Fund. National Audubon has requested that each chapter donate the equivalent of two dollars per member — so with \$811.00 plus \$500.00 already given, we are well on our way. Now, if each Tanager reader could send \$2.00 to LAAS for the Mono Lake Fund as well, we could really be proud of our 1981 donation!

The Peripheral Canal – Fact and Fancy

by Daniel Chapin

Construction of the multi-million dollar peripheral canal must be evaluated from two points of view: do the Los Angeles Basin and the San Joachin Valley need the water? What are the implications of the canal for the fish and wildlife resources of the Delta region?

The need for water is clear. When the Central Arizona Project begins operation in the mid-1980's, Southern California will lose the right to about 800,000 acre-feet of water each year — enough to serve nearly four million people. Conservation is a necessary part of the solution to California's water problem but it is not the whole answer. Even with a reduced rate of population expansion and strenuous water conservation measures, by the year 2000 the amount of water available to Southern California from *all* sources will be inadequate in a dry year unless the Peripheral Canal is built. It is unreasonable to assume that every year will yield adequate rainfall, that the birthrate will drop or that people will stop moving to California; it is also unreasonable to expect a major metropolitan area to exist indefinitely under the burden of drought-condition conservation hardships. The reality is that around 1990, Southern California will have to increase the amount of water imported from the Delta. To do that, construction of the Peripheral Canal must begin immediately.

The plan for surplus water sold to Kern County farmers by the State was built into the design of the State Water Project as a means of assuring an adequate water supply for a specific period of time — 30 years (the Project's major facilities were begun in the 1930's). It only makes sense to sell the surplus water until it is needed. During dry years, however, the system's capacity is fully tapped, and we are rapidly reaching the point where even the wet-year capacity is fully committed. Before that happens, it is time to move ahead with planned expansions such as the building of the Peripheral Canal.

If not one drop of water beyond present export levels were ever pumped out of the Sacramento/San Joachin Delta, the Peripheral Canal would still be an environmental necessity. Current Delta diversions have reduced striped bass populations by 60 percent since 1967, and the number of survivors is dropping rapidly. The impact on salmon, steelhead, shad and sturgeon has not been so severe, but it still substantial. The sharp reductions in Delta outflow have permitted intrusion of saline Bay waters into the Suisun Marsh. As a result, its wildlife is being de-

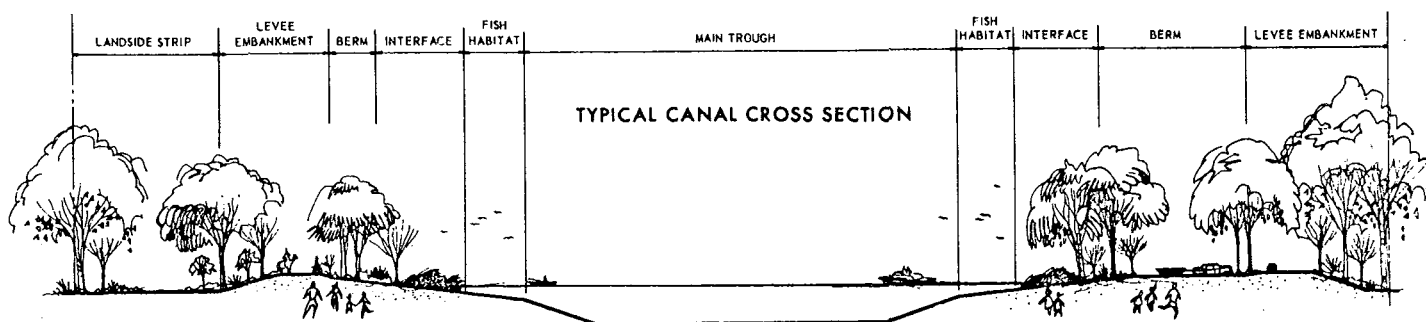
stroyed. From the point of view of fish and wildlife, there are three choices: do nothing and watch these resources disappear; cut back on current export rates; or change the way in which water is exported from the Delta. There are no other options!

Let us examine the environmental background against which the Peripheral Canal concept must be judged. In 1980, about 5.35 million acre-feet of water were shipped from the Delta to the Los Angeles Basin and the lower San Joachin Valley. 6.75 million acre-feet can be sent south before export water quality levels are affected — this by simply adding more pumping capacity at the head of the aqueducts. The 8.25 million acre-feet export capacity can be duplicated using the Delta channels by closing off or enlarging several Delta sloughs. At this point, however, the Delta becomes an environmental disaster.

The present water transfer system is destructive because operation of the export pumps currently causes reverse flows in certain areas of the Delta. Under natural conditions, flows in the southern channels run from south to north; Delta water now flows from north to south, towards the pumps. As exports increase, other reverse flows occur in the extreme western Delta in dry years, causing water from the Sacramento River to flow around the western end of Sherman Island and water to flow upstream in portions of the San Joachin River. These reverse flows adversely affect migrating anadromous fish and thus severely impact salmon and steelhead populations.

Striped bass spawn in the Sacramento River. The fertilized eggs and larvae are carried downstream into the Delta which serves as their nursery until they reach fingerling size. The disaster presently facing them is due to the export pumps sucking water, together with fingerlings, from the nursery area. There is no effective method of screening the pumps because the fingerlings are so small; the only alternatives are to shut down the pumps for six months while the fish are maturing, or change the location of the pumps.

How would the transfer of water around the Delta through a Peripheral Canal affect existing or potential environmental problems? Relocating the diversion point to the Sacramento River completely changes the prospects for the striped bass — here the eggs and larvae are carried past the intake to the pumps for three weeks every May. It is practical to close down the pumps for that period of time and thus eliminate the annual loss of millions of fry. In addition, removal of the pumps from the Delta would eliminate their effect on the slow swimming opossum shrimp, the main food source of the young bass.

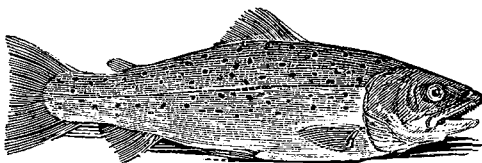
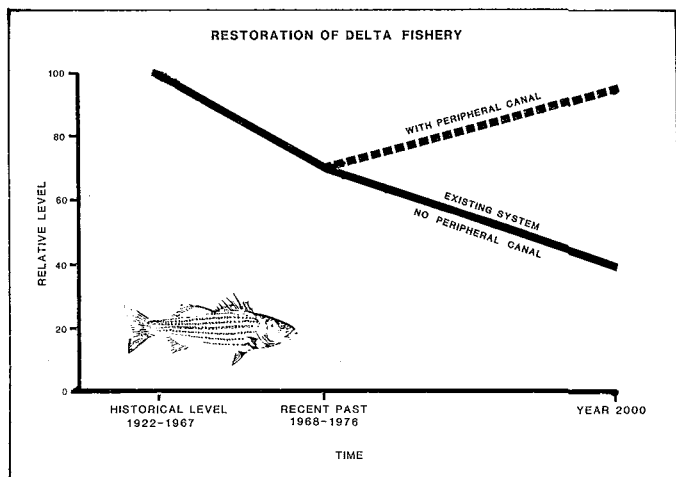


Salmon, steelhead, shad and sturgeon would also benefit. The flow of the river past the diversion point makes it possible to use a totally different and far more effective fish screen than the type required by the dead-end location of the present pumps. In addition, juveniles are exposed to the pull of the pumps for a much shorter period of time.

The Suisun Marsh problem is different. Because of its location downstream from the Delta, the critical factor affecting its wildlife habitat is the availability of Delta outflows to control salinity intrusions from the San Francisco Bay. If the flows are eliminated, the Marsh is in trouble regardless of which route the water takes to get to the export pumps. Increased export levels can only hasten the destruction process regardless of the specific system used.

SB 200 provides a solution to this problem. It authorizes the construction of facilities to provide a substitute water supply for the Marsh. Further, it requires that these facilities be constructed prior to the completion of the Peripheral Canal. Implementation of these legislative mandates at the earliest possible time is absolutely essential to prevent the wildfowl values of the largest single brackish water marsh in the United States from being lost.

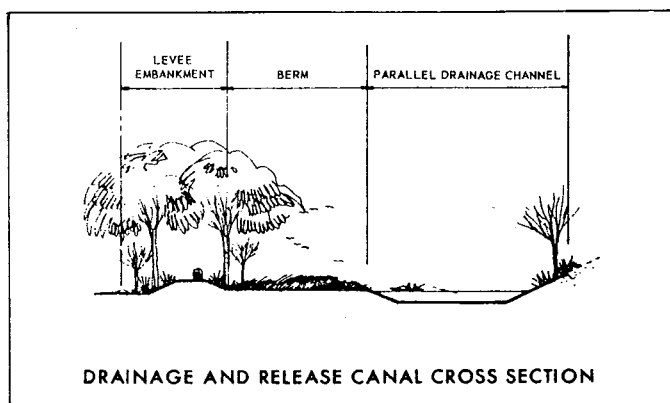
Whether or not the Los Angeles area needs increased water supplies, and whether or not the San Joaquin Valley farmers are using water at the optimum efficiency — these questions are academic.



Daniel Chapin serves as Director of the California Waterfowl Association and Vice-Chairman of the Delta Environment Advisory Committee; he was a former National Trustee of Ducks Unlimited; he is Founder and Governor of the California Trout Association; Secretary of the California Wetlands Foundation; President of the Suisun Conservation Fund; and Director of the Waterfowl Habitat Owners' Alliance. He has received "conservationist of the year" awards from several major groups. Mr. Chapin's article comes in response to the "Topics of Conservation" article which Sandy Wohlgenuth wrote on the Peripheral Canal in the January-February 1981 issue of the Tanager.

The Delta and the Suisun Marsh suffer massive environmental problems today, and the facilities authorized by the Peripheral Canal legislation are the best way to solve them.

The Peripheral Canal is not an engineer's choice — it is an environmentalist's choice. From an engineering point of view, it would be far simpler to dredge or widen existing Delta channels to increase flow and place artificial barriers in the Delta to keep out saltwater. These solutions have been rejected as environmentally undesirable; the isolated channel was born in the Department of Fish and Game and embraced by the Federal Department of Fish and Wildlife as the best way to protect and enhance the Delta environment.



The Peripheral Canal legislative package consists of Senate Bill 200 and Proposition 8 which was approved by the voters at the November 1980 election. SB 200 is eight single-spaced pages long. Two-thirds of one page deals with the Peripheral Canal; two and one-third pages deal with other water facilities. The provisions in the remaining five pages provide an elaborate system of protections and guarantees for the Delta's natural resources. These features were developed, proposed and agreed to by water-knowledgeable members of California's leading organizations. Proposition 8, SB 200's bill, solidifies these protections by placing them in the State constitution.

This package has been designed with more care for the environment than any legislation of its kind in history. It will soon be voted on by the people of California. If they reject it, what happens? Sooner or later, legislation will be implemented to satisfy the demand for increased water supplies in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. But it is doubtful that another legislative package would contain the environmental protection provided by the current one. Sixteen million of California's 22 million inhabitants live south of the Tehachapi Mountains. If they experience a water shortage similar to that which occurred in Marin County in 1977, the dirt will move first and concerns for fish and wildlife resources will follow — maybe.



Topics of Conservation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER has its nebulous origin somewhere in Chatsworth, flows through the San Fernando Valley to North Hollywood, then winds its way to Long Beach and the sea. In the winter, rain runs off the mountains on both sides of the Valley to swell the normally sluggish river. In 1938, a catastrophic flood tore down from the San Gabriels killing 40 people and destroying millions of dollars in property. The Army Corps of Engineers responded to this tragedy with a dam and flood control basin in Van Nuys that was completed in 1941 — the Sepulveda Dam. The river and the meandering creeks that feed it were channelized. In a rapidly growing city, a repetition of 1938 was unthinkable. Since then, the torrents have been confined to these artificial conduits and even record storms have left the Valley relatively untroubled.

For decades, the Sepulveda basin has been an unobtrusive 2000 acres in the middle of the San Fernando Valley. Much of it was devoted to agriculture, and for years, residents have appreciated the green fields and the fresh, delicious yellow corn on sale there. With the demise of almost all the orange groves in the valley, the corn fields are nearly the last remnant of a rural past that gave the valley its special flavor.

The Sepulveda Basin had a particular attraction for birders, too. Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers quartered the stubble fields searching out mice and cottontails. White-tailed Kites and Kingfishers hovered overhead like tiny helicopters. Migrant warblers flashed through the willows in Bull Creek on its way to the river. Hordes of ducks fed in the flooded fields and White-fronted Geese browsed with the hundreds of Canadas. A pair of wandering Sandhill Cranes floated in one fall and a Golden Eagle rose from the river bank. This was the fledging area for Jon Dunn, who spent more of his adolescent years there than at home or school. The total list for Sepulveda is close to 200 species.

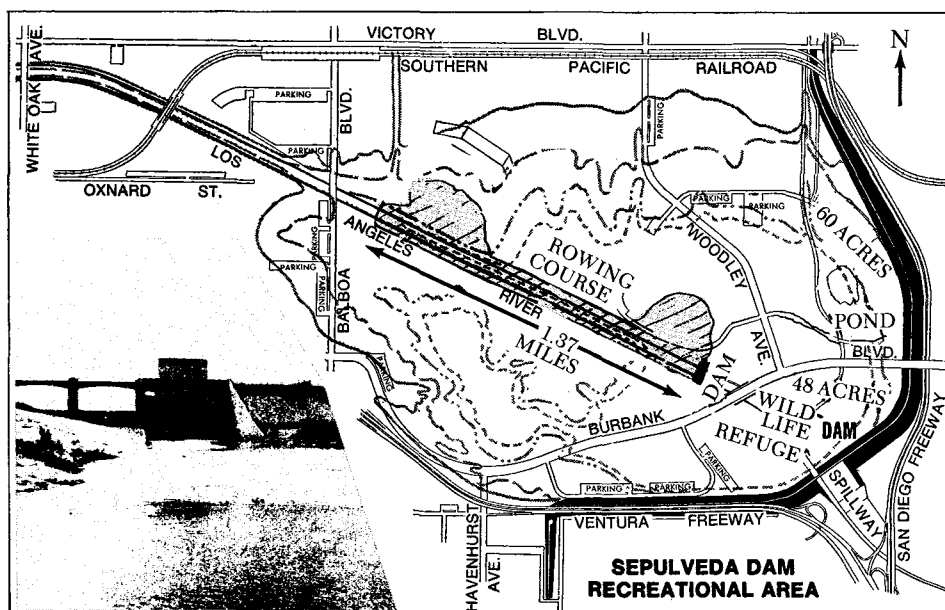
A few years ago, a serendipitous event occurred in the 60-acre parcel near the dam north of Burbank Blvd. Clay was dug out of the field there leaving a good-sized depression that filled with a few inches of water when it rained or when irrigation run-off flowed in. In the fall, Avocets, stilts, Snowy Egrets, Baird's, Pectoral and Solitary Sandpipers, both Yellowlegs and a potpourri of ducks took possession. Bobolinks and Yellow-headed Blackbirds put in an appearance. Five or six species of swallows swooped overhead. In dry years it was a different story. If only there were an available source of water, we mused. On the other side of Burbank Blvd. was a 48-acre field in agriculture labelled "Wildlife Refuge" on the map. Los Angeles Audubon tried to rouse the Recreation and Parks Department to think about developing it, but their bread and butter is baseball fields and manicured lawns; wildlife got a priority #96 on their capital improvement plan.

The Flood Control Act of 1944 opened up the Corp's projects to recreational use all over the country. LA Recreation and Parks leases the Federal land in the basin and,

under Code 710, pays 50 percent of the development cost for any improvements. There are now three golf courses with another planned for the future. Balboa Park has baseball diamonds, a soccer field, tennis courts and an archery range. Elsewhere there are a model airplane field, a velodrome, Little League fields and a garden center. The new Woodley Avenue Park has (or will have) extensive green lawns, picnic areas and cricket fields.

Despite all this acreage devoted to formal recreation and agriculture, there is still a marvelous feeling of open space in Sepulveda. There are long vistas of the mountains: the Santa Monicas, the Santa Susannas, the San Gabriels and, on a clear day in winter, snow on the distant, austere San Bernardinos. Looking south from the northern edge of the basin, you see no man-made structures obscuring the view; looking east from the bridge on Balboa Blvd. you see two miles of the river with willows and bulrushes, baccharis and tules. Red-winged Blackbirds, goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrows, Green Herons, hundreds of Song Sparrows and, in the summer, nesting Blue Grosbeaks. A bicycle path weaves through a large part of the basin, and a spin around the 5 1/2 miles gives the cyclist a pleasant feeling of rural distances. Joggers converge on Sepulveda with the serious exhilaration of their kind and appreciate the grass rather than the asphalt of city streets.

Recreational development in Sepulveda was progressing at a modest pace when, abruptly, in July 1978, Mayor Bradley unveiled his "very attractive" plan for a horse racetrack seating 75,000 people. Tied in with the track were facilities for the 1984 Olympics. The racetrack horrified the populace. The City Council and the mayor's office were deluged with protests. The Coalition to Save Sepulveda Basin was quickly formed and, in a surprisingly short time, Mr. Bradley threw in the towel. But the Olympics remained with us. Proposals were advanced for a large swimming-diving complex, a new, improved velodrome, an archery range and a rowing course — with substantial parking to serve them. The lure of the Olympics, of course, is the prospect of Federal money for facilities that would be permanent additions to the local community.



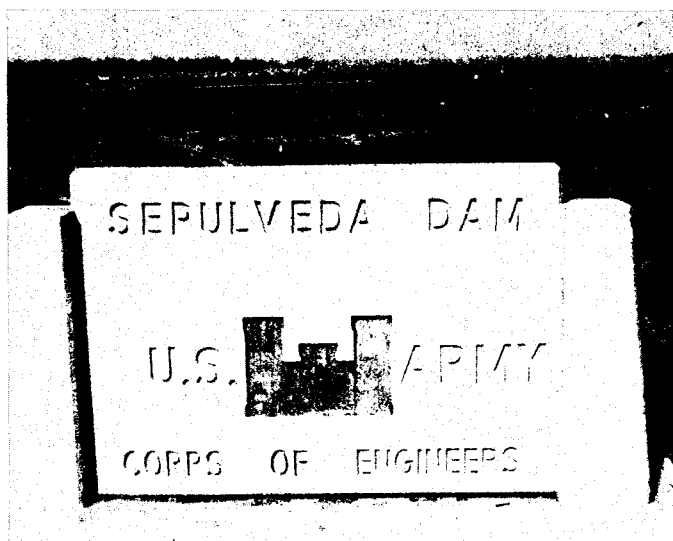
The Coalition includes taxpayer groups, golfers, homeowner associations, environmentalists and just plain, unaffiliated lovers of the outdoors. The prospect of installations that would attract thousands of spectators, concessionaires and tourists was as unacceptable as the racetrack to most Valley residents. Concerns centered around increased traffic, crime, pollution, noise, and their effect on a quiet residential neighborhood. The whole character of the place would change from an informal, spontaneous, rambling playground to a highly structured, confined, overcrowded, black-topped Disneyland. Though not an Olympic feature, an Arts Park is also on the drawing board that would include restaurants, art-supply shops and a 2500-seat theater.

Central to the matter is the question: what do Valley residents really want? Eight public opinion polls have been taken over the last two years and every one has revealed that *the people do not want to see the Olympics in Sepulveda*. Recognizing the intensity of this opposition, the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee eventually found homes elsewhere for all the proposed facilities except the rowing channel. This rowing course would be made by damming the Los Angeles River for 2200 meters (1.37 miles) eastward from Balboa Blvd. The course would be 425 feet in diameter, much wider than the present river channel. Water to fill it

over. The Master Plan says "a boat/livery concession facility" would be built with parking — and there is talk of a bar/restaurant. The rowing channel would slash across the heart of the basin and would constitute by far the most disruptive element to Sepulveda as it now exists.

In developing the Master Plan, the city and the Corps hired a private consulting firm. Many hearings were held with interested parties and the general public, and in October 1980 the proposed Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement were published; the Olympic rowing course was prominently featured. Indeed, the document has the title, "New Construction and Refurbishment Projects, 1984 Olympics" and includes discussion of all local sites for the games. Proposals included a "tennis/racquetball center, an indoor swimming pool . . . Arts Park (and) the extension of the wildlife area presently being developed . . ." Everyone applauded the addition of the 60-acre parcel described above: the shallow pond with the exciting shorebirds. But there was great concern that these 60 acres were being offered as mitigation for the loss of the river. This was opposed vigorously by the USFWS biologists who feel that far too little land is being reserved for wildlife.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in a difficult position. It considers itself the technological arm of the government doing



would come from effluent from a sewage treatment plant planned for the basin. (There is a strong possibility that this plant may not be completed in time for the Olympics which means that expensive water from Mono Lake would have to be used.)

Damming the river would destroy 63 acres of riparian habitat for all time. The proposed Master Plan admits that the rowing course and the elimination of agriculture "will substantially reduce the wildlife value of the basin." The irony of obliterating this portion of the Los Angeles River is that it is just this two miles of its length that is a soft-bottom channel. With the exception of 2 1/2 miles near Griffith Park, the rest of the 43 miles of river bottom is concrete. It is thus one of the most productive habitats anywhere along the river. This was emphasized by biologists of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (under the signature of the Regional Environmental Officer of the Department of the Interior) in a severe criticism of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sepulveda Master Plan. In order to make the rowing course palatable to the public, the planners call it a "recreation/rowing lake" and have sketched in lagoons at each end of the straightaway. This rather unattractive "lake" could be used for boating when Olympic competition is



what Congress — the voice of the people — orders it to do. So the Corps has been the whipping boy of the environmental movement for a long time. In Southern California the Corps has tried hard to eradicate their bad image. The Corps built the three New Lakes in Whittier Narrows that settled Los Angeles Audubon's lawsuit against LA County Parks and Recreation. Later, when the lakes had developed into a genuine wildlife sanctuary, Col. Hugh Robinson, then the District Engineer, spoke before an Audubon audience and proudly showed slides of water birds in these lakes. The Corps, about a year ago, decided not to wait for the city and began development of the designated 48-acre Wildlife Refuge south of Burbank Blvd. It has scooped out a pond, installed a water source and will soon put in water-plants (grown at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center). Alders and sycamores will be planted along a run-off channel that already boasts a fine growth of rushes and willows. The embankment of Burbank Blvd. has been experimentally planted with native chaparral vegetation with the enthusiastic labor of volunteers from Audubon, the Sierra Club, the Coalition, Boy Scouts and the Tree People. Brilliant orange-yellow monkey flowers are already in bloom. (Money to help the Corps

has come from the Leeper Fund of the California Community Foundation on the recommendation of Los Angeles Audubon.)

Observers wonder if all this goodwill will be wiped away if the Corps indulges its much-maligned passion for dams and allies itself with the mayor and the Recreation and Parks Department. Mayor Bradley, at a public breakfast meeting on April 24, 1979, promised that "if there is a substantial opposition to these (Olympic) facilities in the basin they will not be put there." Yet, though Lake Casitas and Lake Perris are acceptable sites for the rowing events, the mayor chooses to ignore the substantial opposition to the Sepulveda location. The cost for the channel will be very high; the most recent estimate is between 10 and 14 million dollars. City Parks and Recreation can't even estimate the cost of yearly maintenance. This is not simply a Valley headache; all taxpayers will be footing the bill. And all of us will be poorer if this sizeable portion of open space is lost to Los Angeles. Save our vistas! ♡



The Coalition to Save Sepulveda Basin has been informed by a high-ranking civilian in the Corps of Engineers that, in his opinion, the only way to stop construction of the Olympic rowing course is to go to court. The Coalition is asking for Legal Fund contributions. The Board of Directors of LAAS has voted to contribute \$500 to this Legal Fund. Others wishing to help may send donations to:

Coalition to Save Sepulveda Basin
4535 Mary Ellen Avenue
Sherman Oaks, California 91423

If the money is not needed, it will be returned.

Sandy Wohlgemuth Awarded Conservation Trophy

At the February 24th banquet at the Sportsman's Lodge, Kimball Garrett proposed a "roast", or as it turned out, a toast, to Sandy Wohlgemuth for all the wonderful work he has done, and continues to do, for the cause of Conservation. Sandy has practically single-handedly accomplished most of the work that resulted in the saving of Malibu Lagoon; he is again on his way with his Sepulveda Basin plea. Some of Sandy's friends joined in with testimonials to Sandy's hard work and talents, and everyone present certainly concurred that there is one name that stands out in LAAS as far as topics of conservation are concerned — Sandy Wohlgemuth (*however you spell it*)!

In acknowledging his award to the Tanager, Sandy has added a few words of his own to his tribute: "At the recent Audubon banquet, certain innuendos were made about my birding skills. In my Tanager debut about twelve years ago with the piece about Tapia Park, I described myself as a "third-echelon birder". Around that time, I was conned into driving Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett to San Diego — they weren't old enough for driver's licenses at the time (I took along a few extra diapers for security). Today I can say without fear of contradiction that I am an *excellent* third-echelon birder." Another "roast" to Sandy for all his good work and a heart-felt "thank-you"!



Condor Fund Grows

This year, LAAS Board members voted to send a total of \$3000.00 to the Condor Fund. This is more than has been voted in the past, and is despite receipt of fewer contributions than usual. But in this critical period of the Recovery Program's history, it was deemed more urgent than ever for LAAS to support the program. John Borneman accepted the gift of \$3000.00 at the 24 February annual banquet, expressed his appreciation of our support, and also spoke briefly on the current status of the program.

LAAS to Co-sponsor LA 2000

On Saturday 9 May 1981, *California Tomorrow*, the publishers of the journal "Cry California", will sponsor a Los Angeles 2000 Conference. LAAS is one of the conference co-sponsors. The conference, to be held at the Ambassador Hotel (registration at 8:30 a.m.), will determine Los Angeles' contribution to a "Program for California 2000" report which will be published in 1982.

This report will no doubt become an influential planning document for business, industry and government during the coming decade. It will present a comprehensive view of population growth and economic development as well as the consequences for human needs, natural resources and environmental quality. A wide range of interests will be represented at the Los Angeles 2000 Conference; as one of the conference co-sponsors, LAAS urges its members to attend the conference and speak out on issues of concern.

Additional details about the Los Angeles 2000 Conference are available from *California Tomorrow* at 627-5624. Registration forms will be available at Audubon House shortly after April 1.

— David White

Editor's Page

On Tuesday evening 10 February, LAAS held an open meeting during which each member of the Board introduced him/herself, and goals, trends and projections were discussed. There were, as always, very many suggestions and comments made about the WESTERN Tanager — I could put out as many newsletters as we have readers, I am sure of that. On the day after the meeting I received a "letter to the editor"; Hal Spear of Hermosa Beach writes: "It seems to me that it is essential for LAAS to find ways to . . . help the people become more educated and active in issues affecting nature and our own posterity. Anything that encourages these things should be encouraged." In these times of rapid change it seems wise advice not just to blindly object, especially when change is inevitable, but rather to examine thoughtfully what we can do to help further our goals within this structure of change. It is in compliance with this spirit of focusing on all sides of the issue that I am including in this April-May issue of the Tanager an article submitted by Daniel Chapin on behalf of the Metropolitan Water District and Senate Bill 200, in response to Sandy Wohlgemuth's article on the proposed Peripheral Canal. It seems a good idea to open our minds to truly learning the facts about issues, before we close them again.

I would also like to state here what I said at that general meeting for those of you who were not present. If any of you have ever felt any enjoyment putting pen to paper, you are a potential contributor to the Tanager — a feature article, a birding trip, a field trip, a letter. Just because you have never seen anything like it in the Tanager before doesn't mean it doesn't belong. I would greatly appreciate hearing from everyone!

I myself am planning to write a birding article upon return from my vacation in May. (My vacation is the reason that this April-May issue is a combined one — I will continue on through the summer without a break.) And for me to write a birding article will be quite a feat. Elsewhere in this issue Sandy Wohlgemuth qualifies himself



as an excellent third-echelon birder. I remember taking a rigorous two-day indoor birding seminar at UCLA with Kimball Garrett, Arnold Small, Lee Jones and Jon Dunn. A friend I attended with sighed at the end of the two days and pronounced that she was afraid she was destined to remain a B- birder forever. As for myself, I would class my abilities at about a C+.

That is why I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped me get underway with the Tanager these past six months. Thank you Sandy, Roger, Dorothy, Kimball, Lee, Marge, Bob, David, Barry, Dana, Tom, Herb, Jean, Art, Ruth, Hank, Evelyn, Lloyd, Ed and Shum. Thank you, John Parque. And special thanks to my friends Don and Paul for their support, steady hand and sound advice. And thanks to any of you out there who might care to take me up on my challenge and address a few words to the Tanager. I will need help next fall to make Volume 48 as good reading as 47 has been. ☺



UCLA Extension Offers Courses

This spring, the UCLA Extension will once again offer courses of interest to Audubon members. Arnold Small (with the expert field assistance of Herb and Olga Clarke) will continue his *Field Studies of California Birds* in five Wednesday lectures and four Saturday field trips. The class begins 1 April and costs \$150.

Hartmut Walter, PhD, is offering a seminar in *Advanced Raptor Biology* which includes six Monday lectures and two Saturday field trips. Special focus will be placed on the study of falcons, the Bald Eagle and the California Condor. The first meeting of the class is on 6 April and the cost of the class is \$115.

Saturday 9 May, UCLA presents *Identification of California Birds: A Saturday Workshop, Part III*. In this popular workshop, Arnold Small and Kimball Garrett will discuss migrant birds, hummingbirds, pelagic birds and eastern vagrants, in lectures and discussions well illustrated with slides by Arnold Small. The cost for this workshop is \$35.

For further information on these Extension classes and others, contact the Department of Sciences, UCLA Extension, at (213) 825-7093.

Books

Briefly Noted:



Stories About Birds and Birdwatchers

From *Bird Watcher's Digest*, edited by Mary Beacom Bowers, New York: Atheneum.

If you like a little light reading after a hard day's work, this is the book for you, particularly if you are a birder. That excellent writer, Faith McNulty, has two articles in this collection. There's one by Olin Sewall Pettinghill, Jr., and a delightful article by Suzanne Bailey on her introduction to birding. The book is well illustrated by Bob Hines. Roger Tory Peterson gives the collection an enthusiastic endorsement in his foreword.

Some of the articles are rather dull, however, and one wonders why they were included when there are so many to choose from in the *Bird Watcher's Digest*. Overall, there is something for everyone in this collection. It's a question of balancing the articles which intrigue *versus* those which don't. \$12.95 is the price you'll have to pay to check the scales. (Not for sale at Audubon Bookstore.)

— D.D.

Birds of the Season

by Shum Suffel

Late spring is the season when the question is not "Where are the birds?" but "Where is the time to cover all the promising places?" There will be birds everywhere in late April and early May. Of course there are concentration areas — oases, islands, coastal promontories, marshes, etc. — which demand the time of compulsive birders, but literally any spot with vegetation and water will have its share of migrants.

February birds were mostly those found earlier in the winter, with a few additions. The Monterey Bay pelagic trips on 21 and 22 February were disappointing. The Saturday trip featured **Black-footed Albatrosses** but little else. The next day was better, with a single **Short-tailed Shearwater** (one of the very few this winter), a **Northern Fulmar** in the surf at Bluff Cove, Palos Verdes on 15 February was one of the few seen locally this winter (Mitch Heindel). Both the **Reddish Egret** and the **Tricolored (Louisiana) Heron** were much sought after and sometimes found at Seal Beach or, occasionally, nearby Bolsa Chica. A **Least Bittern** put on a good show for some fifty birders from several field trips near Red Hill at the south end of the Salton Sea (SESS) on 7 February. Seventeen **White-faced Ibis** were in a small marsh on Beach Blvd. just above Hwy. 1 in Huntington Beach.

Hundreds of **Canada Geese** still winter in the San Fernando Valley, resting on the reservoirs at night and feeding on the few remaining large fields, such as those at Pierce College. Another 250 Canadas were feeding in the well-protected area around Chino prison. All of these were one of the large races, but a small dark "**Crackling**" **Goose**, hardly larger than a Mallard, was with the wild and semi-domestic ducks on a small pond at Forest Lawn Cemetery (Jan Tarble, 3 March). A **Brant** at Malibu Lagoon on 31 January was believed to be of the light-bellied race, as the white neck marks were not joined in front, and the belly was light and sharply divided from the upper breast and neck (Bruce Broadbooks). A single "black" **Brant** (dark-bellied, with neck marks joined in front) was widely reported at Seal Beach in late January. A few **Greater White-fronted Geese** apparently moved through our area late in the month, with an impressive count of sixty at the Santa Ynez River mouth, Santa Barbara County. The **Eurasian Wigeons** stayed on at McGrath (two males) and Malibu Lagoon (one male). A fine drake **Tufted Duck** was found with the scaup at Pt. Mugu NAS (Richard Webster, 7 February). It was seen again on that stormy last day of February by the LAAS group. **Oldsquaws** were sparsely but widely distributed: at the mouth of the Ventura River (Don Sterba *et al*), at Marina Del Rey (many observers), along the Orange Co. coast, and near San Diego. **White-winged Scoters** were present in good numbers, but only four **Black Scoters** were reported — three at Pt. Mugu (Richard Webster) and a female in LA Harbor. A typical day-long migration of **Turkey Vultures** passed over Mojave Narrows Park on 8 February (Ed Navojosky). The only coastal report of a **Broad-winged Hawk** this winter was near San Diego on 25 February (Richard Webster). One or more **Ospreys** were along the Orange Co. coast including one at Bolsa Chica (Steve Ganley, 7 February). Another was at the mouth of the New River, SESS (Mark Kincheloe, 15 February). Laura Vance writes from Bouquet Canyon that "the hawks in this canyon begin serious courtship on Valentine's Day each year."

Shorebirds and gulls, as is usual in winter, received a great deal of attention from birders. At least two flocks of **Mountain Plovers** were seen in the fields between Niland and Calipatria by several of the field trips to the Salton Sea on 7 February. The presence of some sixty **Black Turnstones** well up the Ballona Creek channel in Marina Del Rey on 26 February was puzzling; this is a much greater number than the wintering population on the breakwaters at the harbor mouth, and the date is at least a month early for normal migration. **Red Knots** were reported at Upper Newport Bay and at Pt. Mugu NAS. The only remaining **Ruffs** were two in the Santa Maria area. A completely albino **Blacknecked Stilt** at Upper Newport Bay fascinated Joan Mills and Abigail King on 17 February. From San Diego comes word of three unusual gulls found in mid-February by Larry Spear — a **Glaucous Gull** (one of three this winter), two "**Yellow-footed Western Gulls** (virtually unknown in California away from the Salton Sea), and a **Laughing Gull** (rare on our coast). A second-winter **Glaucous Gull** (showing a little gray in the mantle) was reported among the thousands of gulls at Upper Newport Bay (Jerry Tolman, 7 February). An adult **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at the Whitewater River mouth, NESS, where they are rare (Mark Kincheloe, 14 February). The adult **Black-headed Gull** found in the lower Santa Ana River channel last November but not reported since December, has moved about three miles upstream to the Ellis St. sewage plant. Neither the adult nor the immature **Little Gulls** have been reported since January. Richard Webster "has no question" that the immature **Black-headed Gull** at King Harbor is the same individual he previously saw at Pt. Mugu NAS. Also at King Harbor were at least three **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, among the few reported locally this winter. A **Pigeon Guillemot** inside the harbor at Seal Beach was thought to be sick or oiled (Jim Halferty, 13 February).

The calls of the nightjar which has been heard in Pacific Palisades since October were recorded and proved to be those of a western **Whip-poor-will** (Bernard Wilets). Because they are our earliest spring arrivals, hummingbirds received much attention. The first **Rufous** was reported mid-January (see last *Tanager*), and others showed up in February (eg Bouquet Canyon, Laura Vance, 17 February), and Altadena (Lois Fulmer, 26 February). Bill Wagner's Glendora feeder hosted both a male and a presumed female **Allen's Hummingbird** on 16 February. Bill also found two **Costa's Hummingbird** nests in Anza-Borrego State Park on 1 February. **Black-chinned Hummingbirds**, being late migrants, should not be expected before early April. A **Williamson's Sapsucker** was in Pine Valley between Mt. Pinos and Mt. Abel in southern Kern Co. (Steve Ganley, 16 January).

Our first report of a **Western Kingbird** comes from Doug Willick who found one along the Santa Ana River near Anaheim on 5 March. The **Eastern Phoebe**s in Huntington Beach Central Park were missed by several searchers in February, as was the **Greater Pewee** (Coues' **Flycatcher**) in Griffith Park. Both, however, were probably still present at month's end. The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** in Griffith Park (its second winter) was seen on 23 February (Starr Saphir). The **Gray Flycatcher** at the Arcadia Arboretum for the third winter, and the nearby **Western Flycatcher** stayed on into February. An **Ashthroated Flycatcher** near San Diego was a good winter record. Early arriving swallows were widely reported. Many **Tree** and a few **Violet-green Swallows** have been here since January, but **Rough-wingeds** were probably new arrivals: five at vari-

ous places near SESS (Hank Childs, 7 February), and one at Whittier Narrows New Lakes (Mickey Long, 9 February). A **Barn Swallow** was sighted on the LAAS trip to the New Lakes on 21 February (Stephanie King), and two **Cliff Swallows** were at Upper Newport Bay the same day (Hank Childs). **Sage Thrushers** moved into southern California in early February: one at Finney Lake on 7 February and seven in the Cuyama Valley (Louis Bevier).

The **Lucy's Warbler** was refound at the north end of Harbor Lake (Mitch Heindel, 8 February), and a **Palm Warbler** was discovered in El Dorado Park, Long Beach (Brian Daniels, 1 March). In the San Diego area, where Guy McCaskie and Elizabeth Coper are active, there were four **Solitary Vireos**, two **Black-and-white Warblers**, a **Painted Redstart**, a **Northern Waterthrush** and two **Rusty Blackbirds** (Phil Unitt). Santa Barbara was much the same, but there were twelve (!) **Tennessee Warblers**, three **Black-and-white Warblers**, **Summer Tanagers** and four (!) **Scott's Orioles**. Another **Tennessee Warbler** was just outside Topa Topa's cage at the zoo on 4 February! (Kimball Garrett). Ventura Co. still had an **Eastern Phoebe**, a **Vermilion Flycatcher**, a **Northern Waterthrush**, an **American Redstart**, a male **Orchard Oriole** and a **Swamp Sparrow**. Arthur Howe reported a female **Great-tailed Grackle** at Seal Beach on 27 February.

Rare in winter was a singing male **Black-headed Grosbeak**, with a female, near the entrance to Griffith Park (Justin Russell, 25 January). A male **Indigo Bunting** in Soule Park, Ojai, was one of only five or six winter records (Don Sterba, 16 February). Another **Swamp Sparrow** was conspicuous among the White-crowns at the mouth of the Santa Ana River (Helen Matelson, 7 February). The **McCown's Longspurs**, found on the SESS count, were seen again on 15 February (Phil Sayre). Similarly, the **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** found on the Orange Co. count were relocated in February. (Of interest to longspur fans are plans to build the Olympic velodrome at the northwest corner of the Dominguez Hills campus. While probably not ecologically important, this is a great disappointment to birders who have found three species of both longspurs and pipits there.)

Send any interesting bird observations to:

Shum Suffel, 1105 No. Holliston Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104



WESTERN Tanager

EDITOR Mary Lawrence Test

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Last winter was notable for the absence of most northern and mountain birds. Among the "no shows" were **Bohemian Waxwings**, **Northern Shrikes**, **Evening Grosbeaks**, **Red Crossbills**, **American Tree Sparrows** and **Harris' Sparrows**. Far below normal in numbers this winter were **Lewis' Woodpeckers**, **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **American Robins**, **Varied Thrushes** and **Cedar Waxwings**. So much for the winter wrap-up. The future is bright.

Early April, like March, will offer a chance to get acquainted with the new arrivals, but there are two special avian events worth mentioning again. The strutting of the **Sage Grouse** on their leks north of Bishop was mentioned last month. Closer to home, six species of owls will be nesting in our mountains. While the flat area below the Mt. Palomar Observatory and the area north of Big Bear Lake (between Fawnskin and Hanna Flats) may be the best places for finding nesting owls, there are many spots in the San Gabriels and San Jacintos which host two or more species.

Late April and early May bring the height of passerine migration and this is the time to visit the desert oases to the south of us — Morongo Valley, Twenty-Nine Palms oasis, Anza-Borrego Park, Finney Lake and Brock Ranch. Closer to home are Pt. Fermin, Long Beach Recreation Park, Tuna Canyon (Malibu), Bonsall Rd., etc. If you are near the Colorado River, a specialty worth looking for is the Neotropic (Olivaceous) Cormorant; all three California records are from West Pond near Imperial Dam in early spring.

Late May is the time for vagrant passerines — lost, late and ever-fascinating. They will be searched for and sometimes found at all of the above places, plus the oases to the north and east of us — Kelso, Ft. Piute, Shoshone, Furnace Creek Ranch, Scotty's Castle, Oasis Ranch and Deep Springs College. If the above doesn't keep you busy, there are shorebirds in colorful alternate plumage, including the rarer species which are more easily identified in spring; there are also the last of the wintering waterfowl and two local pelagic trips. This is the time, and these are the places. The birds will be there but time is limited, so plan it carefully. ☺

CALENDAR

Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters, Library, Bookstore, and Nature Museum are located at Audubon House, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. Telephone: (213) 876-0202. Hours: 10-3, Tuesday through Saturday.



Audubon Bird Reports:

Los Angeles (213) 874-1318

Santa Barbara (805) 964-8240

LAAS Pelagic Trip Reservations — 1981 Schedule

To make reservations for pelagic trips, send a check payable to LAAS, plus a self-addressed stamped envelope, your phone number and the names of all those in your party to: the Reservations Chairman, c/o Audubon House.

No reservations will be accepted or refunds made within two weeks of departure. *To guarantee your space, make reservations as early as possible.* Trips will be cancelled 30 days prior to departure if there is insufficient response. If you wish to carpool, please so indicate, and you will be contacted two weeks prior to the trip. *Please send a separate check for each trip!*

Important: Because of the rapidly rising cost of motor fuel, all listed trip prices are subject to change. Please bring an extra five dollars in one dollar bills to cover possible fuel surcharge. Boats will not leave port until trips have been paid in full, including any surcharge.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26 — San Pedro to Osborne Bank. 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$18 per person. The *Vantuna* departs from San Pedro (44 spaces plus two leaders). This is an LA County trip! Leaders: Fred Heath and Shum Sufel.

SATURDAY, MAY 30 — San Miguel Island and out to sea. *Ranger* 85 (with galley, no ice chests) departs from Oxnard Marina at 2:00 a.m. Board after 9:00 p.m. Friday 29th. Return 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Cost: \$38 per person. 54 bunks plus two leaders. Leaders: Fred Heath and Lee Jones.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 — Anacapa Island and out to sea. This is a beginners' trip — come look for the American Oystercatcher! Cost: \$22 per person. *Sunfish* departs Ventura Marina 8:00 a.m., returns 5:00 p.m. 43 spaces and two leaders. Leaders: Olga Clarke and Art Cupples.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 — San Pedro to San Clemente Island. The *Vantuna* departs San Pedro at 5:30 a.m., returns 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$25 per person. 44 spaces plus two leaders. Join leaders Shum Sufel and Phil Sayre in the search for the Red-billed Tropic Bird.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 — San Miguel Island and out to sea. Cost: \$38 per person. Boat departs Oxnard Marina; board the *Ranger* 85 (with galley, no ice chests) after 9:00 p.m. Friday 28th. Return at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. 54 bunks and two leaders (to be announced). This boat will go to Cortez Ridge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4 — Last chance this season to bird **Ballona Wetlands** with Bob and Roberta Shanman (545-2867, after 6). Meet at 8 a.m. at the Pacific Avenue bridge. To get there, take 90 West (Marina Fwy.) to its end at Culver Blvd. Continue west on Culver, turn north on Pacific Avenue, straight to bridge.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 — Bird two of our local wetlands — **Upper Newport Bay** and **Bolsa Chica** — with Hal Ferris (375-3294). Meet at 8 a.m. in the lower parking lot of the Newporter Inn adjacent to Back Bay Drive.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 — **Evening Meeting**, 8 p.m. Plummer Park. **Pete Bloom** of California State University, Long Beach, will speak on the ecology and current status of the Swainson's Hawk.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 — Come look for local specialties and migrants in the **Antelope Valley** with Tom Frillman (456-8779). Meet at the Lamont Odett Overlook on Hwy. 14, just south of Lancaster, at 7:30 a.m. Bring water and lunch and be prepared for any kind of weather.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 — Hal Baxter (355-6300) leads a trip to **Chantry Flats** and **Santa Anita Canyon**. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the end of Santa Anita Canyon Rd. To get there, take I-10 (San Bernardino Fwy.) to Rosemead exit. Go north to Foothill Blvd., and then east to Santa Anita Rd.



SUNDAY, MAY 3 — Join Kimball Garrett (455-2903) at **Pt. Dume** to watch the migrating sea birds. Meet at 2 p.m. at the junction of Pacific Coast Hwy. and Kanan Dume Rd.

MONDAY, MAY 4 — A second chance to learn migrating sea birds from **Pt. Dume** with Kimball Garrett. See Sunday's directions.

SATURDAY, MAY 9 — Cliff Pollard will lead a group around **Harbor Lake**. Meet at the Boat House at 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 10 — Bird the **Morongo Valley**. Meet Ed Navojoski (938-9766) at 8 a.m. at Covington Park.

TUESDAY, MAY 12 — **Evening Meeting**, 8 p.m. Plummer Park. Three events mark this evening meeting: the **Plant Sale** before 8. **Friends of Ballona Wetlands** will then show their new, multimedia slide presentation. Next, **Mark Hoffman** of Santa Monica College will tell you "everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask about the reptiles and amphibians of California."

SUNDAY, MAY 17 — Fred Heath (828-6524) will lead a trip to the **Antelope Valley**. Same directions as April 18.

SUNDAY, MAY 24 — Join Roger Cobb (398-4672, early evenings) to explore **Malibu Creek State Park**. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking area (\$2 per car). To get there, take Pacific Coast Hwy. north to Malibu Canyon Rd. (Las Virgenes Rd.). Go east on Las Virgenes past Tapia Park to the entrance of the State Park. Excellent for chaparral birds with possibility of rarities. The group will also investigate wild flowers. Bring lunch and water; wear hiking boots.

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