

WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

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Action Priority Goals

Set for Environment by National Audubon

National Audubon's board of directors has approved a list of "action priority goals" chosen for top priority through 1982 from the 45 "major environmental concerns" listed in the Audubon Cause developed in 1979 at the Society's regional meetings across the country. Priorities are to help focus the society's efforts on the objectives currently "of greatest importance and most ripe for resolution". The full statement is a long and detailed one, and it outlines staff assignments and suggests areas for chapter action. We are presenting here just the general topics and topic breakdowns.

These national action priorities are intended to be only guidelines; they do not preclude action on the part of various regional groups in other causes. They are national priorities and do not mean any lessening in board and national staff support of the local and regional priorities of the society's chapters or state and regional organizations. These guidelines cover only the environmental action part of the society's program; the Audubon Cause is also served by the far broader activities of education and information, sanctuary protection, research and publications, carried on by National Audubon's paid staff and its chapters.

I. Conserve wildlife and the life-support systems of the natural environment

Secure better protection and management of the National Wildlife Refuge System by:

- Having chapters "adopt" a refuge or other nearby tract of publicly owned wildlife habitat of major importance to the area. "Adoption" might include holding activities at the refuge, monitoring its needs, furnishing information about it and acting to correct problems.
- Working with others on the drafting, introduction, and passage of legislation to provide statutory protection for the entire refuge system, appropriate status for the refuge program within the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and adequate appropriations for refuge planning, staffing, management and environmental education.

Involve chapters in a program to resurvey wildlife habitats, especially nesting sites of colonial birds all across the nation by:

- Identifying sites
- Providing protection
- Encouraging the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire property, or acquire it ourselves
- Working with landowners in cooperative programs to preserve areas
- Investigating opportunities to create new colonial bird nesting habitat—dredge spoil islands, for instance.

II. Promote rational strategies for energy development and use, stressing conservation and renewable energy sources

Complete development of the Audubon Energy Plan for the nation and promote its understanding and implementation by:

- Developing educational programs and activities to teach the Audubon Energy Plan, including demonstrations at Audubon facilities
- Using all energy efficiently
- Developing and utilizing renewable resources
- Examining and analyzing life-styles.

III. Protect life from pollution, radiation and toxic substances

Protect the environment from hazardous chemical wastes by:

- Urging congressional action
- Monitoring the performance of the Environmental Protection

Agency

- Establishing a "Hunt the Dump" campaign.

Protect the environment from acid rain by:

- Reducing the impact of acid rain
- Attaining Clean Air Act reauthorization through the Washington office and support for the act throughout our membership and the public.

IV. Further the wise use of land and water

Conduct a nationwide campaign against three major water projects: Garrison Diversion in North Dakota, Dickey-Lincoln dams in Maine, and Mono Lake Diversion in California. Continue regional efforts to stop the Central Arizona, Tennessee-Tombigbee, Atchafalaya, and O'Neill Irrigation projects.

Continue work on coastal issues, including efforts to protect barrier islands and promote full implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

V. Speak for the public interest in public lands and waters

Become more involved in, and place higher priority on, budget and appropriations processes in the federal conservation agencies — National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Marine Fisheries Service — by:

- Identifying the pressure points in the budgetary process and making sure that staff is fully conversant with the federal appropriations and budget planning processes
- Making sure that new Alaska conservation units and range management programs are adequately funded.

VI. Promote awareness of and actions to solve global environmental problems

Work for compliance with various treaties, such as the Arctic International Wildlife Range and Pacific Fur Seal, and the revision of migratory bird treaties, become more involved in US-Canada and US-Mexico conservation issues, and help at the United Nations.

VII. Work for stabilization of world population

Work toward adoption of a US population policy and to create awareness of the interrelationships between US and world population growth and resources, the economy, and the environment (in relation to "Global 2000").



Pt. Reyes Birdathon Set

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory is planning their fourth annual Birdathon, in conjunction with the Mono Lake Committee. Last year, PRBO netted \$50,130 which they split with the MLC. This was the work of fewer than 200 volunteer bird counters.

This year's count will be on Saturday 26 September 1981. There will be prizes for the ten highest money raisers; all participants receive a free PRBO or Mono Lake T-shirt. There will be a dinner following the Birdathon in Tiburon, with free food, refreshments and door prizes.

For those who think they are not good enough to see more than a few birds, Bob Yutzy, PRBO Director of Education, will be your leader at Pt. Reyes on 26 September. All you need to do participate in Bob's group is to gather \$2/species from your sponsors; Bob guarantees you'll see at least 100 species. And so you'll raise at least \$200 for Pt. Reyes and Mono Lake as well as have a super day birding.

Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory is a membership-supported, non-profit research, education and conservation institution that has been, since 1965, dedicated to the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Pt Reyes has always been an independent institution because of such fund-raising activities as Birdathon. For information on how to participate, or to sponsor one or more of the three-year veterans of Birdathon, write to Birdathon Coordinator, Bob Stewart, Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, 4990 Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

Audubon Energy Plan Challenges Reagan Administration Policy

The Audubon Energy Plan is based on conservation and solar energy — the direct opposite of the Reagan administration thesis that what America needs is more oil and gas, coal, synthetic fuels, and nuclear power-plants. Audubon President Russ Peterson put the society's message into a few succinct paragraphs in a recent letter to the editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

"The Reagan Administration must face up to two self-evident truths," Peterson wrote. "First, we can greatly reduce per capita energy consumption by making more efficient use of traditional, nonrenewable fuels. That means increasing energy productivity — as we have begun to do — by getting more useful energy out of each barrel of oil, each ton of coal, and so on. This can be done by improving our machines, our automobiles, homes, and appliances to make them more energy efficient.

"Conservation of this sort doesn't mean 'doing without'. It means 'doing it better' and thus getting by in the year 2000 using the same amount of total energy as we do today.

"Second, we can further reduce dependence on foreign oil by our use of renewable energy. Instead of oil or electricity, we can use solar heat for space and water heating. In many areas we can use the wind — another form of solar — to generate electricity. We can turn the solar energy accumulated in living plants into natural gas or alcohol fuels. Hydropower for existing dams and photovoltaic cells that produce electricity directly from sunlight are also promising sources.

"Solar energy can supply 25 percent of our total energy budget by 2000, compared with 7 percent today, with some governmental help.

"What's needed is the working of natural market forces (which the Administration properly champions) *plus* regulation, incentives, and education to encourage energy-efficient appliances, higher auto mileage standards for 1990, energy-saving standards for new buildings, and the required retrofitting of old ones before resale. We need more spurs to the financing of home insulation and residential solar installations through bank mortgage loans or through utility companies which could pass the cost along in monthly customer bills — just as they do today with the costs of coal and nuclear plants.

"The Reagan Administration should be leading this parade, not blocking it."

"Replace Interior Secretary Watt" petitions are available at Audubon House. Come in and sign one, pick one up to circulate or call us.

Peregrine Falcons of Morro Bay



"Speed, grace and dignity are a few words that come to mind when watching a bird of prey . . . and certainly an awesome respect for the swift, precise ability to strike down its prey. The peregrine falcon epitomizes what is best in birds of prey."

These are the words of artist Robert Reynolds.

Robert Reynolds, Professor of Art at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

The Natural History Association of San Luis Obispo Coast, Inc., is offering a limited edition of color prints of the peregrine falcon by Robert Reynolds. The prints are signed by the artist and will sell for \$50.00 plus sales tax, shipping and handling. The profit from the sale of these prints will be used by the association to build the first new major exhibit in the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in nearly 20 years. The exhibit will feature two mounted adult peregrines donated by the Predatory Bird Research Group at UC, Santa Cruz, the group which sponsors the captive breeding program of the peregrine falcon in California.

For further information, write the Natural History Association of San Luis Obispo Coast, Inc., Morro Bay State Park, Morro Bay, CA 93442.

Chaparral Is Forever

by Roland Case Ross

The garment of the hills is successful — greening a thirsty landscape where all other plants wither and die. Chaparral softens the harsh rocky slopes. It survives the long summer drought.

A million years ago, after an ice age, the chaparral community took formation in California. A million years of winter green and summer dry, enduring through time as if heat and poverty of soil were no problem.

Soil fungi and bacteria suspend activities, flowers wither, old leaves fall, the chaparral holds its breath. Will it ever rain again? Six months, ten months, a year go by, all is murderously desiccated — no cloud in sight. The chaparral has successfully lived through it, endured a million years of summer drought, and is green again.

Without bacteria and fungi, the litter cannot decay, and fire burns it up. It collects year by year, awaiting the recycle, the restoration to soil minerals. There is no mouldering, no composting, no decay without long wetting and warmth. Winter wetting is cold, so Southern California puts down layer after layer, year after year of twiggery, leafage, shucks and seeds, fuel waiting for fire.

Decades of collected fuel and standing twiggery generate fire storms, runaway flaming, thousand degree heat — the wildfire has come again. Intense heat peels off rock surfaces making handsome round bosses and boulders in chaparral. Birds, deer, rabbits, coyotes and bobcats run away — get confused in smoke and run or fly back in. Woodrats lose everything, may perish unsinged from seared lungs. The reptiles, mice, kangaroo rats and pocket gophers mostly survive. The whole underground chaparral community survives — plants and animals alike; one inch underneath the surface in mineral soil about ends lethal temperatures.

Beauty From Ashes

Nature knows best. Cattlemen understood but were considered evil men; they set brushfires. They knew a burn every few years brought tender and abundant growth to dry hills — good browse for livestock. They knew what nature knew — burning invigorates.

Chaparral is a fire formation — a dictum of ecology. There is no substitute, no betterment for watershed, flood control; no replacement for wildlife and arid wilderness. There is no doing without scrubby brushland for rocky steep mountainsides, west coast climates. Nature knows best the forest rules amidst drought, steep slopes, moving soil, and near sterility — and such prescriptions call for chaparral.

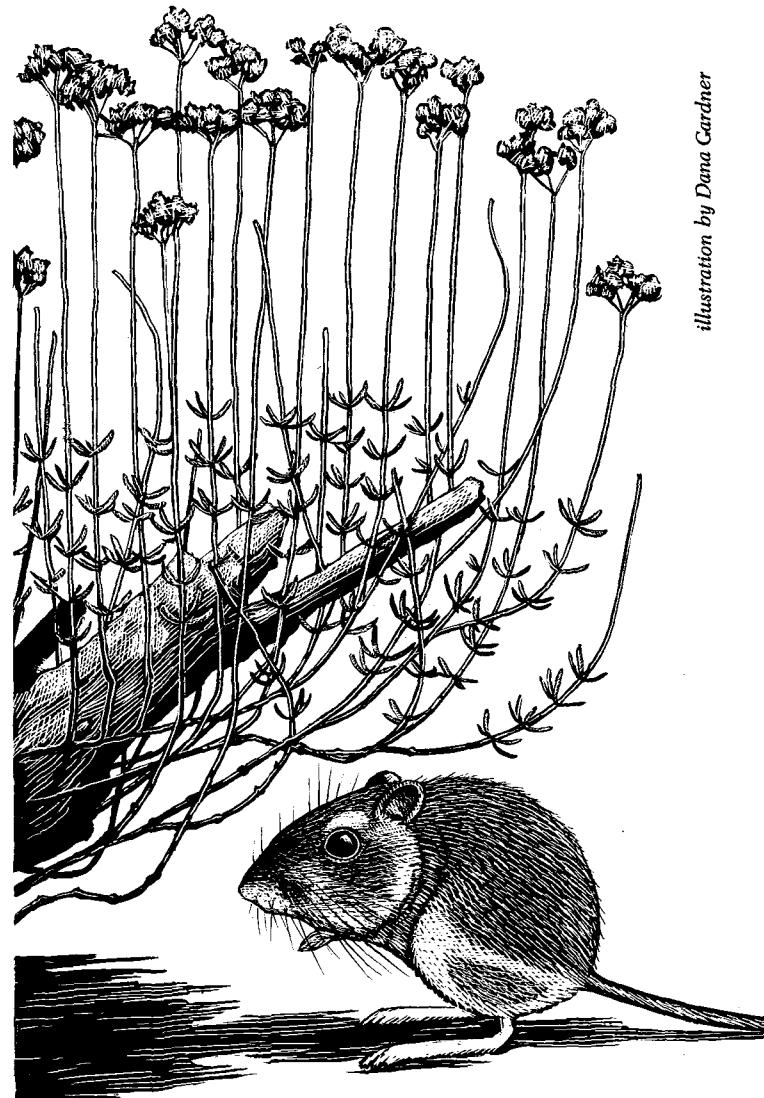
To change our mental attitude from fear, dread and hatred, we need more understanding. Here are some of the learnings that can help our comprehension and improve our relations to the elfin forest.

• **Fire is a decomposer.** In wet climates, decay and rotting remove the dead grass and the dead creatures. All that dies becomes humus and leaf mold — enrichment to soil. Lightning fires reduce the organic fuel masses regularly, year after year. Mostly

small areas burn — the last fire used up the bordering fuels — so that great fires are rare to nonexistent. The chaparral holocaust comes from fire suppression, floods follow great fires, the exaggerated debris erodes. They are essentially man-made. Fires free earth's minerals for use again. Water and minerals are resources that are cycled, reused. There is only so much.

• **Blown ash is not a nuisance.** This rich extraction of soil minerals is plant nutrient. The wind systems distribute this ash and algae, allergins, bacteria, dusts, fragrances, gases, metals, pathogens, pollens, pollutants, spores, terpenes and rainwater, humidity and dew drip; the fly ash and chemical aerosols of modern civilization. All aerosols fall in a worldwide rain of small matter that guarantees rare and trace minerals to all soils. Total aerosol precipitation is figured as a fallout of 2,603 tons a year. Some of this we recognize as grime. Leaves catch aerosols; when washed off, this becomes one of nature's richest waterings. Thus, fire ash is contributory to the universal delivery of minerals and their molecules that allow life to exist.

• **Chaparral replaces lost ash.** Abandoned land gone sterile has been restored by changing to deep-rooted crops; minerals are pumped up from deeper layers and dropped to the surface by leaf-fall and debris. Chaparral has the extent of root to feed deep and far, searching for water and mineral in soil lacking in both. The



Roland Case Ross, long involved in efforts to restore the Arroyo, was a professor at Cal State University, Los Angeles. A slightly different version of this article "Success, Endurance, Resurrection — Chaparral Is Forever" originally appeared in the *Wrentit*, publication of the Pasadena Audubon Society, Spring 1980.

success of this scrubby plant community is really a startling system of searching by long roots. Chaparral has the deepest root systems known. The root mass exceeds the shrubbery, the same way icebergs show only their tips. Thus replacement of ash lost to fire is no problem; the water for instant regrowth is no problem — water and minerals are guaranteed in a site short of both. Another replacement is nitrogen lost by combustion. Charcoal over and in the soil is water retentive and houses in its porous structure nitrogen-producing algae from the first rain.

- **Chaparral anchors slopes.** The present San Gabriels are young, rugged and steep. Their decay and decline products bank up under Altadena, Azusa, Glendora as piedmont, but grade gently to the ocean. Such aggradation could be catastrophic, burying foothill towns and farmlands with raw soil. Such violence is absent or reduced simply because chaparral arrived a million years ago. It has a retaining wall effect on the slopes because of its enormous depths of rooting, its coverage, and its eternal success all these years in a land of little rain — but with occasional gully-washers. Contrast our feathered hills with Grand Canyon effects on desert mountains.

Misconceptions of Management

Flood Control and Army Engineers become active after the fact. Dams do not prevent floods. The great wildfires produce sediments that fill up debris basins and sometimes big dams in one storm. Small fires and frequent ones present no such disaster. Present results: holocaust, flood and suddenly incapacitated dams.

Permits for residence in chaparral should be denied until fireproofing and window blasting by fire are prevention-sure. Communities built on wildfire borders have two duties:

- To seek state funds and community action for a fire brigade of neighbors. Then to get into practice. Keep the community aware of structural improvements in fireproofing, e.g., fireproof window blinds.
- To call for official controlled serial strip-burning of fields and brush so that no nearby fueled area is five years of age. Under control, strips can be burned, like onionskin layers, out from the community into the wild.

Burning does not harm the chaparral — it defuels it whereupon it restores itself. One holocaust from thirty years of suppression costs vastly more than thirty years of strip by strip controlled fire.

Firing of the chaparral is usually total surface reduction; bare soil, ash and rocks — desolation itself, a lunar landscape. Then in four weeks the miracle, the resurrection. Chaparral sprouts anew. From the remnant stumpage and the root crowns leafage unfolds, spreads, enlivens the desolation. Later comes the rains. Amidst the sproutage, in the spaces, are wildflowers — dozens of kinds, profuse, smiling, everywhere. This resurrection is twofold:

- The woody shrubs revive from roots and from scorched seeds that have waited for release by fire;
- Herbs with their quick flowers arise. They shine brightly for two, three, four years, until the shrubs gain size and take over, shading them out. With this the flowering fields go to sleep and wait another resurrection day, years ahead when chaparral is old enough to burn again. ☺

California Riparian Systems — Fall Conference Set

California's riparian systems — its streamside forests, wet meadows, desert washes, palm oases and other transported water system — have important productive values that touch virtually every segment of California's population. For example, they are immensely productive of both game and nongame wildlife and fish; they are important in flood control and prevention; they contribute to the maintenance and improvement of water quality; they constitute an important scenic and ecologic resource in the coastal zone and other areas; they reduce soil and river beach erosion and stabilize watercourse banks; they provide myriad waterside recreational opportunities, and they are an important potential source of timber, fuelwood and biomass.

California has more than a million linear miles of watercourse — rivers, streams, sloughs, desert washes — capable of supporting riparian systems. At the time of statehood, in the Central Valley alone, these watercourses supported more than one million acres of riparian forest and streamside woodlands. Today, more than 90 percent of these riparian forests have been destroyed and much of the remainder is in serious disrepair.

It is imperative that we halt this chronic decline in our riparian resources. To help in this goal, the University of California, Davis campus, will be holding a California Riparian Systems Conference from Thursday-Saturday, 17-19 September 1981. It is expected that this meeting will produce important guidelines and develop significant momentum toward the establishment of a 20-year plan for a statewide riparian conservation and management plan. The conference will take place in Freeborn Hall on the UC Davis campus. Registration is \$25 for general admission, \$15 for college and university students with proof of current registration. For further information or to enroll, contact University of California, Davis, University Extension, Davis CA 95616, telephone (916) 752-0880. Art and photography shows are planned along with the conferences.

Plastic Trees Offer Homes for Woodpeckers

For years, conservationists have been telling foresters that dead trees are important to wildlife because they offer food and shelter to many species of birds and animals. Neatly groomed forests, where all the dead wood is cleared away, offer no place for cavity-nesters like Downy Woodpeckers.

Ohio State University researchers are working on a new approach to the problem. In a pilot program financed by the US Forest Service, they set out 50 eight-foot high fake dead trees made of polystyrene. Within a few months, woodpeckers had dug out nesting holes in 85 percent of the artificial trees. This program promises to keep the Downies in the forest where they are a safer, more effective and cheaper way of eliminating pests than spraying with pesticides.

Although studies will be undertaken to determine the cost of the plastic tree program on a wide scale, there are no plans to study the esthetic value of polystyrene trees, nor other ways in which plastic might be used to lure wildlife back into forests they have forsaken because of modern technology.



Topics of Conservation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

In *Through The Looking-Glass*, the Red Queen takes Alice on a breathless race through a wood. When she is finally allowed to catch her breath, Alice, who had noticed that the landscape never changed, said, "Well, in *our* country you'd generally get to somewhere else — if you ran very fast for a long time . . ." "A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, *here*, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place . . ." In this curioser and curioser Year of the Budget we seem to be experiencing a similar phenomenon. We are forced to run faster, not to explore a new landscape, but desperately to keep the old one in sight. Many of the values in our public life that seemed to be eternally desireable are being challenged, if not assaulted, at the present time. In the environmental wood we are fighting off Jabberwocks at every turn.

It doesn't seem reasonable that, in a nation where a breath of fresh air is getting hard to come by, it should be necessary to defend the Clean Air Act. And yet, in this Looking-Glass world of 1981, that's exactly where we find ourselves. The Clean Air Act became law in 1970. It was a quantum leap forward in the effort to protect the health of the American people. Standards were established to control air pollution from industrial plants and automobile exhaust, with deadlines set for compliance. It was a courageous attempt to change our laissez-faire attitude toward the slovenly habits of heavy industry and Detroit. It may come as a surprise to those of us in the smog belt to learn that the Clean Air Act works. Nationwide, the quality of the air *has* improved. There has been a significant decrease in the number of days when the air was labeled "unhealthful." Deaths attributed to pollution have plummeted dramatically. The monthly savings from all sources — including structures not damaged and crops not destroyed — is in the billions. The Council on Environmental Quality (a Federal agency) estimated that the Gross National Product was higher over the last five years because of pollution control investment, and that a great many jobs were created in manufacturing control equipment.

But this is only part of the story. Over 60 percent of the population is still exposed to excessive levels of pollutants, especially in the large, metropolitan areas. Coal-fire power plants generate two-thirds of the sulfur dioxide released into the atmosphere, but less than ten percent of these plants have installed scrubbers to reduce emissions. Tall stacks permit the dispersal of this major irritant over long distances. Borne on prevailing winds, it combines with moisture to form acid rain that damages forests and kills lakes and streams.

The Clean Air Act must be reauthorized this year. Powerful interests are calling for relaxation of controls, for the removal of regulations they claim are too expensive. The Administration is sympathetic to the arguments of industry, the utilities and the auto manufacturers. It is proposing amendments that would cut the guts out of the Act, leaving nothing but an empty, worthless carcass. The Broyhill bill (HR 3471) has already been introduced into the House and it expresses the views of the Administration and its friends. Some of the changes it calls for are:

1. Deletion of the margin of safety provided by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards by specifying no control of pollution until there is "significant risk of adverse effect". In

other words, wait till things get really bad, then try to do something!

2. Deadlines for attainment of all Air Quality Standards are extended to 1990.
3. The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may eliminate all standards at her discretion.
4. Enforcement of the Act and penalties for non-compliance are made *optional* rather than mandatory.
5. Levels of carbon monoxide in auto exhaust are permitted to be twice what the present standard allows. No further measures are to be taken to control nitrogen oxides.
6. Areas where the air is already clearer than the legal minimum are now protected by the program to Prevent Significant Deterioration. The Broyhill bill and the Administration want this program eliminated in 90 percent of the country.
7. States are permitted to relax pollution controls on their own. This would turn the clock back to the 60's when most states were simply unable to take any meaningful action against polluters. Smog, particulates, and acid rain are like birds; they don't recognize geographical borders. A clean state would suffer from the sins of a neighboring dirty state. And industry would be tempted to build new plants in states with the dirtiest air. It seems obvious that air quality is a national problem and we must all suffer if it is not tackled on a Federal level.
8. If the *president* decides that the cost of pollution control is too



high for the degree of cleaner air achieved, he may issue an executive order to override any provision of the act. So here comes that ole devil Cost/Benefit sneaking in again. The Clean Air Act was written with the health of the people as the sole criterion. Our new leaders would substitute the cost to industry as the basic guideline.

Air pollution is responsible for thousands of cases of asthma, emphysema, cancer and heart disease; children and the elderly are particularly susceptible. It is estimated that 53,000 Americans die every year from the effects of dirty air. This is a monstrous figure! It is incredible that there are sane, law-abiding citizens who are willing (nay, anxious) to destroy a law that is beginning to reduce the toll of disability and death. Their efforts can only mean disaster for additional victims. There are 140 million people living in areas of poor air quality in the United States. If the current proposals are passed by the Congress, over half the population of this country will have no chance to escape the unsightly, depressing, and dangerous effects of pollution.

What can be done? Take you vorpal sword in hand and slay the Jabberwock. Write to your congressman and ask him/her to oppose the Broyhill bill (HR 3471) and any similar Administration bill that surfaces. Remind her/him that a Harris poll this June reports that 86 percent of the American people support the Clean Air Act. There is hope. Calloo! Callay!

Mono Lake Update

Water Level — Late winter storms brought a little more snow to the eastern Sierra but not enough to help Mono Lake. With runoff protected at 80 percent of average, not a drop of water from the lake's major streams will reach the lake which is expected to drop another 18 inches in the next six months.

California Gulls — Recent observations show that approximately 40,000 gulls returned to the lake — about the same number as last year. Pairs appeared to nest; most breeding occurred on two small islets in the lake. These islets are separated from land by only one vertical foot of lake water.

Lawsuit — National Audubon's Mono Lake lawsuit which is attempting to save the lake through the public trust doctrine is still pending formal action in US Federal Court. In February, the Federal Court ruled that it would try the case, but only after California State Court had ruled on two questions of law. These questions will probably be decided in six months, although the rulings will likely be appealed to the State Supreme Court. If the State Court rulings are favorable, we then will return to Federal Court for trial on the facts of the case.

Field Trips — Visit Mono Lake this summer and take advantage of free half-day field trips sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee. For more information, please write to the Committee at P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Phone: (714) 647-6386.

The Watt Line

Nathaniel Reed was Assistant Secretary of the Interior under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. A lifelong Republican, he is proud of the conservation history of his party and he mentions the contributions of Lincoln, Grant and Teddy Roosevelt. He points out that the Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Council on Environmental Quality were all passed or created in Republican administrations. Here are a few quotes from one of his recent speeches:

"But two of Watt's actions have convinced me that he is already a disaster as Secretary. One of these is his butchery of the Land and Water Conservation Fund . . . The other is the talk he delivered to the Conference of National Park Concessioners . . . — surely one of the most fawning, disgusting performances ever given by a secretary of the interior. He was so eager to please that he all but gave away the park system."

"One gets the impression that Watt's excessive zeal may stem from the desire to punish and insult conservationists and the Congress." "My suspicion . . . is supported by the man's attitudes to his opponents. Does he marshall his arguments and try to reason with them? No, he calls them names . . . extremists who would 'weaken America.' What a bankrupt and infantile approach. It's reminiscent of Watergate, of the McCarthy era."

"Watt himself is utterly lacking in the vision and judgment necessary to continue as Secretary of the Interior."



In the spectrum of environmental organizations, the National Audubon Society is generally viewed as conservative, cautious and respectable: the Voice of Reason. Its president, Russell Peterson, is a Republican, a former governor of Delaware, a solid member of the Establishment. Since the Reagan Administration has taken office, he has been in touch with high officials, including talks with the Secretary of the Interior. It is apparent to Mr. Peterson that no amount of civilized discussion with Mr. Watt will persuade him to alter his determination to open all America to commercial exploitation. The Secretary's temperament and adversary stance is clearly revealed in his choice of words; conservation leaders are "hired guns"; those who disagree with him are "environmental extremists."

In an extraordinary letter to all 450,000 members, National Audubon has declared war on the "anti-environment wrecking crew led by Interior Secretary James Watt." Peterson says, "It is no longer enough to simply enjoy the beauty of America's birds — we must now fight to protect them." And, "The American people must be shown quickly that sacrificing our environment for short-term economic gain is not only foolish but dangerous as well. Our wildlife, wildlands, our air and water simply must not be held hostage to the demands of special interests and political expediency."

He gives a grim resume of the transgressions of the Administration: cutting off funds for park acquisition (particularly urban parks like the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area); dismembering the Environmental Protection Agency at the expense of our health; destruction of the Council on Environmental Quality, "the environmental conscience of the White House"; the deliberate appointments of anti-conservation people to head agencies they had previously fought against. In response to this onslaught, National Audubon is launching an emergency Citizens Mobilization Campaign to educate and alert the public to the destructive attack on the environment. A grassroots protest must be organized to reverse this ominous course before irrevocable damage is done.

Los Angeles Audubon is enthusiastic about this campaign. We urge all our members who have not already done so to help water the grassroots with a contribution. Time is short.

Citizens Mobilization Campaign

National Audubon Society

950 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10022

— S.W.

Birding Land's End

A Guide for Seal Rocks, Lands End, Lincoln Park
by Alan Hopkins

San Francisco's Lands End is an area of breathtaking vistas and dynamic bird life. The rocky cliffs and small beaches make it the best place to observe ocean and shore birds in San Francisco. But the most attractive aspect of Lands End is the observation of migrant land birds. On a good day it is possible to see migrant hawks, flycatchers, orioles, tanagers, sparrows and warblers. A few days each spring and fall a "wave" of migrants will pass through and warblers can be seen by the hundreds!

The Lands End area was not birdwatched consistently until recently. Before becoming part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) the lack of police patrol made birdwatching a sometimes frightening experience. Fortunately the National Park Service has improved the trails and the area is patrolled regularly by horseback and motorcycle. But it is advisable to go with a friend and avoid leaving valuables in your car.

For the full tour, park on Merrie Way above the Sutro Baths and the Cliff House (1, 2). From here it is possible to make one large loop of the best spots at the Cliff House, Lands End and Lincoln Park.

Depending on the tides you may decide to begin or finish the tour at the Cliff House (1). The observation deck behind the restaurants is the best spot to scan Seal Rocks which abound with bird life. There are usually a few Pelagic Cormorants among the many Brant's year round. In mid-June the Brown Pelicans arrive with their cohorts, the Heermann's Gulls. By mid-July the shorebirds begin to reappear. Among the pelicans and cormorants look for Black Oystercatchers, Wandering Tattlers, Willets, Surfbirds, Ruddy and Black Turnstones and Sanderlings. As winter approaches the ocean becomes alive with Common, Arctic and Red-throated Loons, Western Grebes, White-winged, Surf and sometimes Black Scotters. During the fall and winter the wind frequently blows from the east. These easterly winds cause upwelling of the cold bottom waters which are rich in nutrients. Birds like Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's, Elegant and Caspian Terns come to feed on the rich waters. With them might be pelagic birds like Parasitic Jaeger, Black-legged Kittiwake and Common Tern. For a few days in the spring, late summer or fall thousands of Sooty Shearwaters may be seen in large rafts just beyond Seal Rock.

After the Cliff House the next spot to check is Sutro Baths (2). Look for the trail down to the pond at the north end of the parking lot at Merrie Way. The brackish water of the pond attracts small numbers of water fowl; Mallards and American Widgeon are present all winter. They may be joined by Ring-necked ducks, Greater and Lesser Scaup and Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes. In the winter of 1979 both Red and Northern Phalaropes visited the pond. Killdeer and other shorebirds can sometimes be found along the shallow water at the south end of the pond. After checking the pond follow the trail to the large flat cement area on Point Lobos. This is a good spot to scope Seal Rocks and the water. On the north side of the steps is a small pond that can be good for a close look at shorebirds. In the spring California Gray Whales sometimes come within 100 yards of the point.

To continue the tour check the row of cypress trees at the end of the parking lot for warblers. Follow the trail that heads northeast at the east end of these trees. Keep to the right until the trail meets with the dirt service road, then watch on the left for the old foundation (3). This is a good place to scan the ocean. In summer watch

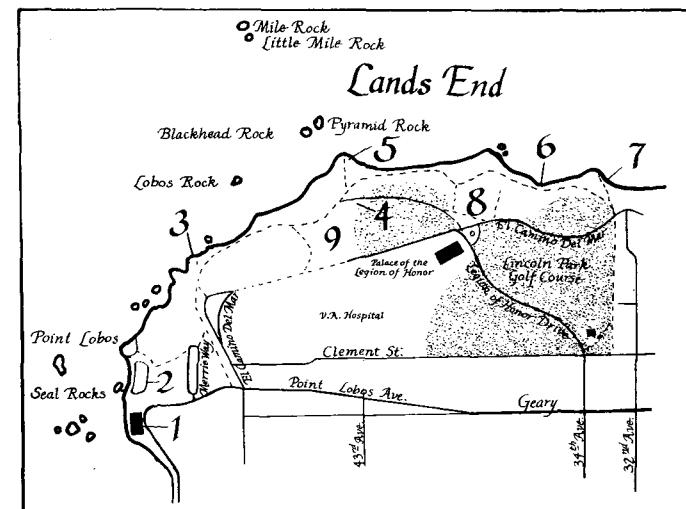
for Common Murre and Sooty Shearwater. There are usually a few Pigeon Guillemots on the large rock to the east. In the winter the cove created by the large rock is a good place to study gulls and terns.

From the foundation the road goes slightly inland. After about a quarter mile there is a large grassy area which can be good for land birds. This area is the bottom of the "western wash." As the road bends to the north watch for the paved road on the right. This road leads to the Palace of the Legion of Honor through Lincoln Golf Course but follow it only as far as the large patch of willows (4). In the winter the cypress trees on the left are the most consistent spot to find Townsend's Warblers at Lands End. The willows are most productive when they bud in late winter and early spring at which time they are swarming with Anna's, Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds. There may also be Bewick's Wren, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Purple Finch. During migration this spot is always worth checking. Black-throated Gray Warblers and MacGillivray's Warblers plus Indigo Buntings have all stopped here.

To continue the tour go back to the dirt road and watch for the trail by some trash cans that leads to Lands End proper (5). From the tip of the point there is a fine view of the coast. Scoping below the lighthouse on Mile Rock has produced Marbled and Ancient Murrelet in winter and Common Murre in summer. The bird life around Mile Rock is most active when a strong tide churns up bottom waters around it. Loons, grebes, cormorants, gulls and terns can be found in large numbers at its base when this occurs. Closer to shore are Pyramid Rock and Blackhead Rock and to the west is Lobos Rock. In the winter of 1979 these rocks were frequented by two Harlequin Ducks.

After returning to the main road continue east. At the sheer cliff watch below for Pigeon Guillemots in the summer. In the fall look for shorebirds, gulls and Elegant Terns on the rocks. Next follow the trail over the steps and where the trail forks at the bottom of the "east wash," veer to the left.

As the trail rounds the point the foliage becomes much thicker. There are usually Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Common Bush-tits, Song and White-crowned Sparrows. In winter they are joined by Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Fox and Golden-crowned Sparrows. During migration watch for flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. There are also records for Black-and-white Warblers, Northern Parula and summer Tanager. Be sure to check the acacias and willows that grow over the "boardwalk" (6) as they can be quite productive.



As the trail reaches its end (7), Lincoln Park Golf Course appears on the right. The open area to the left once had nesting Pygmy Nuthatches and Tree Swallows but unfortunately the park service cut down all the nesting trees. From the cliff's edge look east to James D. Phelan Beach where Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit may be among the Willets and Sanderlings on the beach far below.

Before starting up El Camino Del Mar check the first 100 yards of trail which begins directly across the street and runs along the 18th green to Legion of Honor Dr. at 43rd Ave. The pine and cypress trees that line the green may have swallows, nuthatches, Brown Creepers, warblers and possibly Red Crossbills.

There always seems to be bird activity along El Camino Del Mar. Downy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, Pygmy Nuthatch and Dark-eyed Junco have all nested along the road. In winter Yellow-rumped Warblers are abundant and Townsend's Warblers can be fairly common in the pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees. During the fall there may be Nashville, Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers and vagrants like Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided and Blackpoll Warblers have been found here.

Near the top of the hill just as El Camino Del Mar meets with Legion of Honor Dr. look for the small paved road. Follow the road down until it reaches the golf greens, then take the small dirt trail to the right. I call this area the "east wash" (8). During migration check the flock of sparrows for Savannah, Vesper, Chipping, White-throated and Lincoln's. When in bloom, the large patch of sweet fennel (anise) is a haven for birds. A little fishing may bring in Bewick's Wren, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers. During migration watch for fly-catchers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings. The trees that line the east wash are the most productive on the loop. Among the common birds in spring and fall there may be many migrants. Some of the vagrants have included Black-and-white, Tennessee, Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers.

To continue the loop, walk back to El Camino Del Mar. Follow the dead end road down the hill. In winter there may be Varied and Hermit Thrushes under the trees on the left. When the road ends continue straight to the trail down to the "east wash" (9). On a hot day this spot is a must. There is always a trickle of water running through the willows. The trees may be filled with birds that have come to drink and bathe. Unfortunately, this remote area is best not birded alone.

The western wash usually has hummingbirds, Scrub Jays, Bewick's Wrens, Hutton's Vireos and Purple Finches. During migration this seems to be a favorite stopping place for Western Flycatchers and Nashville Warblers. Among the many common migrants that stop here, specialties like Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting and Swamp Sparrow have occurred.

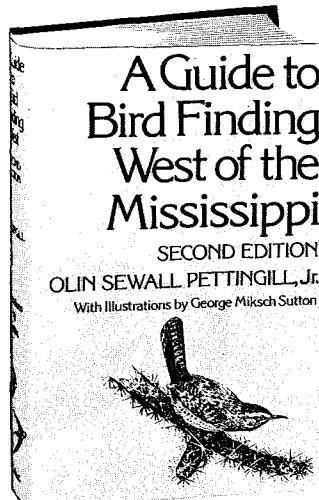
To finish the loop follow the path straight onto the old El Camino Del Mar. There are usually many common birds along the road until it ends at the parking lot at the end of El Camino Del Mar. From the northwest end of the parking lot look for the steps that lead back down to the old foundation (3). From there retrace your steps to the parking lot at Merrie Way.

It may not always be desirable to do this large loop. By parking at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, smaller loops can be made from the trails that run up and down the washes connecting the upper road and lower trail. From season to season you will find Seal Rocks, Lands End and Lincoln Park ever changing and, for me, ever fascinating.

Reprinted with permission from THE GULL, September 1980.

Books

A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi, Second Edition, Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. 783pp. New York: Oxford University Press 1981.



Anyone who travels in the western United States and has a serious interest in birds will find this book helpful. Mr. Pettingill is a distinguished ornithologist who has thoroughly revised his first work published in 1953. This edition is slightly longer, larger in format, and the type is large and more readable, especially in a moving car as I am usually doing.

Each state is covered with respect to physiographic regions, natural areas, and the principal ornithological concentrations and attractions and representative types of habitats and birdlife in the vicinity of metropolitan areas and leading vacation centers. Twenty-six pen and ink drawings by the eminent bird artist George Miksch Sutton have been added. There are six pages of "Suggestions for Bird Finders" that could prove to be very useful.

Many people assisted in revising each state section and are listed in the preface and in the authorities and reference section in each chapter. The account of bird finding places are either new or have been revised in accordance with changes in bird distribution during the past quarter-century and modifications of the environment and feature updated transport directions. I am sorry that the maps used on the endpapers of the second edition of the *Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi*, which allowed for instant reference were not used for the western guide.

There are many state guides now available, but no other publication provides a comprehensive guide to each of the 22 western states (excluding Alaska and Hawaii) and their prime areas for birding. I highly recommend this book to everyone interested in birds. — Ruth Lohr



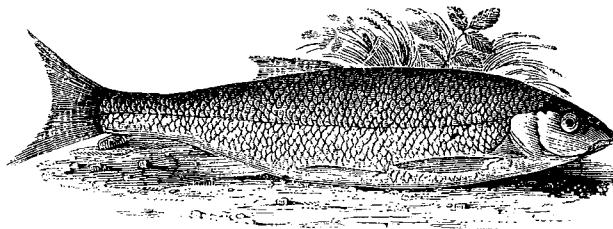
American Avocets

Birds of the Season

by Shum Suffel

Everything that May was, June was not. May's delightful high fog in the mornings and sun in the afternoons suddenly turned to a roaring heat wave with maximum temperatures in the ninety to one hundred-plus range for weeks on end. Birding activity reached a low ebb in the coastal lowlands and on the deserts, in contrast to the avian bonanza experienced in May (see the June TANAGER). Fortunately, the nearby mountains are at their best in early summer, and birding there provided the only relief from complete boredom.

In the San Gabriels, Santa Anita Canyon offered **Black Swifts** at the falls, **Dippers** along the stream, plus **Common Screech-Owls** and **Northern Pygmy-Owls** calling on the hillsides (Doug Willick, 22 June). Doug found an adult and two fledgling **Spotted Owls** at Switzer's on 28 June, and Tom Wurster heard a **Flammulated Owl** at Buckhorn on the 26th. The LAAS trip to Switzer's on 29 June refound the very large female hummingbird first seen (*fide* Jean Brandt) about two months earlier; attempts will be made to get a



firm identification. A singing male **Black-and-white Warbler** at Vincent Gap along the Angeles Crest Highway (Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn, 23 June) must have been frustrated, as there are no nesting records for California.

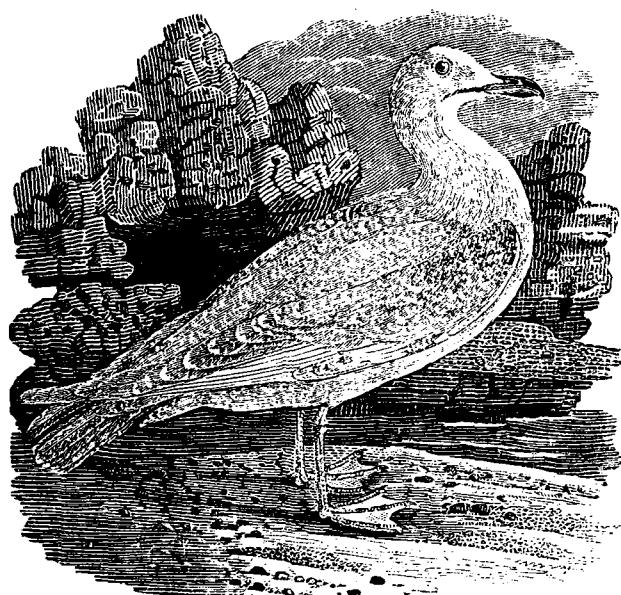
The San Bernardinos provided the best one-day trip of the month, with **Black Swifts** above Forest Falls at dawn and dusk. South Fork Campground and Heart Bar State Park had good mountain birds, but no Painted Redstarts (which summered at South Fork several years ago). At Upper Arrastré Creek (turn north on Route 2N01 just west of Onyx Summit) there were **Calliope Hummingbirds** in the willows, **Townsend's Solitaires** and **Hermit Thrushes** in the pines, **Olive-sided Flycatchers** and **Western Wood-Pewees** calling, but no **Williamson's Sapsuckers** as in 1980. Baldwin Lake (full again this year) had hundreds of nesting **Eared Grebes** and several species of ducks —**Gadwall**, **Redhead**, **Northern Pintail** and a **Canvasback**. This is one of the few areas in Southern California where **Common Nighthawks** can be seen (mornings and evenings). The grasslands south and east of the lake provided **Vesper** and **Savannah Sparrows**. Farther east, where Route 2N02 crosses Arrastré Creek, there were **Calliope Hummingbirds**, "Plumbeous" **Solitary Vireos** and a pair of **Hepatic Tanagers** (Bob McKernan). Still farther east on 2N02 at Round Valley and Rose Mine Pass both **Gray Flycatchers** and singing **Gray Vireos** were found (Hal Baxter and Joe Greenberg, 8 June). One of the very few vagrants in June was a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Helen Dickinson's Lake Arrowhead feeder after 14 June. Coincidentally, the Dickisons had a male Rose-breast at Lake Arrowhead on 3 July 1972.

The San Jacinto range was not as well covered. There were **Pinyon Jays** at Hurkey Creek Campground, but no **Purple Martins** could be found between Mountain Center and Lake Hemet, where they have been every summer up to now. O'Neill Park in Orange Co. (Bob and Eleanor Parsons) provides our only definite locality for this declining species this year. Although not reported, there are probably still **Black Swifts** nesting on the North Fork of the San Jacinto River just below the crossing of Hwy. 243, and possibly **Purple Martins** at nearby Lake Fulmor (they were there in 1979).

The best news of the summer was the return of California's only known pair of **Zone-tailed Hawks** to the area below Santa Rosa Mtn. (David Koeppl, *et al*). Mitch Heindel and Brian Daniels made the all-night, trailless climb to the fir forest on 7,900-foot Clark Mountain on the Mohave Desert on 23 May, finding **Goshawk**, many **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds**, **Gray Vireos**, two singing **Grace's Warblers** and a **Virginia's Warbler**.

There were few landbird reports from the lowlands. One of the most exciting was a **Red-eyed Vireo** at the Oak Canyon Nature Center in Anaheim for one afternoon only (Doug Willick, 18 June). An **Ovenbird** in the willows at Playa del Rey on 6 June (Hank Brodin) was one of the few vagrants we normally expect in early June. There was a little more activity near Morro Bay according to John McDonald, with a **Scarlet Tanager** on 15 June and a **Hooded Warbler** on the 17th. A singing male **Indigo Bunting** was near the base of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway on 15 June 1980 and on 24 May 1981 (Lois Fulmor).

There have been several reports of **Black Skimmers** along the coast north of San Diego, the most recent being of two at Bolsa Chica on 13 June (Thelma Jo Lewis). Dan Guthrie's day at Upper Newport Bay on 5 June yielded the previously reported albino **Black-necked Stilt** plus a **Black Skimmer** and a **Red Knot**. At Bolsa Chica, he found 15 early **Elegant Terns**. The Edwards Air Force Base marsh near Lancaster had 15 fall migrant **Wilson's Phala-**



ropes on 15 June (Henry Childs). The rarest shorebird of the summer was a breeding-plumage Curlew Sandpiper at San Elijo Lagoon in San Diego Co., which provided fireworks for Guy McCaskie *et al* on the Fourth of July (it was gone the next day). Unprecedented in the region were two southbound adult Semipalmented Sandpipers (one at Goleta on 2 July by Paul Lehman and one at Bolsa Chica on 7 July by Richard Webster).

The LAAS trip to Anacapa Island and beyond on 27 June exceeded expectations. Not only did they find the expected American Oystercatcher, which has now been there for seventeen years, but they had both Leach's and Black Storm-Petrels, a South Polar Skua, four Rhinoceros Auklets, and a Marbled Murrelet.

Of special interest was the early return of hummingbirds to the Arcadia Arboretum. Barbara Cohen covers this area nearly every day and had seen nothing but the resident Anna's in the bed of succulents until 21 June when there were four adult male Costa's and an adult male Allen's there. A few days earlier (18 June), Lois Fulmor had seen three Costa's and an immature *Selasphorus* hummer at a debris basin in Altadena. The Costa's may well have been breeding there, but the *Selasphorus* (Rufous or Allen's) was certainly a fall migrant.

The westward range expansion of the Great-tailed Grackle through southeastern California toward the coast was reinforced by the observation of two more "pioneers": in San Bernardino (Helen Dickinson, 26 June) and at Doheny Beach Park (Brad Schram, 28 June). These grackles had already moved north to Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, and to Indian Ranch, west of the Panamint Mtns., but one at Oasis Ranch, Mono Co., on 29 May (Jeri Langham) was a northerly record.

There were few June reports from the Salton Sea. David Koepel's dawn arrival at the north end on 7 June yielded four early Laughing Gulls and about 200 American White Pelicans. Later the same day, Guy McCaskie added an adult Tricolored (Louisiana) Heron and two very unusual Least Terns. Two weeks later, Guy saw the heron again and heard a Black Rail. Along the New River near Seeley, he found two Little Blue Herons but no evidence of nesting (which they attempted here last year).

A few corrections and additions to last month's report on the week-long Memorial Day "weekend" in Inyo and Mono Counties are in order. Jeri Langham writes the Philadelphia Vireo at Oasis which he found on 23 May stayed until the 29th; thus there was only one "Philly" there instead of two. Jeri also mentions a Least Tern at Furnace Creek Ranch on 27 May, a first record for that area. Farther north, a Mississippi Kite was in Mono Lake Park in late May.

A new bird for California was a Least Auklet found dying on a beach in central California (*fide* Guy McCaskie). In southeastern Arizona, the Black-capped Gnatcatchers are renesting after successfully fledging their first brood, and in Madera Canyon a Yellow Grosbeak was seen for a day or two. There have now been several records of the latter species in the area, and the pattern of records suggests that wild birds are involved (the species breeds north of southern Sonora).



August promises a buildup in avian activity with the shorebird migration well underway and the first trickle of the passerine migration beginning. In addition, two LAAS pelagic trips promise new birds for first-timers and possibly a rarity for pelagic trip veterans. The San Clemente Island trip hopes for Red-billed Tropicbirds, Least Storm-Petrels, and Craveri's Murrelets, plus the usual shearwaters, storm-petrels, etc. The longer trip beyond San Miguel Island to Cortez Ridge will look for Black-footed Albatross, South Polar Skuas, Arctic Terns, and Sabine's Gulls. This summer's exceptionally warm ocean waters may hold some interesting surprises for us.

Although there were five Blue-footed Boobies at the Salton Sea last September, there has been no major invasion since the forty in 1972 or the hundred in 1971; an invasion may be overdue, and August is the time. Even without boobies, the sea is worth a visit for Wood Storks, southern herons, Black Skimmers, Gull-billed Terns, and hopefully for frigatebirds, Roseate Spoonbills, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and unusual shorebirds. Despite the appeal of the above, the "Numero Uno" event in August is the Condor watch from Mt. Pinos. It's cool and quiet at 8,500 feet, and there are many high mountain birds to fill the time between condor sightings.



WESTERN TANAGER

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LAY-OUT CONSULTANT Dana Gardner

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Send any interesting bird observations to:
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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:

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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, 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 Suffel 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. Leaders: Herb Clarke and Kimball Garrett. This boat will go to Cortez Ridge.



Shearwater Journeys — Pelagic Trips

Debra Love Shearwater is still in the pelagic trip business and living in Santa Cruz, CA. Her eight-page flyer of excursions include bird- and whale-watching trips to Monterey Bay, Monterey Seavalley, Davidson Seamount and the Monterey Submarine Canyon. A total of 30 trips between August 1981 and February 1982 have been planned. For your announcement of these trips, write to Debi Love Shearwater, 362 Lee Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The TANAGER will give publicity to these trips as space allows.

To the Editor:

I received the following letter early in the month. It is rewarding to know that the trips mentioned in the TANAGER are, indeed, appreciated. For those of you who have hesitated, I am reprinting the following letter in its entirety.

With the thought that the information may be of interest to Los Angeles birders in the future, I would like to report on the Golden Gate Audubon Society Texas trip in April, which I joined. It was highly successful, with each day running from about 5 am to 9:45 pm. My records show a group total of 308 species, of which I am sure most people saw 95 percent. My personal list totaled 293, of which 50 were new species and about the same number were old friends which I hadn't seen for many years. Almost all of the key birds were seen, with the Buffbreasted Sandpiper a notable holdout.

It was fantastic to see that 99 percent of the Teal were Bluewinged.

Kenn Kaufman's emphasis on shape of birds added a new dimension to identification which I had not given enough attention.

Yours very truly,
Robert G. Wilson, San Bernardino, CA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 — Bob and Roberta Shanman (545-2867, after 6) will start their birding tours of Ballona Wetlands. 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 and parking area.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 — Jon Dunn will conduct a shorebird workshop in the Antelope Valley. Meet at 7:00 a.m. on Hwy. 14 at the Lamont Odett Overlook. Group will proceed from there to Edward's Air Force Base Marsh and the Lancaster Sewage Ponds. Emphasis will be on ageing shorebirds as well as identifying species present. The pace will be leisurely; however, bring wading gear, an extra pair of tennis shoes, etc. Group will more than likely spend some time knee-deep in water. Also bring lunch and drinking water.

Jean Brandt will lead her yearly trip to Mt. Pinos during the latter part of the month of August. Please call Audubon House for further details.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 — Jerry Johnson will lead a day-trip to McGrath State Beach. Take Hwy 101 north to Victoria Ave. exit in Ventura. Pass under freeway and continue to Olivas Park Drive, then turn right. Then left at traffic light at Harbor Blvd. Park at bridge; meet at 8 a.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 — Meet Fred Heath at the Lamont Odett Overlook on Hwy. 14 at 7:00 a.m. to bird the Antelope Valley. Bring water and lunch. Group will look for and at returning shorebirds.