

# WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

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## Books

### Hawaiian Birdlife

by Andrew J. Berger (The University Press of Hawaii, Honolulu, 260 pages).

Andrew Berger is professor of zoology at the University of Hawaii. As he states in the preface to this 1980 edition of his book, quite a bit has been learned about Hawaiian birds since the first edition was prepared. A new endemic species has been discovered on Maui and many new exotic species have become established.

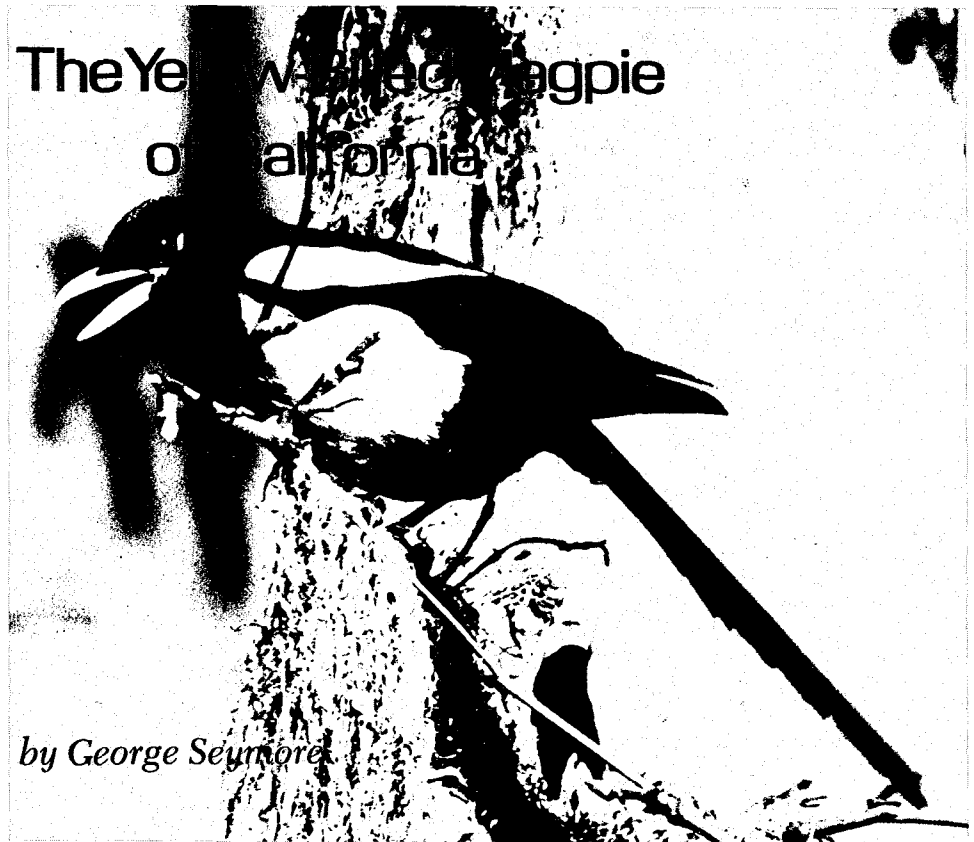
In 1972, it had been 25 years since the publication of Munro's *BIRDS OF HAWAII*, and Berger stated that an up-date was essential "if for no other reason than to chronicle the continual desecration of the unique Hawaiian forests and their animal life." Now, he can say that more effort has been expended on the study of habitats especially since the passage of the Rare and Endangered Species Law in 1973.

The 1980 edition of *HAWAIIAN BIRDLIFE* reflects all this. The text is illustrated by 137 black-and-white as well as color photographs, and 67 colored plates by several artists. The book encompasses all aspects of birdlife in Hawaii, with emphasis on habits, biological relationships and the place of birds in the Hawaiian ecosystems as well as their prospects for survival. Each living species is described in detail including its ecology and feeding and breeding behavior. Annotated appendices cover 122 species of migrants and stragglers, 106 species of introduced or escaped birds not established and 22 species of established game birds.



### The Yellow-billed Magpie of California

by George Seymour



photograph by Herb Clarke

**T**wo magpies, the Yellow-billed and Black-billed, are the only large black and white land birds in North America. Although the Black-billed Magpie is slightly larger, the only obvious difference in their appearance is bill color.

A simple way to classify them at a distance is that if you are east of the Sierra, it is probably a Black-billed Magpie, for the Yellow-billed Magpie has a limited range west of the Sierra and is found nowhere else in the world. The center of its population is in the Central Valley, and although the distance between the two narrows in places to less than 50 miles, the ranges of the two magpies do not overlap.

The range occupied by the Yellow-billed Magpie is entirely within the borders of California. It is about 500 miles long extending from Shasta County in the north to Kern County in the south. The area is less than

150 miles wide and includes some of the coastal valley south of San Francisco.

The Yellow-billed Magpie thrives on land that has been occupied and cultivated by man. It likes the open ground; grassy pastures, freshly plowed fields and the bare ground of well-kept orchards in which to forage. Much of their search for food is on the ground. In the fall they eat some acorns and certain nuts before the shells harden, but stomach examinations show about 70 percent of their diet is animal matter: grasshoppers, beetles, ants, flies and other bugs. They eat some carrion. It is not unusual, in winter months, to see them picking at the remains of a road-killed animal.

They are found in most abundance where there are long lines of tall trees bordering streambeds: great valley oaks and groves of tall eucalyptus trees in which to nest and roost. Farmlands provide year around avail-

ability of food and water for drinking and nesting.

The mild climate of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys seems to encourage an early start in nest-building. Magpies have been observed in January carrying large twigs and puttering around, either repairing old nests or starting new ones. Storms stop or delay this activity, but as the season progresses and the days begin to warm, the nesting activity increases. This is to make sure the nest is completed by egg-laying time in March.

The Yellow-billed Magpie, unlike the Black-billed, makes its nest in tall trees, usually 40 to 60 feet above the ground. Cottonwoods, sycamores and valley oaks are commonly used, particularly if the tree is infested with mistletoe. The nests are built far out on the smaller limbs. They are rather large, bulky affairs and resemble clumps of mistletoe; some are even built in mistletoe. The nest is domed over for protection from the weather. There are two entrances. The cup of the nest is made of mud and lined with fine grasses.

Both the male and female assist in nest building and both defend the nest site, driving away other birds who attempt to use it. Because of the height and precarious position of its nest, the Yellow-billed Magpie suffers little nest predation.

The male Yellow-billed Magpie is particularly attentive during courtship and nest-building, even to feeding his mate and preening her feathers. All during this period there is considerable calling and chatting, but as soon as incubation is started and when the young hatch, the nesting area becomes quiet.

The female lays from five to eight eggs. The color of the eggs varies from a pale olive buff to deep grayish olive. Some are finely and evenly speckled, others may be heavily blotched while lilac or purplish brown. The length of time for the eggs to hatch is not definitely known but it is thought to be about the same as for the Black-billed Magpie, about 18 days.

The young birds grow rapidly and before they can fly some are crowded out of the nest to perch on limbs close by. During this time the parent birds are hard pressed to feed their hungry young. Both parents can be seen flying to and from the feeding ground to the nest. Apparently the young may not immediately recognize their parents for any bird approaching the nest is greeted with an outcry of hunger and much wing-flapping. The obvious white wing patches may be an aid to attracting attention.

By the time the young are feathered out and the tail is about 4 inches long, there is more wing-flapping in preparation for their first flight. During this short period before flight, one may lose its balance and fall fluttering to the ground. The parents will continue to feed it while it is on the ground.

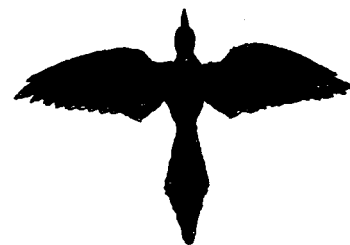
When the young leave the nest, the habit of flocking together is resumed. It is interesting to watch their appearance in early morning. The flock disperses in small groups to forage on the ground and rest in the tall trees nearby. Then, late in the day, after another feeding period, and just before sundown, they reassemble in flocks of from 20 to 50 in one tree. There is considerable exchange of positions and a din of squawking as though discussing the topics of the day. Suddenly one will dart out from the tree and the entire flock follows in a straggling line to a common roost.

The little Sparrow Hawk sometimes pesters the magpie in a tenacious attempt to take over the partially finished nest for its own use, but it is no threat to the magpie. However the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks do kill an occasional adult bird.

In years past, because of its meat-eating habits, the Black-billed Magpie was considered a serious predator on newborn lambs and calves. For many years the Department of Fish and Game was required by commission regulations to pay a bounty on them. Hunters and ranchers killed them year around. Because the magpies flock at roosting time they were an easy target.

Yellow-billed Magpies also were thought to be destructive to fruit and nuts because they foraged in large flocks in orchards. When food habit studies revealed that both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed Magpies' destructive habits were highly exaggerated, the bounty was removed and both were given the status of protected nongame birds. It is now unlawful to take any nongame bird except as provided by law.

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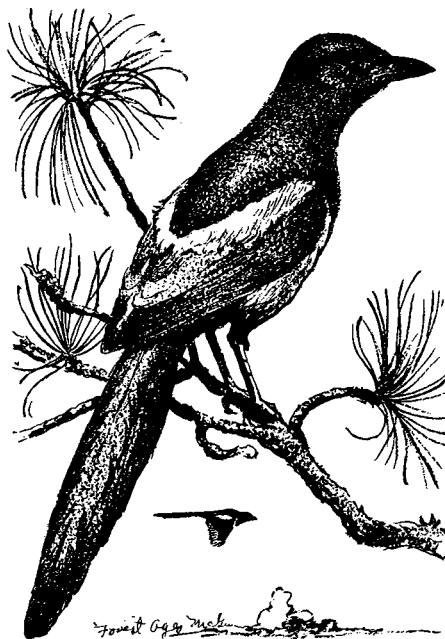
## Color-Banded Sanderling Coast Watch

Pete Myers and Cecilia Maizels want to know whether you frequent California Beaches. Because if you do, they want you to keep an eye out for color-banded Sanderlings.

Over the past seven years, The Sanderling Project at the Bodega Marine Laboratory in Bodega Bay has banded some 700 Sanderlings — about 20 percent of those which winter at Bodega Bay in central coastal California. Some tend to wander further away, however, and these banders want to know where and when.

Each marked bird carries a US Fish and Wildlife band on its right leg. In addition, they all carry one, two or three bands on each leg, usually red, yellow, green, blue or white.

If you see a marked bird, even if you don't read the colors perfectly, please record the date seen, location, color combination of bands, total number of Sanderlings searched and some estimate of how certain you were of the color code. This information should be sent to Pete Myers or Cecilia Maizels, The Sanderling Project, Bodega Marine Laboratory, PO Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.



## Books

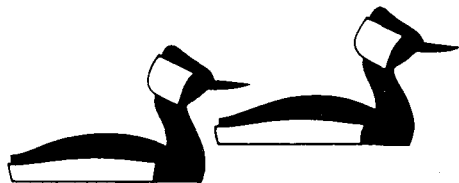
### Mono Lake Guidebook

by David Gaines and the Mono Lake Committee (Kutsavi Books, Lee Vining, CA. 113 pages). *For sale at Audubon House for \$4.95.*

This is an authoritative biography of Yosemite's backyard moonscape. It begins with a self-guided discovery tour of Mono Lake with 11 stops, and it gives geological and historical information for each one. I have known Mono for years but much was new to me. The lake and its setting are a country of wonderful contrasts and the geological history of the lake is fascinating. Mono is a living sea and though it has few species the lake is actually teeming with life and this is well described.

The book gives an account of the human history of the area and its impact on the lake. One chapter shows what has happened to both Mono and Owens Lakes since the aqueduct was first opened in 1913 and discusses the projected future of Mono. There are excellent illustrations and maps and an outstanding photographic essay of the lake and its wildlife. It shows how common-sense water use can save Mono Lake, and it behooves us to learn more about Mono Lake if we are to save it. A paradise of nature is being turned into an alkalai desert. In place of huge flocks of birds our children may inherit clouds of dust.

— Ruth Lohr



### A Celebration of the Land—Wilderness America

A record sold in support of wilderness sponsored by such groups as Greenpeace, National Audubon, the Small Wilderness Area Preservation and the Sierra Club. This record is a celebration of our place within the cycle of living things. All compositions were specially commissioned for this album and blended with natural sounds recorded in the wild. (*On sale at Audubon House for \$4.00.*)

### Notes from a Naturalist's Sketchbook

by Clare Walker Leslie (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 112 pages).

Clare Walker Leslie is a professional artist, naturalist and teacher. She has been doing illustrations for *Sanctuary*, the Massachusetts Audubon Society's monthly newsletter for two years, for which she has gained considerable following.

For some years, Leslie tells us, she has been watching nature and keeping a field journal, following the seasons and noting the subtle changes that occur throughout the year. This sketchbook is the result of her observations. They are hand-written, words interspersed with line drawings of everything Leslie observes, from a meadow vole her cat Harpo brings home to the shorebirds (Sanderlings, Black-bellied Plovers, Dunlins and Semipalmated Plovers) which show up on a crisp October day. "I find the distractions of the day ease away while watching these magnificent forms."

To encourage others to keep their own "field notes" the book provides blank pages at the back for month-by-month sketching and notations. "It is my hope that the drawings in NOTES FROM A NATURALIST'S SKETCHBOOK, by their simplicity and immediacy, will encourage others to seek out this manner of encountering the natural world . . .", says Leslie. (*Not for sale in Audubon House.*)

### Birding Guides to San Diego Available

A series of new guides, written by Claude G. Edwards, Jr., is now available. These guides are written for the beginner who may not know where in San Diego to go for birds, and also for the more experienced birder so he can enjoy some of the variety of habitats that San Diego County has to offer. These guides highlight a few of the better-known birding spots, describing their location, habitats and giving some discussion of the birds found at each place. All are complete with a detailed map and a handy checklist for that area.

Write to Claude Edwards to order your copies of the new FLIGHT guidebook, % FLIGHT Guides, 2932 Greyling Drive, San Diego, CA 92123. Presently available guides include *Buena Vista Lagoon* (50¢), *San Diego River Flood Control Channel* (75¢), *Point Loma and Vicinity* (75¢), *Silver Strand and South San Diego Bay* (50¢) and *Mission Dam and Vicinity* (75¢). Also available from Edwards for 25¢ each are a list of the productive birding spots in San Diego County and a rare birds list for the country. To order, send the amount of the books you have ordered plus one dollar (\$1) for postage and handling. More titles are in preparation and will be available soon.



### Shop LAAS Bookstore

Christmas is just around the corner and we have a good supply of books, all of which will be welcomed by your hard-to-please birding friends and relatives. Surprise them by giving the books they really want and need.

If you're not sure which books to purchase, talk it over with our bookstore staff. They've dealt with birders for years. Order now, while we have everything in stock.

#### Suggested items newly in stock

Gaines, MONO LAKE GUIDEBOOK  
Roberson, RARE BIRDS OF THE WEST COAST  
Slater, FIELD GUIDE TO AUSTRALIAN BIRDS, vol 1, NON-PASSERINES and vol 2, PASSERINES  
Abbott, A GUIDE TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION, SEASHELLS OF NORTH AMERICA  
Clarke, CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF CHILE

WILDERNESS AMERICA, A CELEBRATION OF THE LAND (a limited-edition record)

#### Additional suggestions from our backlist

Mackworth-Praed & Grant, AFRICAN HANDBOOK OF BIRDS, SERIES 1, EAST AND NORTHEAST AFRICA  
Britton, BIRDS OF EAST AFRICA  
Gallagher & Woodcock, THE BIRDS OF OMAN  
Alden & Gooders, FINDING BIRDS AROUND THE WORLD  
Weick & Brown, BIRDS OF PREY OF THE WORLD  
Berger, HAWAIIAN BIRDLIFE, 1981 edition  
Delacour & Amadon, CURASSOWS AND RELATED BIRDS  
Forshaw & Cooper, PARROTS OF THE WORLD  
Forshaw & Cooper, BIRDS OF PARADISE AND BOWER BIRDS  
Etchecopar & Hue, LES OISEAUX DE CHINE, NON PASSEREAUX  
Garrett & Dunn, BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

# Topics of Conservation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

An LA Times front-page story on October 1st was headlined:

## Proposed EPA Cuts

### Stir Fears on Environment

Anne M. Gorsuch, the new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (and a close friend of James G. Watt), is reportedly asking for a 30 percent cut in personnel in her agency. This is more than the Administration's headlong dash to a balanced budget in 1984. It is another example of fiscal castration of the undesireables. If the Department of Education offends thee, cut off its money. If OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and EPA disturb industry with indecent regulations to protect our health, fire the inspectors. Mr. Watt hates urban parks and has withdrawn money for land acquisition. A 600-acre portion of Las Virgenes-Malibu Canyon property was to have been bought for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; the funds were denied and the land sold to a developer. So take a long, farewell look at the lovely oak-savannah hills; they will soon be butchered for residential-commercial-highrise uglification.

What we are witnessing all across the country is an unprecedented assault on the environmental achievements of the last 20 years. This is not simply a reasonable challenge to possibly excessive regulation, but an attempt at surgical evisceration. (The aforesaid Ms. Gorsuch has just said that air quality has improved so much that we can relax pollution controls to help the auto makers. Great news for you smog sufferers out there.)

How do we respond to this premeditated attack? The major environmental organizations are redoubling their efforts to resist disaster in the land. National Audubon has launched a Citizens Mobilization Campaign to spread the word to all Americans that the environment is under the gun, that we must fight back. California has defeated the attempt of Interior to plant more oil platforms all along our coast. The petition to remove Secretary Watt has over a million signatures — including Doonsbury's bird-watchers of the "Maryland Audubon Society."

It seems imperative that we take greater responsibility for what is happening to our world. Not long ago it may have been possible to tell ourselves, "What the hell, I still

have room to bird or a trail to hike or my view of the mountains." Today, even the least aware of us can see that our birding spots are becoming fewer and farther between, our seashore is becoming more congested, our mountains sprouting more subdivisions. The City Park Department is seriously talking about a hotel and shops in Griffith Park! Nothing is sacred anymore.

Up to now, our track record in LA Audubon is nothing to brag about. A tiny handful of us write letters to our legislators. Last year 57 (fifty-seven) of our 4000 members contributed to the Condor Fund — an embarrassing 1.4 percent — for a total of \$1446.55. Conservation Committee meetings were discontinued when no one showed up. There are many important hearings and meetings that are not attended because we haven't enough volunteers. And so it goes. The positive achievements of LA Audubon have been the work of a small number of dedi-




cated people. They need the infusion of new energies and new ideas from the silent majority.

About the Condor Fund. It is possible that a certain amount of queasiness about captive breeding has been a factor in the drop in contributions. It must be noted, however, that National Audubon and the US Fish and Wildlife Service *are* funding the recovery program. LA Audubon's annual gift to the condor has gone for years to public education and habitat enhancement. We know that times could be better and there are many worthwhile requests for money. Yet, if every one of our members gave one dollar we would have a handsome Condor Fund.



Let's talk about letters. Most of us suffer with a sense of political impotence — "You can't fight City Hall." We think of the vast power of gigantic corporations and an entrenched bureaucracy and we say, "What difference does it make how *I* feel?" or "What good is one vote? Spit in the ocean!" On the other hand, most of us *know* that, though some 75 percent of us favor handgun control, the National Rifle Association can conjure up a million letters to defeat even lukewarm legislation. So some letters do count. It is an inflexible law of the electoral jungle that even the most entrenched politician in the safest district listens to the home folks. Any lobbyist worth his salt will tell you that the letters from the precincts carry a surprising clout. Letters from the president of an organization on official stationery are important. But individual letters or postcards — not canned or xeroxed — have the most powerful effect.

So for starters, let's try a telephone tree for letter writing. All those who are willing to write a letter once or twice a month, please stand up. The letters — or postcards — should be short, clear, in your own words and to the point. If only 10 percent of our membership, from all parts of the city, writes a letter to a Senate committee chairman or the Mayor, that's 400 letters: a lot of messages on one subject. If this appeals to you, send a note to Sandy Wohlgemuth at 19354 Calvert St., Reseda 91335. Or call 344-8531. When we get enough names we'll divide into groups — preferably within local telephone areas — and get to work. We'll pick the most urgent issues and try to have the information clarified and succinct. And if you have any other suggestions on how we can harness our latent energy, they will be most welcome.

Be daring, be experimental; let's see how it turns out. The birding spot you save may be your own. 

## Kettles of Hawks and Flurries of Warblers

by Henry E. Childs, Jr.

Oh, Hell! A week-end in Connecticut with Helen's relatives and her 45th high-school reunion, a hundred people I've never met, a dreary plane ride both ways. It was not a promising trip! Then I remembered the Tahoma Audubon Society's "Operation Nature Guide". I made a telephone call and what looked like a disaster turned into a great birding week-end. Helen had a good time, too.

For those of you not familiar with "Operation Nature Guide", this publication contains a list, by state and country, here and abroad, of people who have volunteered to provide information to birders about places to bird, or of people who will take you out to the local birding hotspots. You are, of course, expected to pay all expenses. In the last several years I've contacted a number of guides, from Fargo ND to Birmingham AL, and everyone has been extremely helpful and friendly. How else would you learn about the fantastic birding at the Fargo sewer pond?

Saturday was a cold, overcast, misty September day, conditions which would keep most California birders home. Jennie Leggett and Jerry Olson, my guides, picked me up promptly at 0800 and we were off to Station 45 and the marsh along the Connecticut River in South Windsor. It was fall warbler time and the trees were loaded. Luckily, I had reviewed the fall plumages in the Robins' *Field Guide* and so I was ready. Did the bird have wing-bars, tail spots, streaked back or eye-ring? Did it have a yellow rump or did it wag its tail? Each bird had to be checked for all these characteristics.

The first that held still long enough to be completely checked was a Black-throated Green Warbler which was an abundant bird in the flocks. Soon the blue-capped, green-backed Tennessee appeared and became the commonest bird (several hundred) seen that day. Then Northern Parula, Black and White, "Myrtle", American Redstart and a Palm wagging its tail.


Around the marsh were a variety of birds including an immature Little Blue Heron, Solitary Sandpiper and Swamp Sparrow. An Eastern Wood Pewee was still present. Cardinals and Grey Catbirds were easily seen. A strong southern movement of Blue Jays was in progress. Overhead were several Ospreys, Northern Harriers, Sharp-shinned Hawks and a pair of Red-tails. Numbers of Wood

Ducks and Mallards, Black Ducks and Green-winged Teal were in various stages of eclipse plumage. Great Black-backed and Ring-billed Gulls were along the river and Tree and Barn Swallows were migrating overhead. Fifty-three species were not too bad for a rainy day.

The next morning, the front had moved through and we were off to the Berkhamstead for a hawk watch. This is organized, scientific birdwatching that takes place along the Connecticut River in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. About ten people including Phyllis Kitchen, Edith Leopold (cousin to Aldo) and Caroline Becker of the Hartford Audubon Club, were present. We were hardly out of the car when Jennie called, "There's a kettle of 40 Broad-winged Hawks". Only later did I get up enough courage to ask what a kettle was — a circling vortex of hawks as they rise in a group on an updraft. Early on, some of the Broad-wings flew over at a hundred feet, but as the day advanced, they passed over at higher and higher elevations to several thousand feet. Most kettles contained fewer than ten birds, but we had five of between 11 and 20, four

of between 21 and 30, three of between 31 and 40 and 41 and 50, two at between 51 and 60, one at 64 and one at 100! This was a total of 950 Broad-winged Hawks in a little over four hours. Later we learned that the 200 observers some five miles east of us on the next ridge had counted 3000 and in New Jersey 13,000 were seen at one site. A lot of hawks were on the move on 20 September 1981.

Other species of hawks were seen migrating in small numbers — Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Kestrels and Turkey Vultures. A bright spot in this dull parade of Broad-wings was the sighting of six Wild Turkeys that appeared briefly at the edge of the field. This species has been reintroduced in Connecticut and is making a good comeback. A lone Chimney Swift, an immature male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Rufous-sided Towhee of the eastern, non-spotted race rounded out the day.

So, 64 species, over 1000 hawks, some exciting warbler plumages and the eastern residents made exciting birding out of what I originally envisaged as a lost week-end. I might even attend Helen's 50th reunion! 



# Birds of the Season

by Shum Suffel



By mid-September, migration had reached a fever pitch. Not only were western migrants moving through in numbers, but with them were off-course vagrants, "overshoots" from the north, and a most exciting wanderer from Mexico — a **Neotropic (Olivaceous) Cormorant** (Ken Rosenberg, 7 September) was the fourth state record, the first since 1973. It drew dozens of California birders to West Pond, near Imperial Dam, on the Colorado River, the same location as the previous three sightings. Because of the cormorant, Brock Ranch, on the way to and from West Pond, was well covered and produced another extreme rarity, an injured **Black-billed Cuckoo**, a first for Southern California and only the fifth state record.

Also at Brock Ranch were a late **Brown-crested (Wied's) Flycatcher**; one, possibly two, **Red-eyed Vireos**; two **Black and White Warblers**; an **Ovenbird**; a **Canada Warbler**; five **American Redstarts**; a **Painted Redstart**; a male "**Baltimore**" **Oriole**; and a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**. This abundance of good birds might lead one to believe that Brock Ranch was the top birding spot in the state, and in mid-September it probably was, but being an isolated oasis near the Mexican border it attracts migrants, spring and fall, and is quiet at other times. Also, on the way home was the Salton Sea, where birding has been on the dull side this summer. A nesting colony of **Double-crested Cormorants** on the late date of 11 September; a flock of 400 to 500 **White-faced Ibis** (David Koeppel, 13 September) in a flooded field (one of the largest concentrations in recent years); a **Franklin's Gull** at the south end; three **Parasitic Jaegers** and three **Sabine's Gulls** (one dead) at the north end were of exceptional interest.

The multitude of reports from the coastal slope are best summarized on a county basis. Locally (Los Angeles County) there were many reports of shorebirds as **Solitaries** and **Pectorals** became more common, with the only new species being a moulting **Red Phalarope** at Malibu on 3

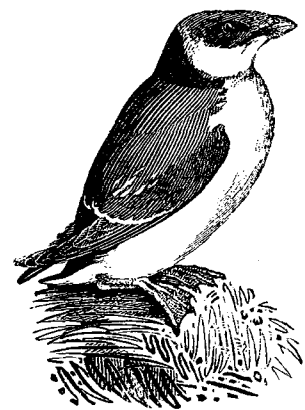
September (Jean Brandt and Sandy Wohlge-muth), and a **Ruff** in the LA River channel, Long Beach, on 6 September (John Ivanov and Jerry Johnson). There were additional reports of **White-winged Doves** in Glendale (Jewel Tuttle, 1 September), in Palos Verdes (Hal Ferris, 5 September) and at a feeder in Long Beach (Charlie Collins, 4 September). Mike San Miguel banded his second **Saw-whet Owl** on 26 September near the mouth of the Santa Anita Canyon in NE Arcadia. He previously banded his first in Duarte on 22 October 1972. There are only two other records for LA County. He also nettled a **Blackpoll Warbler** and saw a **Bobolink** the next day. Three **Purple Martins** were over central Arcadia on 31 July (Barbara Cohen) and two were seen in upper Arcadia on 4 August (Mike San Miguel). These sightings give hope that martins may still be nesting in the nearby San Gabriel Mountains.

A **Red-eyed Vireo** at Bonsall Rd., Zuma Beach (the Brodskins, 5 September), was the only LA County report this fall. Warbler reports were numerous and widespread. **Black and Whites** were at Linda Mia Ranch in the Antelope Valley (LAAS field trip, 19 September), at Pt. Fermin and Harbor Lake on 23 September (both Brian Daniels) and at Tapia Park, Malibu, the same day (Greg Hamel). Lee Jones' early morning walk down Topanga Creek on 20 September yielded a **Worm-eating Warbler** (the 15th record for Southern California) and a **Magnolia Warbler**. The "Worm-eating" stayed in a brushy tangle through the morning but the "Magnolia" could not be relocated. Three sightings of **Prothonotaries** in LA County within two weeks were unprecedented — the first in the willows at Harbor Lake (John Ivanov, 21 September), the second below the falls in Eaton Canyon, Altadena (Chuck Hamilton, *et al.*, 27 September) and the third on the UCLA Campus (Brian Opst and Pat Mock, 3-4 October). A **Tennessee** on 23 September and a male **Cape May** on 9 September were both in Long Beach Recreation Park (Brian Daniels). An early **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in Griffith Park on 7 September (Justin Russell). The **Chestnut-sided** at Harbor Lake on 22 September (Jean and Sandy) was our only local report. An **Ovenbird** at Linda Mia Ranch was enjoyed by some 50 participants on a very successful LAAS field trip on 19

September. The only local report of a **Northern Waterthrush** comes from Tapia Park (Greg Hamel, 23 September). **American Redstarts** were seen at Peck Park, San Pedro, on 23 September (Brian Daniels) and at Tapia Park, Malibu, the same day (Greg Hamel).

The spectacular male **Lichtenstein's Oriole** (undoubtedly an escapee) which was found last March at Whittier Narrows was refound on 16 September (John Schmidt). Another colorful bird, a male **Summer Tanager**, was a treat for Shirley Arora at her home in lower Mandeville Canyon. **Clay-colored Sparrows** have wintered at the Arcadia Arboretum previously, but one was seen only once (in a small flock of **Chipping Sparrows**, 23 September, Barbara Cohen).

To the north of us Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties provided many noteworthy birds. One of them was an immature **Sabine's Gull** at Carpinteria Creek on 19 September (Tom Wurster). Paul Lehman writes of confirmed nesting of **Least Bitterns** at the Santa Barbara Bird Refuge; of two **White-winged Doves** in Goleta; and of both **Eastern** and **Tropical Kingbirds** at the Bird Refuge, with another **Tropical** at Refugio State Beach. Another **Eastern Kingbird** was at McGrath State Park on 16 September (Onik Arian and Steve Rose) and a third **Tropical Kingbird** was at McGrath on 14 September (Steve Wilson). Paul's best bird was an adult **Red-throated Pipit** on the Goleta Golf Course from 9 to 11 September; most have been immatures. One or more **Red-eyed Vireos** were seen at Carpinteria



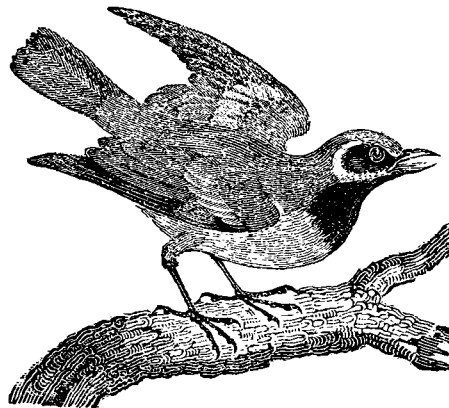
Send any interesting bird observations to:  
Shum Suffel, 1105 No. Holliston Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91104.


Creek on several occasions between 6 and 23 September. Demonstrating the coverage this area receives were six **Tennessees**, six **Virginias**, three **Blackpolls**, five **Northern Waterthrushes** and six **Redstarts**. A colorful male **Northern Parula** was found along San Jose Creek, Goleta, on 23 September (Paul Lehman). In addition, single **Mourning Warblers** (very rare here) were at Carpinteria Creek on 6 September (Donna Dittman) and at Refugio State Beach on 17 September. Big Sycamore Canyon produced a female **Black and White** and a male **Redstart** on 11 September (Hal Baxter, *et al.*) and a **Blackpoll** on 16 and 21 September (Sandy Wohlgemuth). A flock of 26 **Bobolinks** in a weedy field near Goleta was a large concentration for our coast. Single **Orchard Orioles** and **Summer Tanagers** were seen at both Goleta and Carpinteria Creek. Topping all the above birds was a flock of 30 **Pinyon Jays** which flew directly over Paul Lehman and Doug Willicks in Goleta on 19 September. Although they have been recorded from the coast before, these were definitely out of range and out of habitat.

There was also exceptional activity to the south of us. In Orange County an **Osprey** and several **Red Knots** highlighted Herb and Olga Clarke's survey of Upper Newport Bay on 26 September. Up to 17 **White-faced Ibis** were along the Santa Ana River near Anaheim in late August (Doug Willick). At least four **White-winged Doves** were noted in the county. Three **Virginia Warblers** were in the Ecology Center at Newport Harbor High School, where one wintered in '80-'81; a **Magnolia** was in Tustin (Virginia Gackenour, 12 September); a **Canada** was in Costa Mesa (Steve Ganley, 24 September) and four **Redstarts** were located between 16 and 24 September. A single **Bobolink** was at Doheny Beach (Brad Schram, 19 September).

In San Diego, **Frigatebirds** were reported off Oceanside on 22 September and near San Diego (Jack Kinsey, 13 September). The **Reddish Egret** remained in the San Diego River channel through September.

Three outstanding raptor reports were a **Broad-winged Hawk** on Pt. Lowe (Richard Webster, 17 September); a **Swainson's Hawk** near the Mexican border (Elizabeth Copper, 20 September); and a **Zone-tailed Hawk** in the latter area (Elizabeth Copper, 17 September). A **Sabine's Gull** in the San Diego Bay salt works gave us our fifth inshore (or inland) report (Dennis Parker, 26 September). **Tropical Kingbirds** were below San Diego (Claude Edwards, 23-26 September) and on Pt. Loma (Richard Webster, 26 September); and two **Red-eyed Vireos** were seen in the same area (Richard Webster and Dave Povey). **Warblers** were too numerous to itemize, but included seven **Tennessees**, four **Lucy's**, nine **Blackpolls**, six **Redstarts**, a **Yellow-throated**, a **Chestnut-sided**, a **Bay-breasted**, a **Prairie**, an **Ovenbird** and a **Canada**. In addition, an **Indigo Bunting**, a **Lark Bunting** and a **Clay-colored Sparrow** were located between 26 and 24 September.



Will this bonanza of exciting birds continue on into October? We can only hope and wait. By the time this is in print, we will have a better idea of the winter birds. The best guess is that it will be an invasion winter — the signs are good. Jan Tarble reports migrating flocks of **White-fronted** and **Canada Geese** near Shoshone, Inyo County, in mid-September. **Mountain Chickadees** and both **White-breasted** and **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were widely seen in the lowlands. Two flocks of **Cedar Waxwings** were in the Arcadia Arboretum on 26 September (Betty Vermier) and a **Lewis' Woodpecker** was at Mt. Pinos where they are not known to nest (Nancy Spear, 16 September). Yes, we'll just have to wait and hope! 



## Audubon Hires Fundraiser for Western Region

National Audubon Society has opened a development office staffed by Doug Buckmaster and his administrative assistant, Karen Robertson, at 1414 Fair Oaks Avenue, South Pasadena, CA 91030. Telephone: (213) 441-3466.

The opening of this office comes in recognition of both a need and an opportunity for fund-raising in the Western Region. In addition to an emphasis on seeking funds from foundations and corporations, Doug will be working with individuals, planning deferred gifts which have good tax advantages for donors and also benefit Audubon in the future. Doug is also available for estate planning and will preparation. Events such as auctions, an ice-cream social (with commitment from Baskin-Robbins for the ice cream), and a rock concert are in the planning stages.

## Volunteers Needed

Doug will not be working only for National Audubon, however, but will be working with the local chapters as well. At the moment, in order for local chapters to benefit most from Doug's activities, volunteers are needed to work with Doug identifying issues and prospects and gathering information for the preparation of proposals for local projects and concerns.

If working on fund-raising from the proposal stage right on up interests you, contact Jean Brandt (788-5188) or Doug Buckmaster at the South Pasadena office. In just a few hours a week you can help Los Angeles Audubon and/or National collect some of the funds that are out there; but they need to be sought out and worked on.





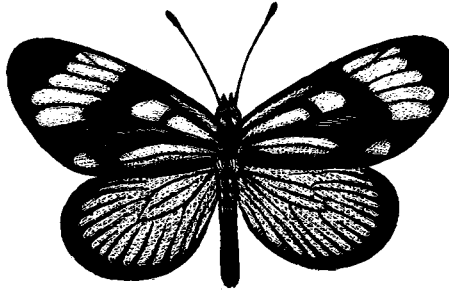
# CALENDAR

## Christmas Counts

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 — The Lancaster Count** and you're all invited. Fred Heath (828-6524).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 — The Malibu Count** once again in the able hands of Jean Brandt (788-5188) and Kimball Garrett (455-2903).

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1982 — The Los Angeles Count.** See the December Tanager for details.



**TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER — Plummer Park.** This month's 8 p.m. meeting will feature **Michael McCrary** of Cal State University Long Beach talking on "Radio-telemetry Studies on Red-shouldered Hawks." Mike will bring actual equipment to explain how radio-tracking works.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 — Bird the Ballona Wetlands** with **Bob** and **Roberta Shanman** (545-2867 after 6). Meet at 8 a.m. at the Pacific Ave. bridge. Take 90 West (Marina Fwy) to its end at Culver Blvd. Continue west on Culver; turn north onto Pacific Ave. and continue to bridge.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21 — David White** will lead a beginners' trip to **Whittier Narrows**. Meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 — Bird the Antelope Valley** with **Jon Dunn** and **Kimball Garrett**. Meet at the Lamont-Odett Overlook at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch and be prepared for cold weather!

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 — Join Sandy Wohlgemuth** to bird **Tapia Park** and **Malibu Lagoon**. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to Tapia Park. Bring lunch and prepare for a great day!

### 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 includes bird- and whale-watching trips to Monterey Bay, Monterey Seavalleys, 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.

### Audubon Bird Reports:

*Los Angeles* (213) 874-1318  
*Santa Barbara* (805) 964-8240

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.



### 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.

## WESTERN Tanager

EDITOR Mary Lawrence Test  
LAY-OUT CONSULTANT Dana Gardner

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**PRESIDENT** Jean Brandt  
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Audubon membership (local and national) is \$25 per year (individual), \$32 (family), \$15.00 (student) or \$17 (senior citizen), including AUDUBON Magazine and THE WESTERN Tanager. To join, make checks payable to the National Audubon Society, and send them to Audubon House. Subscriptions to THE WESTERN Tanager separately are \$8.00 per year (Bulk Rate) or \$12.00 (First Class, mailed in an envelope). To subscribe, make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

## Audubon Camp in the West Scholarships Offered

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is pleased to announce that scholarships to the Audubon Camp in the West are to be awarded again this year. We received glowing reports from our 1981 campers and we hope to have equally enthusiastic scholarship recipients in 1982.

If a two-week ecology workshop in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming would be of significant value to you in your work or schooling, write to the Scholarship Committee, Audubon House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046, for a camp folder and an application blank, or call 876-0202. A member of the Committee is at Audubon House on Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

All applicants must be 18 or over by July of 1982; applications must be received by January 15.