

WESTERN TANAGER

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Field Notes:

The Red-tailed Hawk

by Jon Dunn
and Kimball Garrett

The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is easily the most common and widespread large raptor in southern California, but its seemingly endless plumage variations still leave many observers baffled. In this article we will discuss some of the variation in this species and suggest some field marks which should serve to identify virtually all individuals.

Before our discussion of the Red-tailed Hawk, we will provide a brief synopsis of our other regular *Buteo* species; most of these species are also quite variable, so the following is just a rough guide. See *Birds of Southern California* by Garrett and Dunn for a summary of the status and distribution of these species.

Broad-winged Hawk — Similar to a Red-tail in shape, but *much* smaller. Tail broadly banded. Adults barred with reddish below. Immatures generally quite white below with a distinct malar stripe.

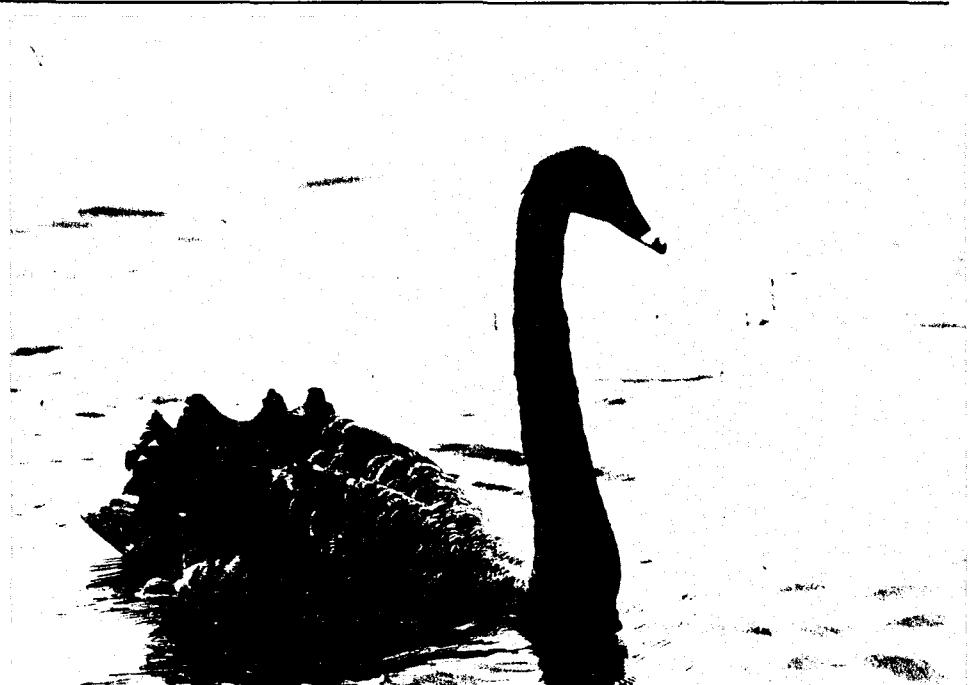
Red-shouldered Hawk — Flight feathers boldly barred or checkered; much rufous in plumage. Slimmer body and longer tail than Red-tails; rapid wing-beats.

Swainson's Hawk — See March 1976 *Western Tanager*. More falcon-like shape; wings held in slight dihedral. Contrasting pale wing linings on most birds.

Ferruginous Hawk — Mostly white uppersurface of the tail. Long wings held well forward and in a slight dihedral. Dark "leggings" on adult. Pale face.

Rough-legged Hawk — Variable black belly patch (beware of superficially similar Red-tails). Pale head. In flight, wings appear long with bold black "wrist" mark on underside. White-based tail with variable dark band(s) near tip.

The Red-tail is the standard *Buteo* of our area. In many areas it is the only member of its genus present in summer, and it generally



Black Swan

photographs by Herb Clarke

Birding at Work Australia

by Pamela Conley

As an International Flight Attendant, fellow birding friends often say to me, "My, what a long life list you must have being able to travel to all those exotic and exciting places". Actually, my husband has often laughed at my sketchy but unusual life list. When birders take off on a jet plane, they usually have several weeks to spend birding intensively and come back with an endless list of birds, sunburn and maybe a few more mosquito bites. Usually, if I'm lucky, I'll have a day or two at the most in one place and sometimes only 12 hours. When we do get to a rest stop that is what we want to do most at that time — REST. What with time changes, 16-hour duty days, flying all night, all I want to do is take off my shoes and go to bed.

Birders on vacation usually take off with their cameras, binoculars, tripod, telescope

and at least ten field manuals. Try and pack all you need to look glamorous and add your binoculars, camera, and at least two field manuals to one small suitcase, one garment bag, and one purse and you might have some idea why I hate to pack for a trip. My union has not negotiated porters for us and we still have to carry everything to and from the airport. Forget that souvenir sheepskin this trip I sigh to myself.

But besides being a tired flight attendant with sore feet, I am also one of those crazy birders who will try anything to see new birds. I've often wondered if I'm the only birder in the world at times. No one I know in my profession shares this joy and sometimes I must admit I feel like a misfit. Many times I'll be sitting on the crew bus headed for the airport and we will pass a great flock of water birds. Instinctively I have yelled out

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Birding at Work

"Stop the bus", only to receive some grim frowns and rather unpleasant comments. I now sit by the window intently looking out with my hand over my mouth. The rest of the world really does think that all birdwatchers are little old ladies in tennis shoes.

Occasionally, I will rally to a great cause. The Hawaii Audubon often has field trips and I decided to go on one Sunday morning. I arrived in Honolulu at midnight and got up at 6:00 A.M. It was a marvelous day filled with many surprises and some new birds. We visited the Red Footed Booby (*Sula sula rubrides*) nesting colony and I added to my list a European Wigeon (*Anas penelope*), Ricebird (*Lonchura punctulata*), and White Capped Noddy (*Anous minutus*). However, the day continued on until 7:00 P.M. and when I got back to the hotel, I just had enough time to take a shower and get ready to go to the airport to fly home all night. It was one of the longest nights of my life.

Looking through my international bird list, I must laugh when I come to my Guam birds which consists of one bird — the Guam Rail (*Rallus owstini*). I saw it during a storm after having been up all night flying. A few friends and I rented a car and drove around the island. The Guam Rail was the only bird I saw all day and I eventually had to go the Audubon House and look up the bird in **The World Book of Rails**.

I flew for over a year to New Zealand and Australia, landing at night and leaving 12 hours later in the morning before I had any long layovers there. Always in hope to see just one new bird, I would peer out the crew bus window in the morning heading back to



Crimson Rosella

the airport. My list of birds in Auckland for one year consisted of Pied Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*), Southern Black Backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*), Red-billed Gull (*Larus scopulinus*), which was enhanced by a White-faced Heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*), on one occasion and to my thrill a huge flock of South Island Pied Oystercatchers (*haematopus finschi*). Eventually, I was able to get a longer layover in Auckland and on one trip visited the wine country north of Auckland. On that trip, I was able to see the green countryside and add the strange but interesting Pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*), the only Harrier (*Circus approxi-*

mans) in New Zealand, and to my great excitement a Shining Cuckoo (*Chalcites lucidus*) harassing a Grey Warbler (*Gerygone igata*).

Australia is a birder's paradise and the place I most like to layover. My first long layover, I visited the Botanical Gardens, five blocks from where we stay. In two short hours, I had seen many of the common birds and was on such a high when I left to get ready to fly back to Hawaii. Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*) are just a few that were new to me. But I'll never forget the strange tropical sounds the Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*) makes. The Restless Flycatcher (*Myiagra inquieta*) appears restless as he flitters a round. My eyes almost popped out of my head when I saw my first jazzy Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) and to make my day complete, I saw a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*) fly overhead. Since then, I have had several days in Sydney and have taken the Harbor cruise, where a birder can pick up a few more interesting water birds and also, see what I consider to be the most beautiful harbor in the world.

One of my biggest problems in different countries is transportation to the birding spots. To rent a car by myself is too expensive and the thought of driving on the left hand side of the road is terrifying to me since I am always driving off the road at home while looking at birds. However, I have found that taking tours on nice luxury buses can enable me to see quite a lot of birds without taking a chance behind a wheel. The only problem with this solution is that I've learned to be fast.

Laughing Kookaburra



One day, I took a cruise of the Hawkesbury River and tour of Sydney, Palm Beach, and the Ku ring gai National Park. The bus only stopped for a short while at each stop. When the bus stopped at the Bahai Temple and everyone went in to visit it, I birded the grounds in a short 20 minutes. I saw a family of Red Wattlebirds (*Anthochaera carunculata*), Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*), and two Noisy Friarbirds (*Philemon corniculatus*). While driving down a winding road to Palm Beach, everyone was looking at the view while I had my eyes on a Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) and swifts overhead. We stopped at a Wildlife Sanctu-

and an Australian Gannet (*Morus serrator*). When this day was over I felt that I had been on a marathon race but the excitement of what I had seen lasted for weeks.

Another bus trip that I took out of Sydney was to the Blue Mountains. Unfortunately, it was raining and so cloudy we could hardly see anything. However, when we stopped for lunch, one of my adventurous friends and I took off in the rain to take the steepest railroad in the world to the bottom of a very steep canyon. The habitat there is very dense and there are trails leading to a waterfall. We had 30 minutes before we had to be back on the bus. We arrived back at the bus late and soaked



Black-backed Magpie

ary in the Ku ring gai National Park. Everyone was rounded up and taken inside to see a short 15-minute movie on the wildlife of Australia and then given a short 15 minutes to visit the grounds. I managed to sneak out of the movie and strike off on my own and was I ever glad I did. I saw two Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*), and Crimson Rosellas (*Platycercus elegans*), all at the feeders outside. At the pond I hurriedly added to my list Chestnut Teal (*Anas castanea*), Australian Wood Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*), Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), and Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*). I even managed to see a family of Wallabies hopping by. On the Hawkesbury cruise, I saw Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*)

to our skins. However, our adventure had been worth it because we had seen King Parrots (*Alisterus scapularis*), Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*), and Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cuculus pyrrophanus*).

As you can see, there are a lot of misconceptions about being a birder and the glamour of flying as a flight attendant. Besides suffering from jet lag and sore feet most of the time, I have had to learn to ignore disapproving remarks and raised eyebrows from my fellow employees. I've had to learn how to pack a suitcase exceptionally well to fit all the necessary equipment to bird and leave room for the hairdryer too. Combining my job and birding does have its hazards but it does have its advantages too. You see, I just added a New Zealand Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*) to my life list. ☺

Make A Difference

Your opinions matter! All political insiders agree that letters to public officials are far more influential than the average person thinks. If we accept this judgement of the experts, why not take advantage of it? LA Audubon has started a letter-writing program to help produce a flurry of letters when we feel strongly about important environmental issues.

Over 50 people have signed up for this project and have already begun writing. A good start, but the more the merrier. You will be notified by telephone, given a succinct statement of the issue and told where to write. We ask for one or two letters a month — short, to the point, and in your own words. If you want to join up, call Sandy Wohlgemuth at 344-8531 or write to him at 19354 Calvert St., Reseda 91335. Make a difference!

Shop LA Audubon Bookstore

Despite the fire at Audubon House, Bookstore activities are back in full swing. Don't forget to visit our new headquarters to buy any gifts you need during the months of March and April. The April *TANAGER* will include an updated list of books available at the bookstore.

Crested Pigeon



Topics of Conservation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

When did it all start? Our prehistoric ancestors were the underdogs, the persecuted minority. Inferior in tooth and claw, these naked apes survived by evasion and luck. The passage of thousands of years brought tools and fire and cunning and cooperation in the hunt. Though the forests and jungles of the world still teemed with fierce and awesome creatures, man attained a rough kind of equality: he could kill as well as be killed. He respected his mighty adversaries, painting their pictures on the walls of his caves or chiseling their likenesses into the living rock. No one is sure why. Was it a tribute to the power of the beasts or a stroke of magic to protect him from harm and assure his success in the hunt? The American Indian's feeling of oneness and brotherhood with the animals that sustained him suggests the idea of sharing the world, of communal rights of all living things to the land.

We leave the Stone Age and witness the spread of agriculture and cities and civilizations. The philosophical bedrock of Western culture is the bible where man becomes the center of all things. He was given dominion over all the beasts of the field and this powerful affirmation became part of the unchallenged assumptions of Western man.

The mental baggage of Europe was readily transplanted to the New World. In the presence of such a vast, incredibly lush continent it must have been impossible not to feel that Nature was inexhaustible. How could anyone believe that 60 million buffaloes grazing the prairies would not last forever? How could anyone in the early 19th century foresee the noble bison reduced to a pitiful handful a mere hundred years later? So Americans, if they thought about it all all, applauded the exploits of the buckskin-clad scouts who could kill dozens of buffaloes in a single day. Today many of us are shocked to learn that Audubon and most of the early ornithologists did their birding at one end of a gun. Yet these men made pioneering studies of wildlife — with no sense of guilt for their methods — and opened a new continent for biological science. The ecological horror story of the demise of the passenger pigeon is too familiar to repeat, but that tragedy was caused by an innocent acceptance of the unexamined ethic of the times.

In the last quarter of this century we no longer can plead ignorance. Though doubtlessly hawks are still being shot and hung on fences here and there in rural America, it is no longer the accepted, unquestioned thing to do to "chicken hawks". Most country people or ranchers are educated and know that the majority of our raptors are excellent



rodent predators and therefore valuable. (Besides, most chickens are raised in tiny cages nowadays with computerized efficiency, far from the reach of foxes, weasels and accipiters.)

Though we can no longer plead ignorance, many of us are still ignorant, or selfishly uncaring. There are still hunters who will shoot anything that moves — including California condors. Developers move heaven and earth (and legislators) to expropriate our few remaining wetlands. And now, at the insistence of special interests, government agencies are considering the re-establishment of Compound 1080 in our grasslands to kill coyotes.

Compound 1080 is a chemist's dream creation. It is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, stable, non-volatile, water-soluble, super-lethal nerve poison. It is safe to handle and doesn't even irritate the skin. It is sodium monofluoroacetate, a relatively simple synthetic chemical. It was the one thousand eightieth substance tested for the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a rodenticide during World War II. Rats accept it readily; it works fast and is the only poison that will give almost complete eradication of all rats in a given location. Who could ask for anything more! Well, someone did. It was decided to try it against coyotes that preyed upon livestock on our vast range-land — and it worked! Cheaper and more efficient than trapping or shooting, it did a beautiful job sprinkled neatly on a lamb carcass. The only hitch was, it killed thousands of "non-target" animals: badgers, foxes, bobcats, opossums, raccoons, vultures, eagles and pet dogs. After being used for decades, it was banned for use on federal lands by the Environmental Protection Agency under President Nixon in 1972.

With the new administration's holy war on regulations hampering business, the grazing folk began early to weep nostalgically for good old Compound 1080. In August 1981, the EPA held hearings on 1080 in Denver and Washington, DC. The National Wool Growers Association and the livestock groups claimed \$200-million losses to predators — mostly coyotes. This figure is highly suspect. Other sources have estimated the loss at somewhere between \$20 million and \$100 million. There is certainly the possibility that lambs dying of natural causes are subsequently

eaten by other animals. Since most sheep graze unattended there is little accurate monitoring and a lot of creative guesswork involved.

A word about the villain in the case. The coyote — sometimes called "the prairie wolf" — is a 30-lb carnivore, tough, resourceful, kind to his family. Whether we like it or not he is a natural part of the ecosystem where ever he may be. He is a most efficient rodenticide (without harmful side-effects), taking great numbers of rabbits, gophers and ground squirrels. One wonders how much grassland would be left for the livestock to fatten on if all the coyotes were to vanish overnight and the rodents got a long free ride. But the persistent coyote will always be with us. He is too smart to eat a carcass with a dead coyote lying alongside it, and he is notoriously shy of baited steel traps. The long years when 1080 was lavishly used seemed to make scarcely a dent in his numbers.

The sheep people have been hurting economically for a long time. They've been faced not only with wool imports and the increased use of synthetic fibers but the diminished American appetite for lamb chops. There were 50 million sheep in 1940 and there are only 13 million today. The ranchers claim there is an emergency, an increase in predation that only 1080 will check. Others deny the increase and say there are ecologically more reasonable ways of controlling predators. *Time* magazine (June 1, 1981) reported the successful use of several breeds of large European sheep dogs in 24 states. "Almost at once, sheep losses have been sharply cut, surprising even skeptical ranchers." *Time* quotes a wildlife biologist who says, "Ninety percent of the ranchers rate the dogs as good to excellent . . . These dogs are three times as big as coyotes. One on one the dog always wins."

Robert Jantzen, the new Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has requested EPA to re-register 1080. New hearings have been called for by Anne Gorsuch, Administrator of the EPA, for consideration of lifting the ban. Ms. Gorsuch is an old friend of James Watt and is strongly influenced by him. Watt's Mountain States Legal Foundation represented the grazing interests in the courts against government regulations, particularly of the EPA and the Department of the Interior, which he now heads. Nathaniel Reed, the Republican Assistant Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Nixon and Ford says, "All hell will break loose if toxic poison 1080 is allowed on the pretext of an 'emergency'. . . . Poisoning non-target animals . . . is bad wildlife management. A return to 1080 will neither eliminate the coyote, nor improve the wool-growers' fortunes, but it will devastate the lands." Amen.

A letter to President Ronald Reagan (The White House, Washington D.C. 20500) briefly expressing your opposition to lifting the ban on 1080 will be helpful. ☮

Notable Sightings

by Dorothy Dimsdale

Let's face it, most of my notes, made at birds sightings, would not be acceptable to the AOU. Here, for example, are a couple of excerpts which, I hasten to add, have been recently rewritten:

Hermit Thrush — *Hylocichla guttata*. Eyes open sideways on.

Sprague's Pipit — *Anthus spragueii*. Eyes like Mesa. Peers like old Mrs. Youd. I can only add that if you knew Mrs. Youd, you'd know exactly how that bird appeared.)

I started note-taking after a frustrating morning of re-reading notes I had made (before I was a birder) on a two-month vacation in Mexico. I found intriguing mention of "orange, black and green birds" (was that one, or three different species?) and those with "trailing plumes" (Magpie Jay or some kind of Tropicbird?). It drove me crazy trying to remember what on earth I could have seen. Then I decided that in future I would take note of absolutely *everything*.

Even with great care it's possible to miss a crucial field mark. The Sprague's Pipit is a case in point. With great good fortune, we had been able to scope the bird and look

closely at it for nigh on 45 minutes and I took down (I thought) every feature. Later, for a further check, I opened Godfrey's *Birds of Canada* only to find the first sentence under Sprague's Pipit reads: 'Hind toenail longer than that of Water Pipit.' I just hadn't even *thought* of checking the hind toenail! It just goes to show, you can't be too careful.

Sometimes the notes are fun to make, as when recording bird behavior. I had a letter from friends in Pine Cove recently, who wrote: "One day when a dozen or so Pygmy Nut hatches came to the feeder where the male Flicker was pecking out suet, we saw him make threatening moves towards them and finally remove one of the tiny creatures by picking it up in his beak then releasing it unhurt. We scarcely believed our eyes till we watched him dispose of a second bird in the same manner." Now that's a sight I'd love to have witnessed.

So far, I've made almost no attempt to make notes on bird song. It's just too difficult for me to transcribe the notes into any sense after having forgotten how the bird actually sounded. In fact, I'm still trying to differentiate between "chip, chip" and 'tzip, tzip'. In any case, bird behavior and bird song, separately or together, is not necessarily what it appears.

Apparently the Carib Grackle, *Quiscalus lugubris*, of the West Indies, is one bird

which makes precisely the same call to indicate "Come here" to a female and "Go away" to a rival, which could cause pandemonium in a happy household. However, an astute field investigator, R. Haven Wiley, reported in *New Scientist* that he has discovered that there is a difference in the bird's stance. While giving this call, the bird raises its wings and bill in unison and bobs up and down gently on the branch, BUT if it means "Go away" the angle of its bill is raised slightly higher than its wings, and if it means "come here" the reverse is operative. This dual purpose call also has the advantage, assuming that the surrounding birds are familiar with it, that at one and the same time the Grackle can attract females and repel rivals even before they are in sight. This may not have any significance for you and me, but it makes a heckuva difference to another Carib Grackle. It would also mean taking very careful field notes if one were to encounter this bird.

I guess one should always be on the lookout for the unexpected. The other day, birds far from my mind, I opened my copy of *The Wine Merchant* to read that a small volume of Zambian wine poems has recently been translated into English. It is entitled, "Your Spoonbill Has Just Expectorated in My Trockenbeerenauslese". After that there's absolutely *nothing* I can add. ☺

Catalina Eagle Update: Potential Colony Exists

The Catalina Conservancy's multi-year project to reintroduce bald eagles to the island has been successful beyond all expectations. Catalina now has the potential for a breeding colony of bald eagles with a current population of ten birds.

Two of the 12 eagles introduced as fledglings in 1980 and 1981 are gone. One left the

island for the mainland soon after fledging in the Fall of 1980. The other was killed in September 1981 near the Isthmus. The person who shot the eagle has been apprehended and is awaiting trial and a potentially serious fine and/or term of imprisonment.

This last, senseless act by man is the sole problem encountered in the program to

date.

The ten remaining eagles are flying throughout Catalina's airspace and seem to have adopted the island as their home. The birds are foraging easily and likely have begun fishing along the coastline.

No further introduction of new eagles is planned. The ten birds may be enough to form a self-sustaining colony.

With continued luck, nesting, pairing and breeding should begin as the birds reach maturity in 1984 and 1985.

Dave Garcelon, who originated and supervised the project to the completion of the introduction phase in September, has left to attend the University of Minnesota where he will conclude his graduate studies.

Reintroducing bald eagles to Catalina may seem to some a small concern. Yet the Catalina Conservancy believes it represents in a major way their responsibility to the island.



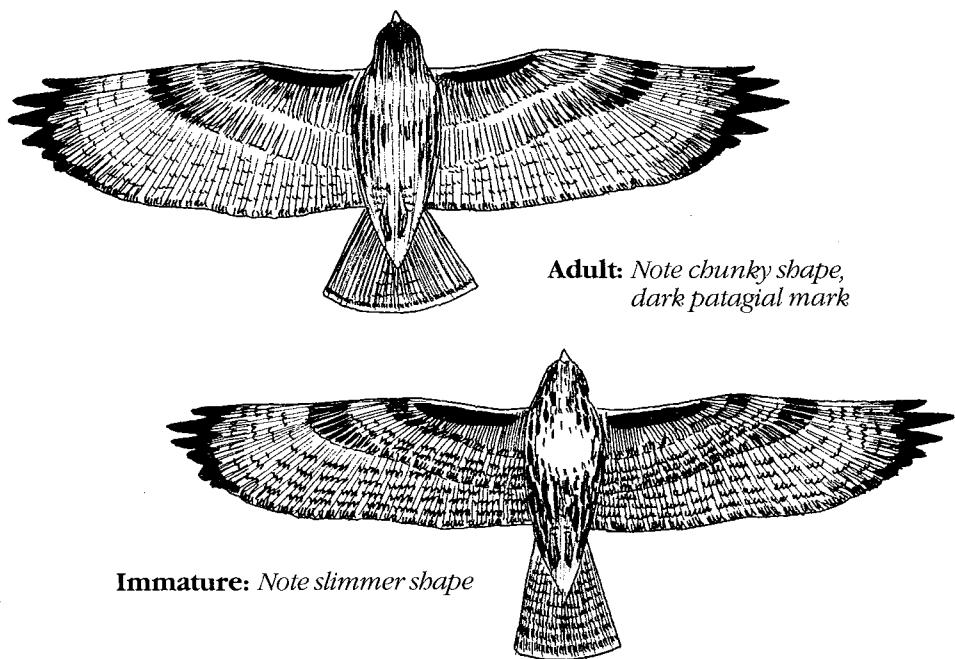
Field Notes:

greatly outnumbers all other species in winter. One should therefore get into the habit of studying very carefully any *Buteo* that is suspected not to be a Red-tail. Red-tails breed in almost any habitat which provides suitable nest sites (trees or cliffs). They do tend to shun some of the major agricultural valleys (e.g., Imperial and Colorado River Valleys) in summer. A large influx of more northerly birds occurs in winter.

Red-tailed Hawks have a very wide distribution (which includes much of Eurasia if the closely related European Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) is considered the same species). In North America there is a geographical cline of increasing frequency of dark individuals to the west. A very pale prairie form, *krideri*, is mostly white below and very pale-tailed. The dark *harlani* race (breeding in subarctic western Canada and Alaska) is blackish; the adults have a mottled or longitudinally streaked dusky tail (with much whitish toward the base). In our western race of the Red-tail (*B. j. calurus*) there are a variety of darker morphs, almost all of which have a distinct reddish ("erythristic") tint to the plumage. Some paler birds have a tawny or cinnamon tint through the underparts. Very rarely are western Red-tails really black. A small fraction of a percent of individuals show extensive leucism (excessive white in the plumage). Even pure albinos are occasionally noted. (See drawing for examples of variants.)

Immature Red-tails (in their first year) lack the reddish tail of the adults; their gray-brown tails are narrowly barred with blackish. They tend to be more mottled than adults on the underparts — there is often extensive dark on the belly. (See drawings.)

At this point we should ask whether there are any common field marks which run through all of this variation. Since the vast majority of southern California *Buteos* are Red-tails, it is helpful to be able to identify the species at a quick glance. The reddish tail instantly identifies the adult, of course. But what about when the red isn't visible, or when the bird is immature? The following characters should be borne in mind:



Shape: Red-tails are chunky and broad-winged, even for a *Buteo*. But beware of immature Red-tails, which are noticeably slimmer in appearance; they look slimmer-winged and longer, slimmer-tailed. (See drawings.) This gives them a shape more like some of the other *Buteos* and is a frequent source of confusion. It is important to remember that flight silhouettes may differ considerably between immatures and adults in many groups of raptors.

Patagial mark: Note the dark mark along the leading edge of the underwing coverts shown in the drawings. This "patagial mark" is present on virtually all individuals (although it may be obscured in individuals with very dark plumage). This mark should instantly identify your bird as a Red-tail.

Adult: Note chunky shape, dark patagial mark

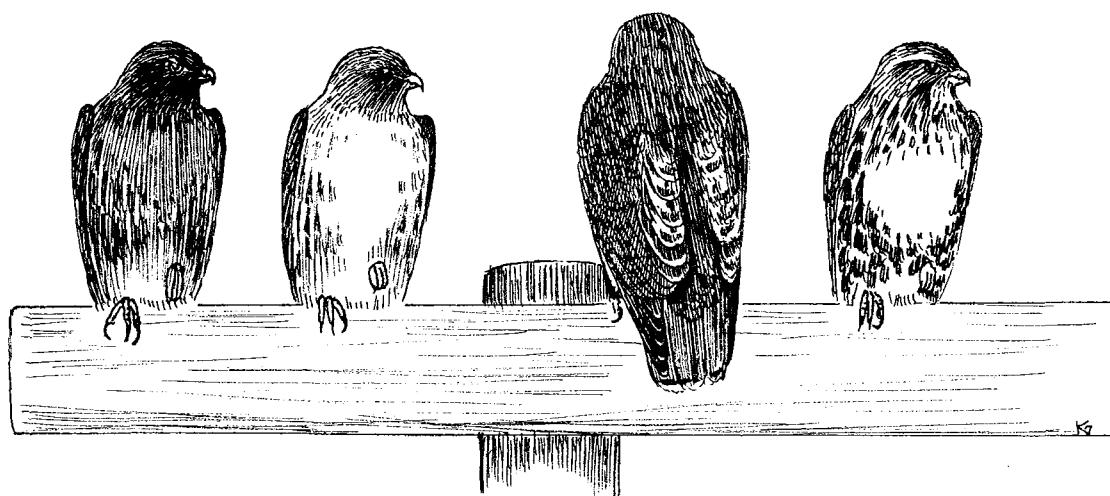
Immature: Note slimmer shape

Dark hooded effect: Adults of western populations tend to look dark-headed. This "hood" contrasts with the lighter breast in all but the darkest individuals. This is an easy way to distinguish Red-tails from Ferruginous or Rough-legged Hawks (which may have somewhat similar patterns on the underparts but look pale-headed).

Light scapular patches: The pale brownish or whitish patches on the scapulars (toward the sides of the back on the sitting bird) are variable, but diagnostic in the Red-tail. These patches should instantly identify almost all sitting birds from the dorsal view. (See drawing.)

These hints should help the observer rapidly identify almost all Red-tails, and make the task of picking out a different species much easier. ☺

Plumage variation in sitting Red-tailed Hawks; three adults and (right) immature. Note "hooded" effect of adults and (variable) light patches on dorsal plumage.





Hands-on Training for Condor Workers

Condor researchers report that field work in the past six months has been primarily directed toward final preparations for trapping condors and regular observations of key condor activity areas.

The highest priority has been to trap and radio Turkey Vultures, to increase the trapping experience of the CRC staff working together as a team and to evaluate the characteristics of the telemetry system within the condor range.

On 20 November they report catching an adult Turkey Vulture near Lake Casitas in Ventura County in a flawless performance of the cannon net set-up. The bird was fitted on its right wing with a radio transmitter that is powered by sunlight and weighs only 40 grams. The bird was docile during handling, although it nipped and bit when it could.

The Turkey Vulture was released, whereupon it flew to its roost and nibbled at the new object on its wing. It did not seem hampered by the transmitter, nor was the bird ostracized by the other birds it joined. The bird has been wintering in the Paso Robles area.

On 1 December, these researchers trapped and radioed two more Turkey Vultures near Lake Casitas; these birds also returned to their roost after capture and appeared to have suffered no ill effects. All three birds are currently being tracked from the ground and using an airplane.

The CRC staff has also taken day-trips to the Los Angeles and San Diego zoos to gain further experience handling large vultures. At the LA Zoo, staff members each took a turn restraining L.A.'s resident California Condor, Topa Topa; blood was drawn for routine testing and karyotyping. King Vultures proved harder to handle than did Topa Topa.

At the San Diego Zoo, staff veterinarian Ensley provided training on the proper procedures for handling large vultures and condors, for the CRC staff. He discussed precautions to take during handling and signs of stress in the birds. Researchers also visited the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

In October, CRC staff members, with permission, entered inactive condor nest sites to verify usage and collect egg-shell fragments for analysis.

Summer Tours to Costa Rica and Peru



Dan Guthrie, President of the Pomona Valley Audubon Society will lead two trips this summer. The first, to **Costa Rica**, will be from June 23-July 12 and should cost about \$1600. The second, to **Peru**, will run from July 19 to August 12 and will cost about \$2300. In both cases, the price includes airfare, all travel and accommodations and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of all meals. Both trips are natural history tours, with an emphasis on birds (about 250 non U.S. birds in Costa Rica including Quetzal, and about 500 non-U.S. birds in Peru, including Condor, Flamingos, Penguins and Cock-of-the Rock). Last year we saw 700 species in one month. Group size will be about 18. Trips will be run to accommodate persons of any age, and ample free time will be allowed for exploration and visits to archeological sites and local markets (Machu Picchu and the Nasca patterns are included in the Peru trip; egg laying of green sea turtles and sloths and monkeys are seen in Costa Rica). For further information on these tours and a detailed itinerary, contact Dan Guthrie c/o Joint Science Dept. Claremont Colleges, Claremont, Ca. 91771 or (714) 621-4000. (LAAS cannot be responsible for any information printed here or for anyone undertaking this trip.)

The Cougar Doesn't Live Here Anymore

The Grizzly Bear, Ursus horribilis, the symbol of California on our state flag, was hunted to extinction in 1922, the same year that saw the disappearance of the California Wolf. The California Jaguar was already extinct, leaving only the California Mountain Lion (also known as the Cougar, Puma, Catamount or Painter) in his domain.

Thanks to his secretive nature, the Mountain Lion was able to survive the onslaught of man, who killed about 13,000 Cougars between 1907 and 1963, for bounty.

The bounty was lifted in the summer of 1963 and the California Mountain Lion became an unprotected animal anyone was free to shoot. In 1969, the Cougar gained "big game status" and 90 of them were bagged for the cost of a 50¢ tag (4000 of which were sold that year). The Cougar might remain in California, it was estimated, in numbers approximating 600.



The Committee to Save the California Mountain Lion, a grassroots coalition, was able to sponsor a Mountain Lion Protection Bill and fought in Sacramento for a ten-year moratorium on killing Mountain Lions. The people proved to be overwhelmingly in favor of protecting the California Mountain Lion.

California Fish and Game started studies to count the remaining resident Cougars; they came up with a highly disputed 2400 total. Some people estimated much lower: only

1000 with about 300 breeding females to replace losses.

The ban on killing Cougars runs out at the end of 1982. Mountain Lions will once again be hunted legally in California unless, once again, the people express their support of the moratorium on killing.

The Coalition to Save the California Mountain Lion, founded in 1971, operates as an affiliation of groups and individuals interested in preserving the Mountain Lion for the future. They are located at 345 So. McDowell Rd., Suite 330, Petaluma, CA 94952. They are selling bumper stickers that say "Let Cougars Live" at \$1.00 each (75¢ each for lots over 100).

The Mountain Lion Coalition needs support from the grassroots once again in 1982. Please contact members of the State Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee and urge them to support Senate Bill 1333 — to renew the moratorium on killing Cougars. For further information on how you can help, the Coalition can be reached at (707) 762-3644.

Sea to Sierra Workshops Offered

A post Asilomar and two one-week summer workshops are being offered by Audubon's Western Education Center. These trips, focusing on issues across California, are being offered in cooperation with Yosemite Institute and make use of their facilities in the San Francisco area and at Yosemite.

The workshops start at Yosemite Institute's Headlands Campus in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. National Audubon and Yosemite Institute staff will be leading the workshops; there will be several talks by guest speakers. The first part of the week will be spent visiting sites dealing with prime agricultural land, the politics and philosophy of agriculture and the challenges of an urban environment. Time will also be spent on the natural history of the area and enjoying a night out in San Francisco.

Midweek, the group will spend the day crossing California to Yosemite, including a transect of the Delta with a focus on water issues and a visit to a wildlife refuge. In Yose-

mite National Park, the group will stay at Yosemite Institute's Crane Flat campus. There will be an opportunity to study some of the Sierran streams proposed for low head hydro development and discussions of the wilderness ethic and the problems facing wilderness. The trip will culminate with dinner at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite Valley. Participants will return to the Bay Area the following day.

The post Asilomar workshop is Tuesday, April 6 through Sunday, April 11 and costs \$275 per person. The summer workshops, one week each, July 25 to 31 and August 1 to 7, will include additional time studying the ecology of San Francisco Bay and a trip to Mono Lake; the fee is \$350 per person. Accommodations are dormitory style; towels and sleeping bags are to be provided by participants. There is excellent food at both facilities. One or two units of credit is available at \$40 per unit.

For more information and an extensive itinerary, contact the Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920. (IAAS cannot be responsible for information given here nor for any individual undertaking such a course.)

Mono Lake Update: Trouble Ahead

When the California Gulls return this spring, Mono Lake will be 18 inches lower and about two percent saltier than it was in 1981. Fourteen thousand gulls, 35 percent of the entire nesting population, will find their Twain Islet sanctuary connected to the mainland. They will find coyote tracks around last year's nests. They will find the mummified remains of the 25,000 chicks that starved to death last year.

According to the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power (DWP), there is nothing to worry about. Chief Aqueducts Engineer Duane Georgeson told a Los Angeles ABC television audience that "the ecosystem at Mono Lake is doing well . . . the brine shrimp are doing fine, the gulls are doing fine, the . . . migratory birds which visit the lake are also doing fine . . ."

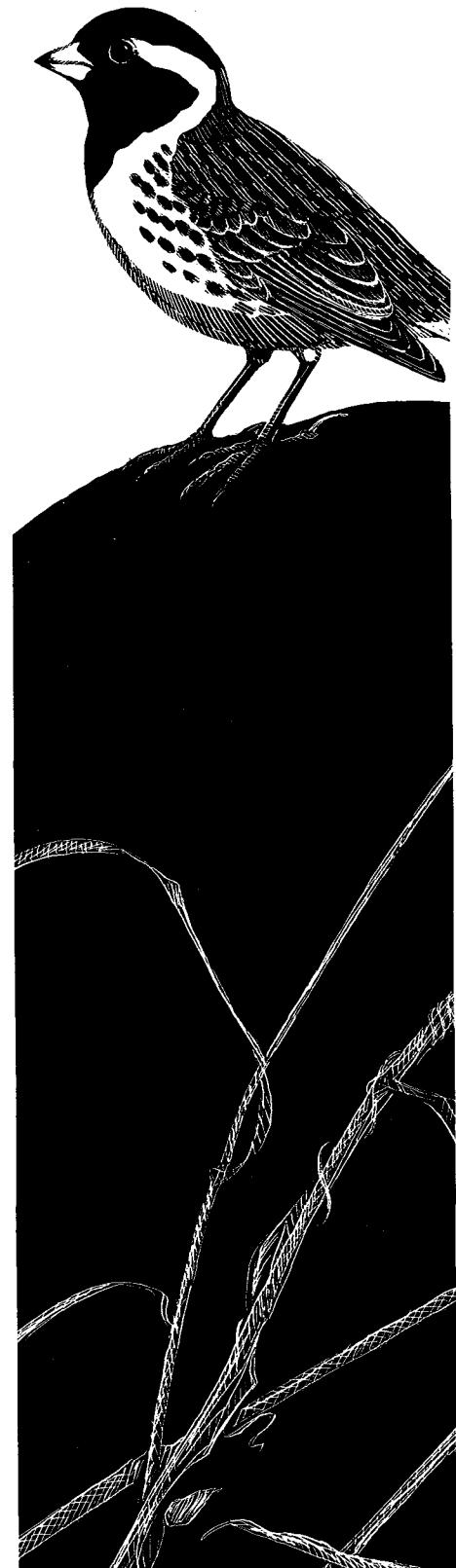
The truth includes an unprecedented decline in brine shrimp numbers over the past

three years. First Negit Island and now Twain Islet are connected to the mainland. Most ducks have disappeared. There is a dearth of brine flies. The alkali dust storms are fierce.

Efforts on behalf of Mono Lake are being redoubled in the Los Angeles area with the adding of three dedicated staff members, Joe Marek and David and Barbara Tekemoto-Weerts, working overtime out of an expanded LA office. They will be pushing for a moratorium on Mono Basin water diversions at least until the brine shrimp recover and gulls are again able to raise their young.

Meanwhile, the Lee Vining crew is girding for another gull disaster year. They will be maintaining a predator-watch and, if brine shrimp fail, attempting to furnish the gulls with supplemental food.

The future of Mono Lake depends on all of us. To help out, call (213) 477-8229.



Birding Santee Lakes, San Diego County

by Claude Edwards, Jr.

Birding at Santee Lakes can be an enjoyable and productive adventure almost any time of the year. Since the lakes are open only certain days of the week, the birds and habitat are allowed to get used to having people around, and this results in our getting better looks at certain water birds that might otherwise be more sensitive. Each "lake" has its own feel, depending on what kind of shore it has, whether or not there are islands, trees, marsh vegetation, how much water surface there is, and how much human activity is in the area.

Santee Lakes are a series of seven small man-made ponds that are lined up roughly north-south. With an average surface area of about seven square acres, their combined area is around 65 square acres of water, not to mention the many trees, shrubs and buildings nearby.

The lakes are located at the end of Lake Canyon Rd. off Carlton Hill Blvd. This runs north from Mission Gorge Road, which leads west to Interstate-8 towards downtown San Diego, and leads east to Rt. 67 running between Lakeside and El Cajon. They are the focus of the Santee Lakes Recreational Area which also offers fishing, pond boating, and welcomes picnics and various group activities. (An informative brochure is available by writing to PO Box 70, Santee, 92071, or calling 448-2482.)

The main pond opposite the main entrance is the most frequented. Small paddle or row boats ply the waters, parting the large flocks of semi-domestic mixed-blood Mallards and the American Coots that often swarm around visitors who brighten their day by tossing out pieces of bread or lettuce. Their number swells during the winter when wild ducks join in on the feasting, loosing their natural timidity within the company of the other ducks.

There are many islands here overgrown with large trees, some with dead snags, and somewhat lush lower growth of trees and shrubs, and edged in cattails and sedges. Here Least and American Bitterns are found in their season; as well as Sora and Virginia Rails, Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds, and other marsh birds. The oaks and sycamores on the islands are attractive to small land birds like Bushtits, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and warblers.

One large island is connected by a short foot bridge. Just to the north is a nice play area for children, as well as a series of picnic tables, restrooms and other facilities. In the taller trees you are apt to see or hear Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Osprey and American Kestrel. During the winter

months in recent years, a male Vermilion Flycatcher has been known to stake out an area for himself.

To the south are more open, somewhat larger ponds, usually with groups of ducks, grebes, and coots. On the shores, egrets and herons wait patiently for a foolhardy fish to become their dinner, while Belted Kingfishers sit on overhanging branches. Double-crested Cormorants roost in the larger trees, and you can imagine the trouble they cause the pond manager and fisherman with the fish they eat! During the springtime the air around and above the ponds is filled with dozens of swallows of several species, snapping up insects as they make their way northward.

The two large ponds to the north, separated by a chain-link fence, are open to birders, but you must get permission first. They are generally set aside for people with mobile homes who have paid a fee to park there. These northern ponds, therefore, are frequently the most interesting for various

gulls, terns, many species of ducks, and sometimes shorebirds. Around these northern ponds there is more of the former habitat, grass, mustard fields, willows, and way to the north there is a remnant riparian woodland. These additional habitats add birds like Savannah Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, White-tailed Kite, Golden Eagle, Common Crow and others. Otherwise the ponds are surrounded by tract homes with limited avian value.

Summertime adds orioles, grosbeaks, buntings, flycatchers and other familiar types. The winter brings in sparrows, kinglets, pipits, ducks, gulls and others. Spring and fall migration are fine for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, swallows, hawks, shorebirds, and occasional wanderers from the higher altitudes like Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Mountain Chickadee.

All in all a nice place to visit. Open days are Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Check the brochure for further details. Come on down and enjoy the Santee Lakes. ☺



Illustration by Dana Gardner

Birds of the Season

by Shum Suffel

Does it seem like spring now that March is here? Well, maybe it does; the fields are green, the first flowers are showing and the earliest migrants — swallows and hummingbirds — are already here. But don't expect most migrants to arrive for another month or six weeks. Instinctively, they know that there is no use arriving at their northerly nesting areas until conditions are right for successful nesting. So, for now, we must be satisfied with the last of the winter birds and the earliest of our summer residents.

January 1982 was a memorable month because of unusual winter birds, not the "hoped for" northern ones, but the "never wintered in California before" ones. At the top of the list was the **Gyrfalcon**, southwest of Sacramento (California's second; the first was at Tule Lake on 23 Oct. 1948). It was widely seen, but it could be missed as it was rather wide-ranging. Rumor has it that it was found by a falconer who was "flying" his Goshawk on 16 Jan., when the Gyr showed up.

Nearby, there were four other species of falcons and many buteos. At the nearby Davis dump, there was the state's second adult **Glaucous Gull** with several immatures, and about 30 **Short-eared Owls**. Also in Central California were the **Smew** (now in full adult male plumage); the **Skylark** on Pt. Reyes, for its fourth winter; **Yellow-billed Loons** on Tomales Bay, and at the Berkeley Marina; and a **Great-gray Owl** at Prairie Creek Park, Humboldt County.

More species of warblers were wintering here than ever before. Guy McCaskie counted 23 species, and this was before Brian Daniels and Mitch Heindel identified the **Mourning Warbler** at Harbor Lake on 23 Jan. Mitch also found the **Bay-breasted Warbler** in Long Beach Recreation Park on 10 Jan. Other unexpected wintering warblers were the **Worm-eating** at Whaley Park, Long Beach, two **Virginia's** at the Newport Ecology Park, a **Cape May** in San Luis Obispo, a male **Black-throated Blue** near Santa Barbara, the **Grace's** in Montecito for the third winter, and a **Chestnut-sided** in Riverside.

In Southern California, there were many other noteworthy birds. A **Red-necked Grebe** found at Bolsa Chica on 9 Jan. (Jerry Johnson and Fred Zeigler) proved difficult to relocate. Several tropical herons in the San Diego area stayed on through January. Two **Tricolored Louisiana Herons** were in the Tijuana River and a **Little Blue**



Heron was at the north end of Mission Bay, but the **Yellow-crowned Warbler** at the mouth of San Elijo Lagoon proved difficult to locate and may have moved on.

Two **Wood Storks** were in Buena Vista Lagoon, Oceanside, and a single **Wood Stork** was in the Whittier Narrows Nature Center, where one spent much of 1980-81. News comes from Jerry Langham in Sacramento that there is a **Bewick's Swan** on the Woodland Sugar Ponds (Bewick's and Whistling Swans may be lumped as Tundra Swans.) A flock of some 20 (an unprecedented number there) **Whistling Swans** headquartered at Sand Canyon Reservoir near Irvine in Orange Co., and fed in nearby fields. With them on the reservoir were about 35 **Common Mergansers**. In southwestern San Bernardino Co., there were two **Ross' Geese**, two **White-fronted Geese** (both rare there) and a **Eurasian Wigeon** (probably females were present, too, but not identified) were at the pond on the Brookside Golf Course, Pasadena (Chuck Murdock, 3 Jan.); at Whalen Lake, behind Oceanside (Guy McCaskie); and in the San Diego River channel after 24 Dec. (Richard Webster). **Oldsquaws**, too, were widely reported: two males were at Marina del Rey (Bob Pann); a pair was near the Huntington Beach Pier in a large flock of Scoters, which included two female-plumaged **Black Scoters** (Russ and Marion Wilson); and three more were located in San Diego Co. The male Harlequin Duck, which has been at Agua Hedionda Lagoon, Carlsbad, for four years, is still being seen.

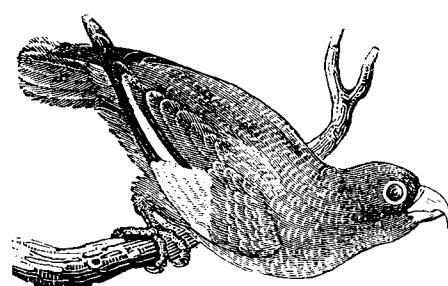
The Antelope Valley and the uncultivated fields east of Chino Prison were the best places for hawks, but Jean Brandt found an

immature **Rough-legged Hawk** in the Sepulveda Basin on 26 Jan., and **Merlins** were in Pacific Palisades (John Schmitt, 17 Jan.), and in Camino Real Park, Ventura ("Consuming a small gray bird", Onik Arian). More than 200 **Sandhill Cranes** below Brawley in the Imperial Valley were a high count for that area (Henry Childs and Hal Baxter). A single **American Golden Plover** (*fulva* race) continues to be seen on the salt flat east of Ballona Creek, where one has been for several winters, and at least nine Goldens were seen along the San Diego Co. coast (fide Richard Webster). Nine **Stilt Sandpipers** were on the ponds at Unit #1 of the Salton Sea Refuge, where they are expected (Hal Baxter, 31 Jan.), and on 2-3 Feb. one was at Bolsa Chica, where they are not expected. A **Wilson's Phalarope** at Salton City (Henry Childs, 17 Jan.) was only the sixth winter record at the Sea.

A **Parasitic Jaeger** was seen from the LA Harbor breakwater 9 Jan. (both Brian Keelin). Another **Glaucous Gull** was at the Otay dump below San Diego (Guy McCaskie). Two **Laughing Gulls** at Finney Lake in the Imperial Valley on 30 Jan. were the fifth winter record for that area, where they are common in late summer (Phil Sayre and John Hamilton). **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were reported as fairly common off San Diego (Richard Webster), and ten or more were in King Harbor, Redondo Beach (Doug Willick *et al.*) **Common Terns**, considered casual here in winter, were seen at Bolsa Chica and near San Diego.

Huge flocks of **Band-tailed Pigeons** invaded the lowlands to feed on bumper crops of acorns. A **Lesser Nighthawk** in San Diego through January was "casual" there in winter (Guy McCaskie), and a female **Black-chinned Hummingbird** (identified by voice and plumage) was spending its third winter in San Diego (Louis Bevier). Although "Black-chins" are often reported on Christmas Counts, this is one of the very few verified winter records (Garrett and Dunn, 1981). Pictures taken of the previously reported **White-eared Hummingbird** near Shandon, San Luis Obispo Co., identified it as an aberrant **Costa's Hummer** with a white stripe behind the eye. A male **Selasphorus Hummer** in Orange Co. (Doug Willick) was outside the range of the resident race (*S. sasin sedentarius*).

Flycatchers received, and deserved, much attention in January, as only Black and Say's Phoebes are normally common here in winter. The only report of a **Tropical Kingbird** comes from the Lake Serrano area, south of Pomona (Henry Childs, 14 and 23 Jan.). Single **Eastern Phoebes** were seen at Huntington Beach Central Park; near Irvine Park, Orange Co.; and near San Diego. The previously reported Gray Flycatcher in Huntington Beach Central Park, after critical study, was identified as a **Least Flycatcher**, the third winter record (Jon Dunn, 18 Jan.). Two more



Gray Flycatchers, the most likely Empid in winter, were in Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Orange Co. (Sylvia Ranney, 13 Jan.) and near Oceanside (Guy McCaskie). A **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Pt. Mugu on 30 Dec. was one of a very few winter records (Richard Webster). Last month's report that neither the **Coues'** nor the **Olive-sided Flycatcher** had returned to Griffith Park was in error. The Coues' is being seen regularly on the hillside above the Merry-go-round parking lot, and the presence of the Olive-sided was rumored but not confirmed. At least three **Vermilion Flycatchers** were along the coast, the two reported last month and another near San Diego.

The **Green Jay** (unquestionably an escapee, but who keeps these noisy birds?) continued to be found in the willows at the north end of Harbor Lake, San Pedro. A **Winter Wren** was found in the lowlands of Orange Co. (Tom Wurster), and another was in Independence, Inyo Co., north of previous desert winter records. A **California Thrasher** at Little Lake was a first record for Inyo Co. (both, Doug Willick *et al.*, 16 Jan.). At least six **Sage Thrashers** were found in the Antelope Valley (and Elizabeth Copper). This trio also located five **Sprague's Pipets** in the same alfalfa field where the birds were found last November, and, across 50th Street E. they saw six **Chestnut-collared Longspurs**. Although **Varied Thrushes** were fairly common in the mountain canyons, they were seldom reported in the lowlands. There was one at the Arcadia Arboretum and another at Pomona College (both Shantanu Pfukken). **Townsend's Solitaires** also are quite rare in winter in the lowlands with the only reports from Griffith Park (Richard Webster, *et al.*, 17 Jan.) and Big Sycamore Canyon (Kimball Garrett, 31 Jan.). This has been a big winter for **Golden-crowned Kinglets** with reports of small flocks at many points along our coastal slope.

The only report of **Bohemian Waxwings** comes from Arnold Small who found two or more at the head of Coldwater Canyon on 22 Jan. They could not be relocated. There were only two confirmed winter records of Warbling Vireos, but now we have one, possibly two, in the Arcadia Arboretum (Hal Baxter and Barbara Cohen, 8 Jan.) and another in Irvine, Orange Co. (Doug Willick, 9 and 14 Jan.). Reports of wintering warblers continued with multiple sightings of **Nashvilles, Yellows, Black-throated Grays, Townsend's** and **Yellows**. In addition, there were **Black and Whites** near Zuma Beach, Malibu, in the Victoria Ave. willow clump in Costa Mesa, and at San Diego. Also near San Diego were a **Tennessee**, two **Hermits**, four **Palms**, four **Northern**

Waterthrushes and two **American Redstarts**. Other **Redstarts** were at Harbor Lake, in the Victoria Ave. willow clump and at Finney Lake, Imperial Co.

A **Rusty Blackbird** at the upper pond in the Arcadia Arboretum was in fresh adult plumage, probably a female, with rusty feather edges on the head and back (Barbara Cohen, 31 Jan.). **Oriole** reports were numerous this winter: with a pair of **Orchards** in Ventura (Onik Arian) and a male **Orchard** along Malibu Creek (Chuck Bernstein, 1 Feb.); single **Hoodeds** in Newport Beach and San Diego; five or more **Scott's** in Orange Co. as reported last month; some 20 **Northerns**, including one "Baltimore" in the San Diego area, and five "Bullock's" in Ventura. A male "Bullock's" was at an unusual location in the San Gabriel Mts. just below the snow line at 4500 feet (Bill Grant, 16 Jan.). **Tanagers**, too, were reported with about 30 **Westerns** and five **Summers** in the San Diego area. But the star of the group was the usual **Hepatic** in Oceanside, back for at least its fourth winter there.

Wild **Cardinals** (southwestern race) are probably the most difficult California resident to find, as they are confined to mesquite habitat along the Colorado River across from Parker, Arizona, and this habitat is being bulldozed for recreational use. Richard Webster found one there after a four-hour search on 9 Dec.

A frigid trip by Doug Willick, Tom Wurster and Brian Daniels to the Inyo/Mono region on 16 and 17 Jan. did not produce the hoped-for northern birds, nor the usual winter sparrows — only a **Tree Sparrow** at Oasis, Mono Co., a **Harris Sparrow** at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., and a **White-throated Sparrow** at Furnace Creek Ranch. "White-throats" were also found in the Turtlerocks Nature Center, Irvine, in Huntington Beach Central Park, in the Arcadia Arboretum (Shantanu Pfukken, 13 Jan.) and near Harbor Lake (John Ivanov, 26 Jan.).

That was January. It was a great month for starting a year list, but what can early spring do to top it? There will be many "firsts" observed and recorded and possibly a rarity or two. Do I sound like a "lister", frowned on by ornithologists and serious amateurs? Well, why not? It's the best game in town.

PS. On the completion of every article I wonder how I ever wrote in the past without Garrett and Dunn's **Birds of Southern California (Status and Distribution)**. It's indispensable.



Send any interesting bird sightings to Shum Suffel, 1105 No. Holliston, Pasadena, California 91104.

Books

A Birder's Guide to the Coast of Maine

by *Liz Pierson & Jan Erik Pierson*
foreword by *Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr.*
\$8.95

This is another welcome edition to the growing number of state guides.

Mairie's best birding is to be found on the coast and while it would have been useful to the out-of-towner to have information on inland places like Baxter State Park, it would seem churlish to criticize this otherwise excellent book.

The Piersons do a thorough job of describing the birding habitats with a separate section on birds of special interest. They also include graphs on seasonal abundance and give directions carefully and well, together with tips on accommodation. There is even an occasional note on good eating places and the section listing camp grounds should prove very useful.

There are some color photographs illustrating both birds and habitat and the maps by Anne Kilham are simply and clearly drawn.

Last but not least, this is a pocket sized book — easy to carry in the field, though the jacket doesn't appear to be able to hold up to much handling, particularly in wet weather. Nevertheless, if you're going to Maine, take this book with you.

— D.D.





CALENDAR

LAAS Pelagic Trips

SUNDAY, MAY 2 — San Pedro past Santa Barbara to Osborne Banks. 5:30 am to 6:30 pm. 44 spaces plus 2 leaders: Fred Heath and Bruce Broadbooks. Take the *Vantuna* (coffee and tea available, no galley) approximately 45 miles out to sea and up the coast. Among the birds to be seen at this time of year: Northern Fulmar; Pink-footed, Sooty, Black-vented Shearwaters; Red-billed Tropicbird; Sabine's Gull; Horned and Tufted Puffins; Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets; Common Murre. Cost: \$23.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 22-23

— **Ventura Marina to San Miguel Island** and Cortez Ridge. 9:00 pm Sat. to 4:00 pm Sun. Sail at 1 am Sun. 48 spaces plus 2 leaders: Fred Heath and Larry Norris. Take the *Ranger 85* (galley) approximately 50 miles out to sea up the coast. Among the birds to be seen this time of year: Black-footed Albatross; Shearwaters; South Polar Skua; Jaegers; Black and Ashy Storm-Petrels; Xanthus Murrelets; Puffins; Sabine's Gulls; Arctic Terns. Cost: \$40.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, Aug 28-29

— **Ventura to Cortiz Ridge.** Departure and details the same as the 22-23 May trip. Leaders: Herb and Olga Clarke. Among the birds to be seen this time of year: South Polar Skua; Long-tailed Jaeger; Shearwaters; Red-billed Tropicbird; Least and Black Storm-Petrels; Craveri's Murrelet. Cost: \$40.

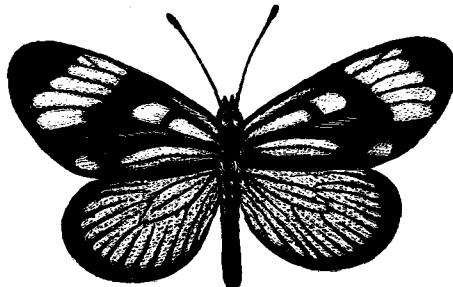
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 — San Pedro to San Clemente Island. 5:30 am

to 6:30 pm. 44 spaces and 2 leaders: Phil Sayre and Olga Clarke. Take the *Vantuna* (coffee and tea available, no galley) approximately 30 miles out to sea along the southern coast. Birds to be seen this time of year include: Long-tailed Jaeger; Shearwaters; Least and White-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrels; Red-billed Tropicbird; Craveri's Murrelet. Cost: \$25.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21 — San Pedro to Santa Barbara Isl. 6 am to 5 pm. Take the *Vantuna* approximately 45 miles along the Coast. Leaders to be announced. Birds to be expected include: Albatross, Black-vented Shearwater; Alcids. Price: \$20.

All prices are tentative and subject to fuel cost increases. Reserve spaces early. To take part in these pelagic trips, send your reservations with the names and telephone numbers of all members of your party along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Reservations c/o Ruth Lohr
Los Angeles Audubon Society
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(213) 876-0202 (Tues-Sat, 10-3)



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.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 — 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.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9 — **Monthly meeting** in Plummer Park at 8 a.m. Information not available at press time.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20 — Join **David White** to bird **Whittier Narrows**. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center. Morning trip.

If you would like to lead a field trip to your favorite birding locale, call Ian Austin to make arrangements (879-9700 or 398-9390).

Coming Events

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 — Day trip to **Pt. Mugu** Base. Group will be led by Ron Dowe, base biologist. Make reservations with Ruth Lohr at Audubon House early; only 25 will be allowed on the base. Bring lunch.

SATURDAY, MAY 22 — Day trip to **Starr Ranch**. Sign up with Ruth Lohr at Audubon House; no restriction on how many may participate but we need names.

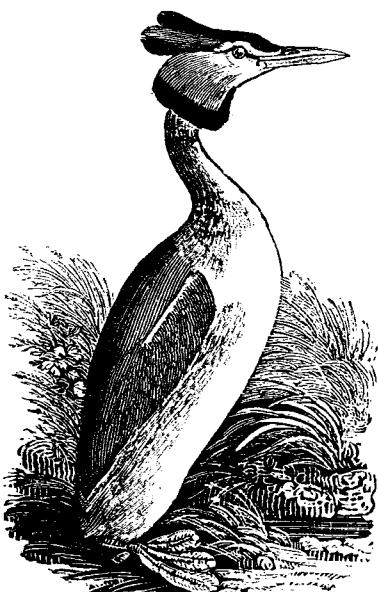
WESTERN TANAGER

EDITOR Mary Lawrence Test
LAY-OUT CONSULTANT Dana Gardner

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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.



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