WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society Volume 49 Number 5 January-February 1983

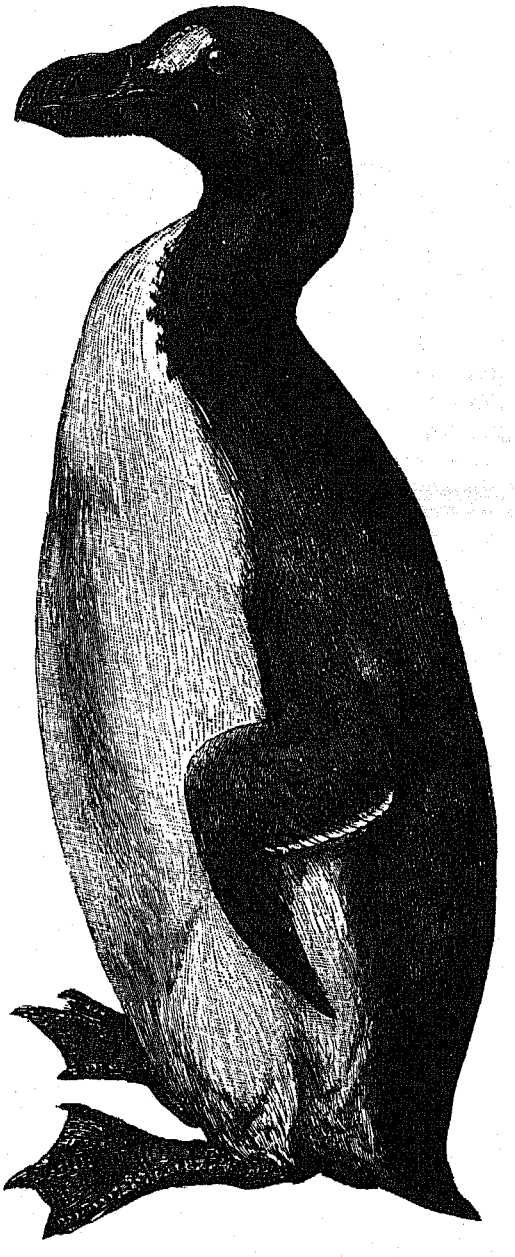
Condor Update

A major victory for the Condor Program was achieved at the November 5, 1982 hearing of the Cal Fish and Game Commission. With the rescue of the chick in August and the radio tagging of Christopher in October successfully behind them, National Audubon and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requested two changes to the permit: 1) In addition to firing the net when there is a single immature bird, two immatures or an immature and adult bird on the bait, the team requested permission to fire the net when there is a single adult Condor on it; and 2) A known, presumably unmated adult female has been identified and may be trapped if she comes to the bait. The commission vote on these two changes was unanimously in favor.

Valuable information is being obtained from Christopher's movements in the San Joaquin Valley, and now, from a second bird (an adult mated male) in Santa Barbara County. The birds are suffering no ill effects from the radios, (they preen the antennae just like feathers) and keep beaming data back to the recovery team about their locations. The birds can be tracked from about 55 miles on the ground and about 80 miles from aircraft.

During the first 18 days after being tagged, Christopher utilized 11 different roosting areas and fed on three different carcasses. None of these areas were previously known to be important. He has covered territory from southern Kern to southern Tulare counties, with his longest flight being 50 miles. In Tulare, he joined up with four other Condors which have been identified as birds previously spotted in southern Kern County. So it is evident that the data being obtained is all important.

After many years of trial and frustration, the Condor Recovery Program is well under way, which gives hope that the Condor can be saved. Every penny we receive earmarked for the Condor Fund goes directly to this project. With the increase in activities related to the program, funds become more critical. Your contributions big and small, help ensure the program's continued success. Please, send your check today.



Don't let the California Condor go the way of the Great Auk. Contribute to the Condor Fund today!

The Tropical Connection

by Gina Green and Jess Morton

The tropical forests of the world have an immensely important place in the ecological scheme of the world in which we live. These forests harbor millions of species of plants and animals that can survive in no other type of habitat. Indeed, the tropical forests form the single largest pool of biological diversity that exists on Earth. The importance of this pool for the development of medicines and improved agricultural products is incalculable. The diversity available must also inevitably lead to our better understanding of our own biological makeup. However, the importance of the tropical forest is not limited to their diversity.

These forests also exert a profound influence on the weather and climate of the Earth as a whole. The very mass of the living forest exercises a great influence in the circulation of water over vast areas of the surface of the Earth. Any substantial change in the forest may result in devastating weather and water flow changes in areas far from the source of that change.

The tropical forests also play a major part in the control of carbon dioxide levels in the Earth's atmosphere. Vast amounts of carbon are tied up in the biomass of these forests. The release of that carbon into the atmosphere could play a key role in the development of a greenhouse effect that would produce an important long term increase in the temperature of the Earth. At the very least, this would result in the flooding of huge areas of the continental fringes.

The tropical forests also play a role in other spheres, some of which may be of more immediate interest to those of us here in Southern California. How may of us enjoy the annual migrations of birds as they move between their summer and winter ranges? What does the crimson and yellow flash of the first Western Tanager of Spring evoke in you? Or the song of a Yellow Warbler along a Sierran streamside? These delights are almost taken for granted, yet they are dependant on the tropical forests where these and other migrant birds have their winter ranges. What will happen when the forests are gone?

The facts are appalling. For each minute that you spend reading this article, about 100 acres of virgin tropical forest will be destroyed or severely altered! That amounts to upwards of 100,000 square miles of forest per year. Clearly, the forests of Earth cannot sustain such damage for any great length of time.

Even now, we are beginning to see the manifestations of this loss of tropical forests. The destruction of the carrying capacity of the land is causing mass migrations of rural populations to already overburdened cities. Costs for pharmaceutical and other forest products are increasing. The numbers of migrating birds of many species seem to be decreasing. There is also evidence that the Earth's temperature may indeed be increasing. Something must be done soon.

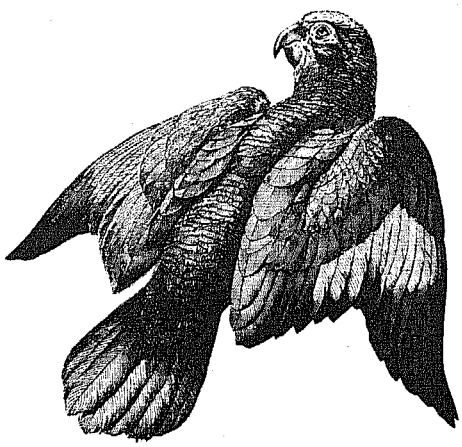
We Americans have a pretty good track record when it comes to conservation and environmental concerns. This is especially true when compared to most other countries. The strength of this concern has been evident in the face of the challenge to it that has been presented by the present administration. In increasing numbers, individual citizens have been joining groups such as the National Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. In addition, more people are participating actively on local issues such as threatened wetlands and unwise offshore drilling.

Another measure of our concern is the money and energy we have expended attempting to preserve specific endangered species such as the California Condor and the Whooping Crane. The care displayed by the public in such matters is certainly commendable. The efforts on behalf of these species is unquestionably laudable. But we must take care that we do *all* that is required!

Consider the case of the Nene, otherwise known as the Hawaiian Goose. A great deal of money has been spent rearing these endangered geese in captivity so that they may be reintroduced into the wild. Unfortunately, the habitats on the islands of Maui and Hawaii where these birds are being released are hostile to their existence. Consequently, the free population of the Nene needs continual supplementation from captively reared stock so that it may continue in the wild.

But surely, a State bird deserves a better fate than this! Today, the Nene is nothing more than a permanent ward of human beneficence. Certainly our intentions in attempting to preserve this threatened species are admirable, but have we done all that is necessary? Isn't it at least as important to

Illustration by George Silva



preserve the critical habitats of the threatened species as it is to preserve the species themselves? Creatures reared in captivity, which have lost all of their wild habitat, must be permanently incarcerated in zoos, forever dependent upon human whimsey for their ultimate survival.

What will happen then as more and more critical habitats are destroyed leaving more and more threatened species with which we must deal? Won't we find ourselves on a financial treadmill, attempting to preserve a rapidly increasing number of species, each of which will require a complex, expensive and energy consuming program just to maintain a viable population?

Now is the time for us, as concerned human beings, to make a reassessment of our strategic goals in the field of conservation. We must ask ourselves if we have correctly assigned our priorities. Are our energies most effectively directed?

Certainly captive breeding programs are important. They are the last resort for many species whose natural habitat is no longer in existence or whose populations are too small. Without an effectively managed program those species will be quickly doomed to extinction. Nevertheless, the real payoffs in the field of conservation will come in the field of habitat preservation.

If the destruction of the tropical forests of the world is left unchecked, it is now projected that they will be gone within 50 years. The cost of such a loss to the world is simply outside the realm of computation. Nor will there be any possibility of preserving any but a small fraction of the millions of species of plants and animals that now seem doomed to extinction. Clearly it is time for us to concentrate our efforts on habitat preservation, particularly within the tropical forests. It is urgent that we try to preserve important virgin forests and that we attempt to reforest already devastated lands so that the forests of the tropics can continue to sustain as much of their productivity and diversity as possible.

However, this is much easier to say than to do. The problems involved are enormous, complex, and poorly defined. It is far simpler to focus in on a single issue such as the preservation of the California Condor. That is clearly a much easier problem to define and solve than is, for instance, the current pressing problem of forestry management in the tropical forests of the Andes. Yet, for all of its *relative* simplicity, anyone who has followed the progress of the Condor recovery program realizes how complex and difficult that program has turned out to be. Stop for a moment then and think how difficult the solutions to the tropical forest preservation problem will inevitably be, involving as they do, whole populations, governmental bureaucracies, poor education, huge economic interests and a host of other complicating factors. Nevertheless, we must at least make an attempt to solve the problem! Not to do so, would make us guilty of an unpardonable neglect of our duty to future generations of mankind.

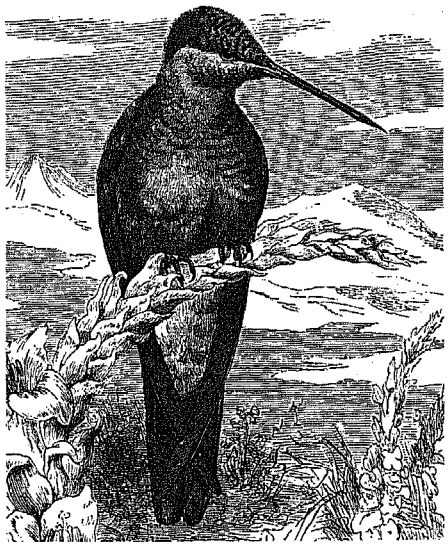
In spite of all of the difficulties involved, there are groups which are attempting to address the problems of the conservation and management of our remaining tropical forests. One of these groups is the Merenberg Foundation. This organization manages the Merenberg Nature Reserve which is located in the Andes of southern Colombia. The reserve contains some of the last virgin cloud forests in the northern Andes and is the only *protected* forest of its kind in all of Colombia.

In terms of ecological diversity, Colombia is one of the richest countries in the world. Indeed, when it comes to birds, Colombia goes to the top of the list in terms of the number of species to be found. The Merenberg Foundation has recognized this trove of biological richness for the treasure that it is and has instituted programs to protect as much of this diversity as it can. These efforts have attracted local, national and international interest and support.

Merenberg is the only private nature reserve in Colombia. It was founded in 1932 when a family of German immigrants homesteaded a ranch in the midst of the virgin forests of the Colombian Andes. From the outset, a major portion of the forests on the ranch were kept untouched. In 1980, the Merenberg Foundation was incorporated as a tax exempt Colombian conservation foundation. The Foundation provides a means whereby concerned individuals, researchers, students, and institutions can participate in, and support, a project for the conservation of a tropical rainforest without having to put up with the frequent frustrations typical of dealing with governmental bureaucracies. The Merenberg Foundation is sponsored in the United States by the World Wildlife Fund–U.S.

Within the lush tropical cloud forest of the Merenberg Reserve, one can observe more than 100 species of birds on any given day. Presently, professional ornithologists are investigating various aspects of the avifauna of Merenberg. To date, more than 200 species have been identified, including quetzals, toucans, hummingbirds, guans, and parrots. And the list is growing continually. One reason for this is the ongoing forest destruction throughout Colombia which is driving birds from other areas to seek refuge in places like Merenberg. Many of the birders that visit the Reserve have remarked that it is one of the few easily accessible places where such a large diversity of species can be seen.

Other vertebrates are equally interesting. Howler monkeys are often heard in the nearby forests in the afternoons. On nocturnal hikes, one may encounter nosebears, tapirs, night monkeys and one or more of six resident species of bats. The flora of the reserve contains many species of trees, shrubs, lianas, orchids, tree ferns and herbs. Thus, we see that the diversity of the plants and animals on the Merenberg Reserve is extremely rich and it is this richness that brings scientists from all over the world to study its biota. Unfortunately, for many species of birds and mammals Merenberg represents the last protected habitat in the region, and indeed, in all of Colombia.



Yet the Foundation recognizes the constraints within which it must work if it is to preserve its forests and their fauna. The people of the region, the campesinos, are very poor. They lack sufficient firewood and other forest resources on their own lands. They find themselves forced to encroach on unspoiled forest for the fuel, timber, wild animals and birds that their own ruined lands will no longer produce. This encroachment poses a serious threat to the virgin forests of the Reserve.

In order to counteract these threats, the Foundation has chosen not to hire armed rangers. Instead, the Merenberg Foundation has hired foresters, agriculturalists and social workers to try to obtain a long term solution to the problem. These professionals are attempting to promote the development of

agroforestry, community woodlots and fuel-production by the campesinos. At the same time attempts are being made to raise the campesinos standard of living. Only through such methods is it felt that there can be a permanent solution to the problems of forest preservation.

There are side benefits to this educational program as well. Local soils will be stabilized and watersheads enhanced. By utilizing nitrogen fixing trees in the program, soils will also be enriched. This, together with the introduction of improved crop varieties, will lead to better yields for the campesino's staple crops.

If all of these programs go forward as planned, significant results should be noticible within a decade. At the same time, reforestation will be progressing at Merenberg as well. This new forest will provide a buffer zone to help protect the irreplaceable virgin forests which are at the heart of Merenberg.

The Merenberg Foundation represents a small beginning toward the solution of one of the principal conservation problems that faces mankind today, the preservation of the world's remaining tropical forests. While it is a small beginning, it offers great hopes for the future because it focuses concern on conservation at the local level. Although the destruction of tropical forests is a worldwide problem, ultimately it is the local population that must learn how to preserve its own forests. Only then can the problem be solved for all time.

Should you wish more detailed information, or would like to become directly involved with the Merenberg Foundation and tropical forest preservation, contact either:

World Wildlife Fund-U.S., 1601 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009
or
Fundacion Merenberg, Apartado Aereo 889, Popayan, Colombia

Gina Green is the Assistant Director of the Merenberg Foundation of Popayan, Colombia. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Oregon where she majored in resource management and administration. After graduation, she spent five years working with the U.S. Forest Service. In 1978, she joined the Peace Corps with which she served two years in Colombia. While there, she became involved in the Merenberg Reserve and its operations. She assisted in the establishment of the Merenberg Foundation in 1980 and has devoted all of her efforts since then in its behalf.

Jess Morton is the president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Audubon Society. An accountant by trade, his interests include all aspects of the natural history of the P.V. area. He is a photographer of wildlife who specializes in arthropods. One of his current concerns is a project that is working toward the preservation of the endangered Palos Verdes Blue butterfly.

President's Corner

by Bob Shanman

Over the past several months I have asked people if there was anything in particular they would like covered in my monthly column. The response most frequently heard was to summarize pertinent events from Board meetings, and from the quarterly Coordinating Council meetings. Beginning this month, I'll give it a try. Also, if you have a question which might be of general interest to the members, let me know, and I'll try to answer it (or find someone who can!).

Some recent items that might be of interest are that the first formal financial audit of LAAS has been completed. It is available for review at the House during regular business hours (10 am to 3 pm, Tuesday through Saturday).

Donations have been received to help the mutilated Brown Pelicans. All funds received through December 1st have been forwarded to National Audubon as part of their reward program for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the mutilations. At the December Board meeting it was decided to continue sending checks to National which are made out to them, and to forward any funds directed to LAAS for the birds to the veterinary hospital caring for them.

Andrea Kaufman, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, continues to publicize the Audubon Camp of the West Scholarship Program. She needs names of qualified candidates to attend the camp. If you know someone 18 or over who would benefit from an ecology camp, please contact Andrea at the House on Tuesdays or Fridays.

Jean Brandt announced that Glenn Cunningham has completed his manuscript of the first 30 years of LAAS' history (1910-1939). It's quite an effort on Glenn's part, and with his permission, it will be published in summary in the *TANAGER*.

Following National's Annual Dinner on Nov. 4, the Fall Coordinating Council Meeting was held on Nov. 7, hosted by El Dorado Audubon. The Council, made up of 3 representatives from each of the 14 southern California chapters and Yuma Audubon, meets quarterly with the Western Regional representatives. The meeting usually includes some early morning birding, followed by a series of reports, special presentations and discussions until late afternoon.

Ed Berger, President of EDAS, announced at the Annual Meeting on November 5 that he recommended to National that a member-at-large from each of the 10 regions be on the Board to represent the chapters. George Peyton, a member of national's Board commented that they have been considering this, and Ed's comment was timely.

John Borneman summarized the current status of the Condor Program (see page 10. Dick Martyr, our Regional Vice President, announced that he and John will now be involved in the Condor Program. This is a major, and positive change in the program, as it will allow the recovery team to concentrate on technical issues, and it brings the regional office into the program to work with the public, media and involved government agencies.

Dick announced that the California Desert Plan has been approved, and pressure is being put on BLM to open up two Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to ORV's (Jawbone Canyon and Chuckwalla Bench). We may need everyone's help in a letter-writing campaign to offset the powerful ORV lobby.

A new publication from National was announced—AUDUBON ACTION—a bi-monthly newsletter to supplement AUDUBON magazine. Its purpose is to inform members and chapters of important developments and issues of concern to Audubon. National is very interested in your response to this publication, so let them know what your reaction is!

The main agenda item was a discussion of chapter-National relations led by Jean Brandt, with Russ Peterson, President of National, Rupe Cutler, a Senior Vice President, and several members of National's Board participating. Jean presented a list of thoughts, prepared by various chapters, on the strengths and weaknesses of the present relationship. Everyone agreed it could be better. Items covered included National's attitude toward the chapters, general communications, mail campaign efforts and fund-raising. National emphasized that they are turning more to the chapters for input on what issues are of importance at the local level. They realize the need to listen to, and hear, what the chapters are telling them. For the first time, they are in the process of formulating medium and long range (3/5 year) plans. Overall, I felt that Russ, Rupe and the others were open with us and heard what we said. If I am right, then in the near future, a stronger bond between the chapters, regional offices and National will begin to develop.

Whose Birds Are They?

by Roger F. Pasquier

Although scientists are continually warning against thinking of animal behavior in human terms, until recently the usual image of North American birds wintering in the tropics was similar to that of a human tourist vacationing in the tropics: a leisurely life at a fully equipped resort, little mixing with the natives, a limited effect on the local way of life. Now, however, because the breeding and migratory aspects of the annual cycles of most North American birds are well known, more ornithologists are studying these species in their winter homes. As a result, notions of the birds' activities and significance in the tropics are changing rapidly. Indeed, one of the first assumptions subject to challenge is the idea that birds breeding in North America but wintering mainly or entirely south of the border should properly be called "ours." Nearly half the birds that breed in North America head south each year and spend up to six or seven months on their wintering grounds, perhaps another month or two commuting each way, and only a brief eight or ten weeks building a nest and raising their young before going south again. The countries where these species winter may justifiably claim the birds as their own.

It has become clear, then, that the survival of "our" birds depends on safeguarding both their wintering and breeding grounds. Habitat protection and restrictions on pesticide use or hunting in one country alone are not sufficient for sustaining creatures that do not recognize national boundaries. Recent studies of the distribution and ecology of birds wintering in the American tropics present a much clearer picture of the migrants' varied survival strategies and of the measures required to ensure the preservation of these species. Such information is of value not only to bird lovers. Since birds are often the most conspicuous component of their environment, they can serve as indicators of the general quality of that environment, providing clues to its stability or decline. Thus, an understanding of the distribution of wintering birds may assist The Nature Conservancy in determining which tropical habitats are of the highest quality or greatest ecological significance.

Most North American birds that migrate south of our border spend the winter in the Antilles, Mexico, Central America, and northern South America. The most notable exceptions to this rule are the sandpipers and plovers that breed primarily on the Arctic tundra and winter on the superficially similar pampas and coasts of Argentina. Fully half of the migrant land birds, however, winter in Mexico, the Bahamas, Cuba, and Hispaniola—an area much smaller than the regions in North America from which the birds travel. Combined, the countries encompass only 2.2 million square kilometers, compared with 16.2 million square kilometers for North America south of the tundra. Wintering birds are therefore far more concentrated than during summer, and may suffer more severely from alterations in a small portion of their winter range.

Within the Caribbean basin, which supports the bulk of North American migrant birds, some species are even more concentrated. The Cape May warbler, for example, nests in spruce forests ranging from the southern Northwest Territories of Canada to New Brunswick, south to northern New Hampshire and west to southern Manitoba; but it winters almost exclusively in the West Indies, primarily in the Greater Antilles and Bahamas. The chestnut-sided warbler—a summer inhabitant of open second-growth forests that occur from Newfoundland west to central Saskatchewan, as well as south to New Jersey, the mountains of Georgia, and Missouri—winters from Guatemala to Panama.

The majority of wintering birds are further restricted to certain elevations. Some are found primarily in the highlands that run down the spine of Central America and join the Andean chain in South America; other species favor the lowlands. Because of such geographic and altitudinal separations, many birds are able to avoid competing with their close relatives, including some with which they share summer breeding habitat. Generally, birds wintering in the tropics fit into one of two patterns: they may be widely dispersed, but in low densities and with little tolerance for other members of their species, or they may occur in a smaller area at higher concentrations.

In addition to these general dispersion patterns, the wintering birds exhibit a wide variety of behavioral and ecological adaptations to exploit food sources quite different from those they find in North America. In Panama, for example, the migrants arrive at the end of a long rainy season when insects are relatively scarce. (On the other hand, in the Yucatan it is the December-through-February dry season that reduces insect numbers.) Many birds switch to new foods or new behavior. The Cape May warbler, already mentioned, shifts from a diet of insects to nectar and juices sucked from fruit, thereby reducing competition with the 19 other warbler species that share its winter habitat in the West Indies. Unique in its family, the Cape May warbler has evolved a tubular tongue that enables it to exploit these food sources more efficiently than its relatives. The broad-winged hawk, a summer denizen of eastern North American forests where it feeds on small birds, mammals, and reptiles, winters in Amazonia and there preys almost exclusively on the large katydids that become active at dusk.

Some birds that are territorial in the breeding season become sociable in the winter. Robins, which in spring and summer defend their piece of suburban lawn and the worms it contains, during winter months in Mexico form huge flocks that roam the countryside for fruit. Northern orioles similarly cluster in the flowering trees of Panama to feed on nectar—at dusk, hundreds may gather in noisy, colorful roosts. Shorebirds, like those wintering on the coast of Argentina, may congregate by the thousands in a few estuarine systems that each harbor a significant portion of the species' entire population.

Many of the small birds that continue to feed on insects in winter defend territories just as they do when nesting, and they return to the same tropical territory year after year. Winter territories, however, are not defended by a pair of birds for their benefit and that of their offspring, but are maintained by each individual, male and female. The preferred habitat of these territorial species is the uncut rain forest, which is climatically more stable than second-growth vegetation and thus more likely to offer a steady supply of insect food. In Puerto Rico and Mexico, it was found that the territories maintained by each individual American redstart were the same size as those used by pairs in the breeding season, indicating that food—though more constant—may be less abundant in the tropics than in temperate North America. Furthermore, some birds exhibit competition between sexes for the best habitat. In Veracruz, Mexico, male territorial hooded warblers outnumber females eight to one in uncut rain forest; but in secondary forest, females slightly outnumber males.

The ultimate form of winter territoriality is found in a few warbler species that join mixed species flocks of native birds, which move through the forest hunting for insects. These warblers specialize in probing for insects in curled-up dead leaves still attached to the branch, a practice that requires intense concentration and therefore allows less time to watch for lurking predators. By joining a flock that contains more attentive birds, the warblers gain a protective guard. At the same time, the warblers defend "their" flocks against others of their own species, thereby treating the flock as a "territory."

A very different strategy is adopted by the eastern kingbird, a pugnacious flycatcher that in summer drives even crows and hawks from its territory. In autumn, kingbirds rapidly migrate south through the tropics to the southern Amazonian basin of Peru and Bolivia. There, abandoning both agressiveness and insect food, they cluster in large flocks at fruiting trees, primarily of the genus *Didymopanax*. As the birds exhaust the local food supply, they move north, where other *Didymopanax* are just coming into fruit. The

continued on page 8

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

One World

In the transient euphoria following World War II we were told that this was "One World." A spirit of idealism and brotherhood floated dreamily around the globe. The United Nations was to become a liberating force that would replace rampant nationalism with World Government and Universal Peace. Alas! Yet though today we are entangled in a sticky web of aggression, starvation, terrorism and hate, we cannot escape the fact that this is emphatically one world.

The aerosols from our shaving cream and deodorants may rise into the stratosphere and destroy the ozone layer that protects *all* people from sun-induced skin cancer. DDT and similar pesticides, outlawed in the United States, are blithely sold to third world nations. So though we may relax a little about these persistent poisons in this country, we are unknowingly eating Mexican tomatoes liberally dosed with them. We rejoice that young peregrines have been released into the wild in southern California now that the eggshell-thinning substances are no longer legal. But our falcons may be feeding on migrating shorebirds which in turn fed on crustaceans and worms marinated in DDT in the mudflats of South and Central America. And acid rain knows no borders. Sulfates from the tall smokestacks of midwestern industrial and power plants become sulfuric acid distributed evenhandedly over lakes and forests in Canada as well as in Vermont and Maine. "Killer bees" brought to Brazil from Africa escaped from a laboratory and are moving inexorably northward. Far fiercer than honey bees, they can kill men and animals when disturbed. Having already reached Panama, they are expected to arrive in the United States in a few years.

It is almost a cliché in environmental circles to speak solemnly about the fragile "web of life", the interdependence of all living things. If we ever felt that this was limited to a single locality or ecosystem we must revise our thinking; we are indeed *globally* interdependent. For years ornithologists have sensed that there has been a gradual decrease in the numbers of migrants in North America. It is now evident that the accelerated destruction of Latin American forests is the primary cause. So what until recently has been an esoteric worry in the scientific community, has become a widespread "popular" concern. The splendid PBS series, "Nature," has dramatized the incredible fecundity of the rain forests and warned of the consequences of wholesale destruction. The widely quoted "Global 2000 Report to the President" forecasts a 15 to 20% loss of species which (depending on the hazy estimates of total world species) could run from 500,000 to nearly 2 million species lost forever. A National Geographic TV special January 12th will be on "Rain Forests." Audubon magazine for November 1982 has an interesting discussion of the mathematics of extinction, with an emphasis on rain forests. Tropical species outnumber temperate by at least two to one. The Nature Conservancy (see the reprint in this *TANAGER*) and the World Wildlife Fund are taking active roles in addressing the problem.

What is the extent of the problem? Vast and complex. Unfortunately it entails more that the absence of colorful migrants from one's year list. Overpopulation in third world countries is forcing subsistence farmers deeper into the forests. The age-old technique of slash-and-burn provides excellent space and ashy fertilizer for food crops . . . for a short time. The paradoxically nutrient-poor forest soil is quickly exhausted and the crops become meager. So the next portion of the forest falls to the axe. How can anyone blame the peasant for trying to feed his family? Through a sardonic twist of the plot we — the American people— unwittingly bear some of the responsibility. Our insatiable consumption of billions of hamburgers has created an irresistible market for cheap beef protein. Large entrepreneurs take over the depleted agricultural land and raise cattle. With low-cost forage and a few low-cost cowhands, it is an immensely profitable business. Costa Rica, the size of West Virginia, is the third largest exporter of beef to the United States.

The rain forests have taken 16 million years to develop their extraordinary richness and diversity. No one knows how many species of living things have yet to be discovered there. The gene pool of organisms is enormous; the potential benefit for humanity is incalculable. Over 40% of the beneficial drugs used today have a natural origin. Who knows what life-sustaining medications may still emerge from these forests? World-wide there are only some 20 basic food crops feeding the 4 billion of us. Unknown or unstudied plants may add new staples to that list or new strains to improve the essential foods. As we all know, green plants absorb carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. The potential elimination of forests all over the world has many scientists concerned that, along with the combustion of fossil fuels, the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide will produce a warming effect that may have dire consequences for world climate and food production.

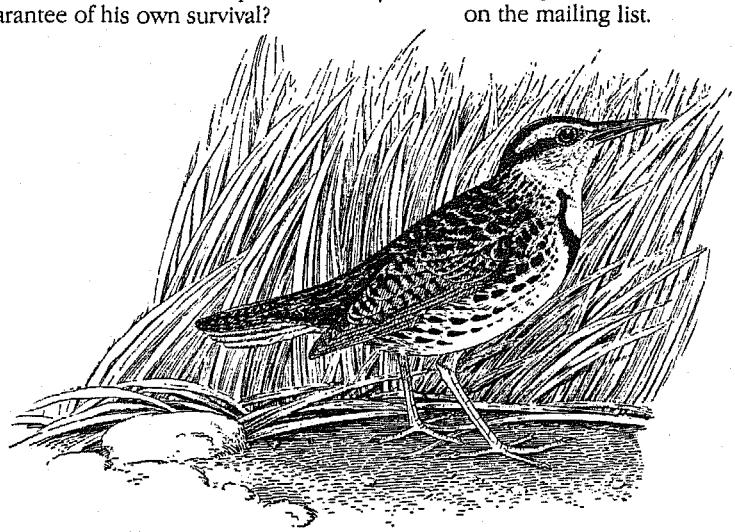
The solution to this serious dilemma is as difficult as it is complicated. The World wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy are trying to save as much of Latin American rain forests as possible. They are promoting the national park idea and helping to train people in creating and running them. They are

working with governments for long-term conservation goals that will be more profitable than short-term solutions. They are stimulating research into the mysteries of forest species and ecosystems. World Wildlife is trying to buy a 3700-acre tropical forest in Colombia. They are attempting the seemingly impossible task of spreading conservation education to South and Central America.

Philosophically, as with the condor, the whooping crane, the snail-darter — and yes — the Furbish louse-wort, what right has man to hold the power of life or death over other species? The ancient Greeks spoke of the sin of *hubris*, the reckless arrogance that eventually led to man's downfall. Will he ever learn that destroying the skein of life by bulldozer or nuclear weapons is hardly a guarantee of his own survival?

Audubon Action Alert

To those particularly enthusiastic conservationists in the audience, there's good news. National Audubon puts out a *free* "Audubon Action Alert" that sounds the alarm on all threats to the things we care about. It is issued irregularly, depending on the need. For example, if the Clean Air Act is under the gun and is moving to the floor of Congress you are given an abbreviated resume of the issue at stake, suggested arguments to strengthen the bill, the bill number and the name and address of the proper person to write to. If you want to expand your horizon, write to: Audubon Action Alert, National Audubon Society, 645 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 and asked to be put on the mailing list.



Telephone Alert

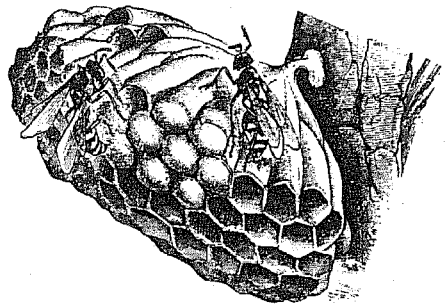
There are some 85 Los Angeles Audubon members on our celebrated telephone alert. These are our people of conscience who stand by for calls on urgent environmental issues, then write letters to elected officials and public agencies. We have been going strong since October 1981, writing about once a month and accomplishing great things. At least that's what we tell ourselves. We really have no exact proof of this but professional lobbyists swear that a spate of intelligent, pointed letters to a congressman or the head of a state bureaucracy has a galvanizing effect. The voters — the bosses — are speaking so they listen. They may not do everything we want but they're sensitized and they know we're looking over their shoulders.

We would like to appeal for additional members of the club. Nothing complicated is required: a few minutes, a bit of postage. Unlike the National Geographic Society, you don't have to be proposed for membership. We'll take anyone who can put one squiggle after the other. Just call or write: Sandy Wohlgemuth, 19354 Calvert St., Reseda 91335; 344-8531.

The Election

For California, the recent election was hardly an environmental triumph. Proposition 11, the Can and Bottle Recycling Initiative, was flooded out in the torrent of money. In fact, all three similar measures were defeated this year — in Arizona, Colorado and Washington. Preliminary polls always show 70 or 80% of the public in favor of anti-litter laws. So it was painful to watch the inexorable tidal wave of massive, misleading advertising overwhelm the simple desire for a cleaner world. It is sad that the omnipresent billboard messages, the television commercials, the slogans on the shopping bags ("Why punish *everyone* for the bad manners of a few?") could convince enough people to vote against their own desires and interests. The success of these measures in states that have them should have been enough to prove their usefulness, but the sheer weight of millions of dollars crowded out the few commercials of the Yes on 11 forces.

Proposition 13, the water conservation initiative, was even more decisively beaten. Though it was apparently too difficult for the average person to understand, still the avalanche of money against it gave it no chance at all.



The election of George Deukmejian offers little reason to hope for the health of the environment in the next four years. In contrast to Jerry Brown's enlightened approach to the natural gifts of this state, the new governor (for starters) wants to abolish the Coastal Commission. As Attorney General he has refused to prosecute violations of environmental laws, dismantling the legal units charged with enforcement. An encouraging light in the darkness is the statement by the next Attorney General, John Van de Kamp that he will restore the disbanded staff and enforce the law of the land.

On the national scene, 26 additional Democratic congressmen, most of them committed to the environment, is certainly heartening. The House has had an excellent record on environmental issues and the new numbers should strengthen the hands of the good guys. So far as we can see, however, the election has in no way diminished the ardor of the administration to overturn the environmental gains of the last decades. James Watt, though strategically quiet before the election, is still solidly in office. Recently his top assistant in Interior, Donald Hodel, has been made the new Secretary of Energy. He is a firm believer in nuclear power, a firm adversary of solar energy development, and a firm advocate of the demise of his own department. Many politically sensitive issues that were on the back burner will move to the front of the stove very soon. We can expect vigorous efforts to sell public lands "to balance the budget." There will undoubtedly be a new drive for mining and drilling in virgin wilderness. Oil rigs off both coasts threaten to multiply like starlings with not much concern for fragile places like the Anacapa pelican sanctuary.

And so it goes. We're faced with the mixture as before: a few encouraging signs, many ominous ones. Something to hold on to is the emergence of stronger, bolder and *growing* environmental organizations. Americans have consistently shown in many polls that they are concerned about the threats to a clean and healthy land and the preservation of our natural heritage. The times call for extra effort on our part to block the despoilers and turn this magnificent heritage back to its rightful owners.

Whose Birds Are They?

continued from page 4

kingbird's northward progress seems synchronized with the fruiting schedule of this tree, which evidently depends on the birds to disperse its seeds.

Not all wintering birds adopt such strict behavioral or dietary patterns. Some become generalists—taking a mixture of fruit and animal food—and move about solitarily or in small groups that may include other species of migrants or permanent residents. Often, these generalists are the birds most adept at exploiting temporarily abundant sources of food, particularly those foods found in second-growth or disturbed habitat.

Until recently, however, nearly all of tropical America was covered with forest, so the majority of North American migrant birds evolved patterns of winter survival in that habitat. Ornithologists are just beginning to learn about the complex interrelationships of migrants and permanent residents, and the ecological roles migrants play in the tropics. In the future, the survival of these migratory birds may depend on the degree to which they can adapt to different habitats and food sources.

No North American bird is presently in danger of extinction because of threats to its wintering home, but the habits and geographic distribution of some species clearly place them in situations of greater risk than others. Waterbirds seem to be in little danger: despite often uncontrolled hunting, their habitats are for the most part undisturbed. Birds of prey disperse so thinly over such a large area of Central and South America that they are seldom persecuted or contaiminated by pesticides. The smalller land birds, especially those dependent on forests, are the species of greatest concern. According to estimates of the Food and Agricultural Organization, over half the natural vegetation of Central America and Greater Antilles has already been converted to cropland and pasture, and the remainder is disappearing rapidly. Because of the concentration of wintering birds in this small region, the effect of habitat loss is greater than in North America. In Mexico, for example—where in certain areas migrants constitute 50 percent of the total birdlife during winter—removing one hectare of forest has the same effect as removing five to eight hectares in northeastern North America.

Long-term studies in Veracruz, Mexico, have shown that when forested areas are altered, the territorial, forest-dependent bird species either disappear or occupy at lower densities whatever serviceable areas remain. Since other forested areas are presumably already functioning at carrying capacity, what happens to these displaced birds? Further research is required to supply all the answers, but it is clear that conservationists should focus their efforts on identifying the regions and habitats on which the greatest number of wintering species depend, and on determining how these areas may be protected. Not only will "our" North American birds benefit from such activities, but so will the entire ecosystems of which the migrants are an integral part.

Roger F. Pasquier is executive assistant to the president of the International Council for Bird Preservation. The author of Watching Birds: An Introduction to Ornithology, Mr. Pasquier is presently writing a book for the Smithsonian Institution on the birds of Panama, including many winter migrants from North America.

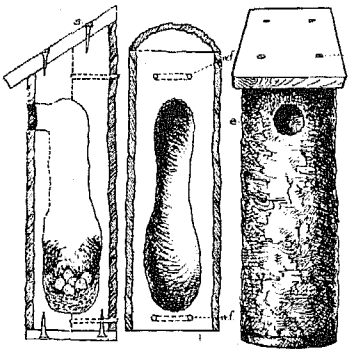
Reprinted from the July/August 1982 issue of **The Nature Conservancy News**

Call For Bird Feeder And House Designs

A new book, tentatively titled *The Audubon Society Handbook for Attracting Birds,* will include innovative homemade designs for bird feeders, houses and baths. The author, Stephen W. Kress, is looking for improvements to standard models of feeders and houses and original designs for any homemade bird attracting creations. Novel approaches to repelling squirrels, cats and nuisance birds are also welcome. In addition to the handbook, some of the submitted material may be selected for articles in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's new magazine, *The Living Bird Quarterly.* The designers of selected plans will be acknowledged in the book and articles.

Mail detailed plans with measurements (and photographs if available) to:

Dr. Stephen W. Kress
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York 14850



Book Review

A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan. Published by the Wild Bird Society of Japan 1982. 336 p. 4⅞ x 7⅜ in. In English, with indexes to Scientific, English, and Japanese names. All species illustrated in color by Shinji Takano, with accompanying range maps. Available from Los Angeles Audubon Society for $25, plus $1.50 postage and handling.

Kudos to the Wild Bird Society of Japan! Although my comments do not address the primary purpose of this field guide — to identify Japanese birds in Japan, this book is just the one Alaskan birders, birders who visit Alaska, and birders just contemplating visiting Alaska have been waiting for. It describes in concise, literate, contemporary field guide style the identification, status, and range of all "Asiatics" that occur in Alaska. Armed with this field guide and a Peterson or Robbins, birders can now journey to any corner of Alaska safe in the knowledge that they have the means to identify any species they might come across. Excellent plates. Recommended without reservation.

— Daniel D. Gibson

University of Alaska, Fairbanks

An Alternative Experience: Birdwatching At The Natural History Museum

The trouble with birds, unless you're a dedicated birder or graduate ornithologist, is that they seldom hold still long enough for positive identification. "Let's see now, reddish breast, long tail, white eye ring—woops, it's gone."

Even with persistence, binoculars and reference guide in hand, birdwatching can frequently be little more than good clean frustration.

But there is a place where birds are preserved in ever-lasting immobility—where you can sharpen your birdwatching skills so that, before admiring friends, you can glance casually toward the treetops and unerringly distinguish a black-headed grosbeak from a common robin.

According to Dr. Ralph Schreiber, Curator of Ornithology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Museum's flock of bird specimens now numbers 100,000 including study skins, skeletons, mounted birds, and "alcoholics" or embalmed carcasses. The 100,000th specimen recently entered the Museum's catalogue computer system was a Kookaburra collected in Papua, New Guinea.

Although much of the Museum's collection is carefully stored in light and insect-proof vaults, specimens of many birds found in Southern California are displayed in the Ornithology Gallery on the second floor. The Museum's resident flock is divided by environment such as: water birds of the coast, flats and lagoons; birds of the city and valley; and birds of the mountains and desert. A special bonus is the presence of rare, endangered and extinct species including a Great Auk, two Passenger Pigeons and the sadly prostrate body of an Eskimo Curlew—a species so far beyond the point of survival that total extinction is but a matter of short time.

Dr. Schreiber describes the Natural History Museum collection as among the ten largest in the United States, both in number of specimens and in "depth." Museum and donor-funded research expeditions to remote areas of the world gather data as well as specimens for the Museum. A recent expedition to Uganda secured what may be the last specimens from a rain forest that has since been cut down. The forest is gone; some of the birds, at least, have been recorded for study.

More than 20 categories of information are recorded for each of the Museum's 100,000 specimens on the catalogue computer system. These data primarily relate to geography and taxonomy. With the computer system, for example, all the data for all specimens (date, specific location, age, sex, etc.) for a specific region, such as Los Angeles County or California, are immediately available to any ornithologist or interested person. If that seems trivial, imagine sorting by hand through data entered on thousands of file cards or—even more difficult—through thousands of bird specimens!

Visitors are encouraged to try the no-fail approach to birdwatching—with or without book and binoculars—at the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. Adults $1.50; students and senior citizens over 62 (with ID) and children 75¢. Free admission the first Tuesday of each month. Parking available.

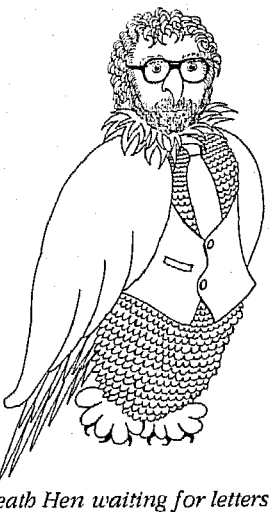
From the Editor

by Fred Heath

You may have noticed that the last issue of the *TANAGER* had very few typos. This is because Kimball Garrett took care of the proofreading while I was on a business trip in Europe. Contrast that issue with the one before which I supposedly proofread. It was loaded with little annoying errors. I was able to add an errata correcting a major typesetting error in an article by Kimball in that issue. Kimball, by the way, pointed it out to me. This however turned out to be just the tip of the iceberg. I apologized to Kimball in the errata. I should really apologize to all of you for the sloppy proofreading job I did. I even spelled the word *barely* as *bearly* in my own column. Kimball, among others, noticed this, but thought it might be one of my terrible puns. I almost let it go at that, but I can't bear (or is it *bare*?) to tell a lie. I just plain goofed.

Although I generally like to stay with articles which are more or less local (mostly southern California), you might notice this issue goes a little further afield. The two main articles and part of Sandy's column deal with the fact the whole world is an interrelated ecosystem. That we should be concerned with conservation matters close at hand like Malibu Lagoon or the California Condor goes without saying. But we should not lose sight of the bigger picture. I hope this issue will help widen your outlook. If you are interested in further reading on this subject, a longer, more complete version of Roger Pasquier's article appears in the October 82 issue of *Smithsonian*. Another well written article entitled *Northern Birds at Home in the Tropics* by John Fitzpatrick can be found in the May or June 82 issue of *Natural History*.

I knew I'd receive some flak over printing the piece on the Condor by Hal and Nancy Spear, but even so the response was a little overwhelming. A number of my friends were quite upset with me for printing an article which disagrees with the position of the LA Audubon. They felt strongly that we should only use the voice of the *TANAGER* to defend our own causes. I, of course, disagree. I would very much know how you feel. Would you like to hear both sides of an issue or only the official line? How did you feel about the Spears' article? Should I have published it at all? As always your inputs are of great value to me, whether positive or negative. I want the *TANAGER* to be as much a pleasure to read as it is for me to edit. Thanks to those who have taken the time to write.



Fred Heath Hen waiting for letters

Birds of the Season

by Shum Suffel

November continued to give a negative reading for a winter invasion of montane or northern birds. Even White-crowned Sparrows and Robins seemed fewer than usual, and Cedar Waxwings were only sparingly reported in the lowlands. There were no Lewis' Woodpeckers and very few Golden-crowned Kinglets, but all was not lost as November brought an unusual number of migrants lingering on into winter and few real rarities.

The most sought-after and controversial bird was the **"White" Wagtail** in the Los Angeles River channel in Long Beach. It was found on 4 November by Jon Atwood and remained at least into early December. Why controversial? Because the "White Wagtail" has been split by the A.O.U. into two species, both basically Eurasian — the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), of which the race *ocularis* nests sparingly in extreme western Alaska, and the Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*) which is not known to nest in North America but has been identified in the past as a vagrant on the west coast. Now the problem: this was a first winter bird with indistinct wing bars and brownish on the wing coverts, and as such is probably not identifiable as to species. For a full discussion of this subject see Joe Morlan's article in the April 1981 *Continental Birdlife.*

The L.A.A.S. trip to Santa Barbara Island on 21 November enjoyed calm seas, little wind, and few birds. There were good numbers of **Black-vented Shearwaters** and **Northern Fulmars,** with smaller numbers of **Pink-footed Shearwaters** and a probable **Flesh-footed Shearwater** which flew directly away from the boat making identification difficult. No unusual gulls were spotted and there were only a few **Pomarine Jaegers. Cassin's Auklets** were fairly common in pairs or small groups. The only other alcids were three or more **Rhinoceros Auklets** and only a single **Common Murre** (despite unusual numbers of murres reported along the coast). In addition to the **Northern Fulmars** on the pelagic trip, two were seen at Pt. Mugu by Art and Jan Cupples on 7 November and Nancy Spear found two dead fulmars on Hermosa Beach. Why are fulmars so often found dead on beaches when the vastly more numerous shearwaters so rarely are? A **White-faced Ibis** at the Edwards Air Force Base marsh on the L.A.A.S. trip of 20 November was the latest fall record for the deserts.

Although the Salton Sea was undoubtedly the best place for **geese,** the Antelope Valley on 27 November provided a hundred **Canadas** and three **Greater White-fronts** on tiny Holiday Lake and twenty-five **Snow Geese** at the Lancaster Sewage Ponds. Also at the sewage ponds were some 5000 **Northern Shovelers.** Further west, Quail Lake had large concentrations of **Canvasbacks** and **Ring-necked Ducks.** Who will pick out Tufted Ducks, etc., when wind and light conditions are more favorable there? At the mouth of the Santa Maria River on 26 November Larry Sansone found an **Aleutian Canada Goose** (once on the verge of extinction). It was banded, and the band number is being sent to authorities. Two pairs of **Wood Ducks** on the New Lakes at Whittier Narrows were the only ones reported (Natasha Antonovich, 6 November). The **Eurasian Wigeon** has returned to the ponds on the Brookside Golf Course in Pasadena. It was rediscovered by Gene Thompson on 29 November. Two more were in San Diego Co. in late October. An important sea duck just got in under the deadline: a colorful adult male **King Eider** at the Imperial Beach Pier, below San Diego, on 5 December; it was with a flock of scoters and one **Oldsquaw.** The only other elder south of Monterey Bay was an immature male at the Malibu Pier from 22 November 1973 to 28 January 1974. Three **Oldsquaws** were near the bridge at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. An adult male **Black Scoter** was seen from the breakwater at Cabrillo Beach, San Pedro, on 5 December (Brian Keelan and the Strausses) A **Hooded Merganser** on Santee Lake, San Diego Co., after 16 November was the only report.

The Antelope Valley west of Interstate 14 was very productive for raptors. Arnold Small and Herb Clarke studied an adult **Northern Goshawk,** several **Ferruginous Hawks** (including one of the uncommon dark phase); and four **Rough-legged Hawks** on 20 November. In the same area on 27 November we had seven species of raptors including a **Golden Eagle** on a pole not forty feet over our car. Further east in the valley, near Pearblossom, Dan Guthrie found a subadult **Goshawk** on 29 October. Herb and Arnold had a **"Harlan's Hawk"** near the condor lookout on Mil Potrero Road in mid-November; this is possibly only the second record of this race of the Red-tailed Hawk in the region. The only **Rough-legged Hawk** reported along the coast was at Trancas Beach, Malibu, on 14 November (Bruce Broadbooks). An adult **Red-shoulderd Hawk** was at the Brawley Golf Course (Bill Wagner, 24 October); this may be only the second record south of the Salton Sea. The only local report of a **Broad-winged Hawk** was an immature at Pt. Fermin Park, San Pedro, on 22 November (Jerry Johnson). Our larger lakes — Baldwin, Big Bear, Mathews, Elsinore, etc. — usually have wintering **Bald Eagles,** but they are uncommon along the coast. Thus, an immature near the Hughes Airport on 25 November was noteworthy (Bruce Broadbooks). An adult was seen at Lake Elsinore on 26 November (Jim Real). A **Merlin** appeared off and on during the fall at the Arcadia arboretum (Barbara Cohen), and Jon Dunn *et al* studied one of the pale *richardsoni* race above Needles on 26 November. L.A.A.S. President Bob Shanman reports that the **Sandhill Cranes** had returned to the Carrizo Plains by November; several hundred were also in the vicinity of Blythe along the Colorado River.

The shorebird migration tapered off as November progressed. A **Lesser Golden-Plover** (of the *fulva* race) was on the salt flats at Playa del Rey on 20 November (Bruce Broadbooks), and one of the *dominica* race was along the Santa Ana River in Anaheim on 19 October (Doug Willick). A late **Solitary Sandpiper** was in the latter area on 15 October, as was a late **Pectoral Sandpiper** on 12 November (all Doug Willick). Exceptionally late was a Solitary at Harbor Lake on 25 October (John Ivanov). In the Chino area a **Ruff** (Rick Clements, 16 October), and possibly a Reeve, too, stayed on the farm ponds for most of November. Another Ruff was present on San Diego Bay (Elizabeth Copper, 30 October to 2 November). A long delayed report of four **Baird's Sandpipers** in the Upper Kern Basin at 11,200 ft. (Randy Morganson, 25 August) was not as surprising as it might seem, as they are "sometimes seen on the high lakes (10,000 to 12, 000 ft.) of Colorado and Chile" (Forbush, 1925-1929). It was a first record for Sequoia National Park (*fide* Larry Norris). **Red Phalaropes** (normally a pelagic species) were not only common on the pelagic trip, but they were numerous along the coast in November. Additionally, about 25 were a few miles inland at Harbor Lake (Mark Kincheloe, 13 November), three were 15 miles up the Santa Ana River (Doug Willick, 14 November), and some thirty were at the south end of the Salton Sea on 27 November (Guy McCaskie *et al*). Six freshly dead Red Phalaropes picked up on the beach at Malibu on 11 November weighed about 30 grams each (with 50-60 grams being the average for the species); clearly they weren't obtaining enough food (Kimball Garrett).

A **Franklin's Gull** was found by Tom Wurster on 14 November in the lower Santa Ana River channel (where as many as four

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

were seen two years ago), and another was some twelve miles upstream in Anaheim on 7 November. While searching for the Long Beach wagtail on 27 November Gerry Tolman saw a flying gull, smaller than the accompanying Bonaparte's, with a "W" pattern on the upper wings and back — a probable immature Little Gull. Are there any other observers?

Four **Lesser Nighthawks** near the ball fields in Shadow Ranch Park, San Fernando Valley, were probably fall transients (Wanda Conway, 20 October). Three November reports of **Common Poorwills** in the Palos Verdes area (*fide* Mark Kincheloe) were exceptional, as the species is quite inactive in cold weather. Garrett and Dunn, 1981, state that "this species is probably not rare in winter in District C — it is only rarely detected".

An additional **Tropical Kingbird** was at Harbor Lake on 23 October (Brian Daniels). The only **Least Flycatchers** were in Goleta and Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co. (Paul Lehman); both may be wintering. The return of a few flycatchers to the same location winter after winter is greatly anticipated. The **Gray Flycatcher** returned to the Arcadia arboretum for at least the third winter (Virginia Escher, 11 November). Nearby there were sightings in November of an exceptionally yellow **Western Flycatcher** (Jean Brandt and Phil Sayre; Barbara Cohen). A remarkable returnee was the **Greater Pewee** to the Merry-Go-Round area of Griffith Park for its fourth winter (Kimball Garrett, 31 October), but there are no reports of the Olive-sided Flycatcher which spent the last three winters nearby. The male **Vermilion Flycatcher** on the Brookside Golf Course, Pasadena, was back for its second winter on 14 November (Bill Grant)/ Other Vermilions were in the San Jacinto Valley (Bill Wagner, 18 October) and in Prado Basin Park. Three late **Tree Swallows** were seen in the frigid Antelope Valley on 27 November (David Koeppel and Don Sterba). Numbers of chickadees, nuthatches, and other montane birds in the lowlands were very low in November. A **Brown Creeper** at Pt. Fermin Park (Doug Willick, 23 November) and one creeping up Tom Frillman and Mary Thompson's telephone pole in Santa Monica were two of the few. One of the only **Winter Wren** reports comes from Death Valley, a northerly record for the deserts (Larry Norris). The only reports of **Varied Thrushes** came from Griffith Park (Justin Russell, 23 October) and Pt. Loma (Diana Herron, 28 October). The **Wood Thrush** (about five records) on Pt. Loma (Nancy Kelly, 1 November) stayed through November — a longevity record, as two previous Wood Thrushes were killed by cats. Two **Black-tailed Gnatcatchers** (presumably the coastal race) were at Oak Canyon Nature Center, Anaheim, where none has been found previously. They were probably refugees from the 20,000 acres of nearby chaparral which burned on 9 October (Doug Willick, 23 November).

Solitary Vireos (of the race *plumbeus*) were in Turtle Rock Nature Center, Irvine, from 16 to 20 October (Doug Willick), and in Huntington Beach Central Park (HBCP) on 12 November (Brian Daniels). Brian also found the race *cassinii* at HBCP on 22 November. One, perhaps two **Warbling Vireos** were at the Arcadia arboretum on 21 November (Barbara Cohen), and in a different area there on 26 November (Don Sterba). A **Philadelphia Vireo** (casual in fall) was found at HBCP on 26 November (Richard Webster), and on 11 November a **Red-eyed Vireo** was there (Virginia and Wayne Gockenour).

Warbler reports, particularly from the San Diego area, were too numerous to cover completely. A **Golden-winged Warbler** (about fifteen records in our region) was in the Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens on 22 October. The **Virginia's Warbler** was back for at least its third winter at the Newport High School Ecology Park, and another was near San Diego (Guy McCaskie, 30 October). **Lucy's Warblers** are considered rare transients in the interior, even though they nest sparingly on our eastern deserts; thus, one in Palm Springs on 1 October was noteworthy (Bill Wagner). Coastally one was in HBCP on 22 October (Brian Daniels) and two were near San Diego. The only **Chestnut-sideds** were on Pt. Loma on 20-21 October (Dave Povey) and after 30 October (Richard Webster). An immature **Magnolia Warbler** was near Anaheim (Doug Willick, 15 October), two **Magnolias** were on Pt. Loma on 15 and 21 October (both Richard Webster), and one was near Westmorland at the south end of the Salton Sea on 28 November (Jon Dunn). The only **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a male in the El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach, in early November. Huntington Beach Central Park hosted about eight **Black-throated Grays,** twelve **Townsend's,** and a **Hermit Warbler** well into November. Two immature **Black-throated Greens** were in Orange Co.: near Anaheim on 11 November (Doug Willick), and in HBCP after 12 November (Brian Daniels); two more were in San Diego Co. The only **Blackburnians** were below San Diego and on Pt. Loma (Elizabeth Copper and Richard Webster). Both **Grace's Warblers** in Santa Barbara Co. (Montecito and west of Carpinteria) returned for their fourth winter. The only local **Palm Warbler** was in the South Coast Botanic Gardens (Eric Brooks, 6 November), but there were ten Palms near San Diego this fall. The only **Bay-breasted Warbler** was on Pt. Loma from 5 to 9 November (Richard Webster). Richard considered **Blackpolls** scarce, with only six sightings near San Diego; there were no late reports here. Reports of **Black-and-whites** and **American Redstarts** were too numerous to detail. The sighting of two **Worm-eating Warblers** in one morning by Brian Daniels was unusual (there are fewer than twenty records for the region). One was in Whaley Park (where it wintered last year), and the other was in Long Beach Recreation Park (where one appeared briefly last fall). Richard Webster's **Ovenbird** on Pt. Loma on 27 November was a very late fall record. A late **Painted Redstart** was in Rocky Nook Park in Santa Barbara after 12 November (Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman *et al*).

The only **Hepatic Tanager** reported was also in Rocky Nook Park at the same time as the redstart. Late October and November added four more records of **Summer Tanagers:** a female in Tapia Park, Malibu Canyon, feeding on yellowjackets (Sandy Wohlgemuth, 31 October); a female at Turtle Rock Nature Center (Doug Willick, 21 October); one in HBCP from 7 October into November (Steve Ganley); and two on Pt. Loma after 7 November. An immature male **Scarlet Tanager** was a one day find in HBCP on 25 November (Lee Jones *et al*). Another immature male Scarlet was found dead on the Pacific Coast Highway sidewalk near Malibu Lagoon on 7 November (Kimball Garrett). An **Orchard Oriole** was below San Diego on 31 October (Jerry Oldenettel) and another was on Pt. Loma on 21 October (Richard Webster). There were at least four **Scott's Orioles** in Orange Co. last winter, but the only report to date was from below San Diego on 17 October (Richard Webster). The range expansion of **Great-tailed Grackles** continued with two near Prado Basin Park on 29 October (Hal Baxter) and one at Santee Lakes, San Diego Co., after 15 November (Nancy Kelly).

A **Dickcissel** was found below San Diego on 17 October (Guy McCaskie) and three **Indigo Buntings** were in the San Diego area. Two very southerly **Tree Sparrows** were on Pt. Loma from 28 to 31 October (Richard Webster). There were at least six sightings of **Clay-colored Sparrows** — one below San Diego on 11 October, and five on Pt. Loma between 16 October and 15 November (but how many individuals involved?). They must be present locally in flocks of Chipping Sparrows, but there are no reports. Let's find one!

First priority in mid-winter is the Salton Sea, particularly the south end for geese by the thousands and ducks in even greater numbers, for open field birds (Mountain Plover, longspurs, and Sandhill Cranes below Brawley), and, with hard work, a few rare passerines in favorably vegetated areas. Locally, the coast and the Antelope Valley will be most interesting, particularly if we have an unexpected invasion of winter birds.

CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 8:00 p.m. Evening meeting. Don't miss bringing in the new year with our first **Members' Slide Contest.** See details on p.5 of the last Tanager.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26 — Meet **Jean Brandt** at **9:00 a.m.** at **Tapia Park.** On Las Virgines Rd., about 1 mi. S. of Mulholland Rd, top of **Malibu Canyon.** Go left to parking area after entering park.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 — Pt. Mugu. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** at **Naval Base.** Trip **limited to 25.** Call Audubon House for reservations and directions.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 — El Dorado Nature Center. Discover the joy of birding this fine little area with **Marge Pamias** of the El Dorado Audubon. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the south side of Spring Street for a pleasant morning bird walk.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 — Hal Baxter will lead this annual trip to the **Salton Sea.** Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Wister turn off on HWY 111, 36 mi. S. of Mecca.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 8:00 p.m. Evening meeting. Attend our third annual **General Membership Meeting;** we need your ideas to make the Society work even better and accomplish even more. Among the topics will be increasing membership, increasing volunteer help, the Society's publications, etc. Refreshments will be provided.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 — Ballona Wetlands. Join **Bob and Roberta Shanman** (545-2867, after 6) for a morning of birding in this threatened wetland. Ducks, shorebirds, gulls, terns and other water related species will be in evidence. 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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14 — Malibu Creek and Pepperdine Ponds. Meet **Sandy Wohlgemuth** at **8:00 a.m.** at the entrance to the new Malibu Lagoon Sanctuary on the S. side of PCH across from the supermarket. Parking may be available at Sanctuary, otherwise, park N. of PCH.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21 — Upper Newport Bay. Meet **Dorothy Dimsdale** and **Ruth Lohr** at **8:30 a.m.** at the Newporter Inn, corner of Backbay Dr. and Jamboree Rd. Call Ruth for further information at 851-4782

NOTE: All evening meetings are held in the large meeting room on the south side of Plummer Park.

Leaders Needed

We need people to lead field trips. Do you have a favorite birding locale? You don't have to be an "expert" to show other birders, especially beginners, a few nice looks at some of our common species. Your trip doesn't even have to be long . . . you can opt for a short morning excursion. Call our Field Trip Coordinator—**Ian Austin** to make arrangements (Day 879-9700, Evening 452-3318).

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.

WESTERN TANAGER

EDITOR Fred Heath
DESIGN Keith Lee
PRINTER Artisan Press
CONSERVATION EDITOR Sandy Wohlgemuth
ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT Kimball Garrett
CALENDAR EDITOR Peggy Pantel

Published ten times a year by the Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Carol Friedman

Audubon membership (local and national) is $25 per year (individual), $32 (family), $15 (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 at the above address. Members wishing to receive the TANAGER by first class mail must send checks for $5 payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Subscriptions to THE WESTERN TANAGER separately are $8 per year (Bulk Rate) or $13 (First Class, mailed in an envelope). To subscribe, make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

1983 Los Angeles Audubon Society Annual Banquet

Tuesday, March 1, 1983 at the Starlight Room of the Sportsman's Lodge on Ventura Blvd. in Studio City. We are pleased to present a program by our own **Terry Clark,** who will show her recent bird/wildlife films, **"Sanctuary"** and **"Double Concerto".**

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. Cost of $15 per person includes valet parking. Write and send check to LAAS to make your reservation.

Shearwater Trips

Debra Love Shearwater runs a series of regular pelagic trips out of Monterey and Morro Bay. The following is a list of upcoming scheduled trips from Monterey Bay:

February 5	Jon Dunn, Guy McCaskie/ Laysan Albatross Search	$28
February 19	Alan Baldridge, Ted Chandik/ Monterey Bay	$25
March 5	Don Roberson/ Monterey Seavalley	$35
May 14	Jeri Langham, John Luther/Monterey Bay	$24
May 21	Ted Chandik, Guy McCaskie/Cordell Banks and Beyond	$36

Reservations are made by sending a check payable to Debra, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Debra Love Shearwater
362 Lee Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408) 425-8111

A detailed brochure is available which describes these 1983 pelagic trips. Write or call Debra for further information.

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