WESTERN TANAGER

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A Week in Jamaica

by Teri Matelson

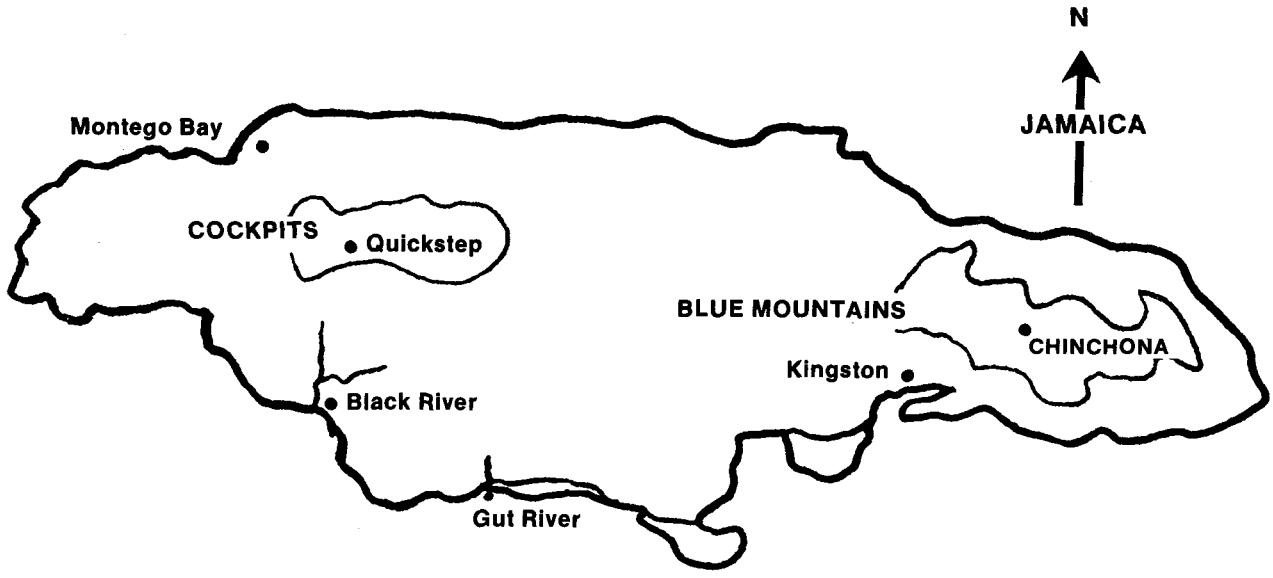
Illustrations by the Author

A hundred years ago the governor of Jamaica ruled his island from a cool retreat high in the Blue Mountains, far above the capital city of Kingston. Several houses were grouped around an expansive green lawn, while the forest immediately surrounding the houses was transformed into an English-style formal garden. Pathways led round-about through a richly varied assortment of trees, shurbs and concrete fountain ponds. Often the sounds of a string orchestra echoed through the tall trees as the high society of the island gathered on the lawn for concerts and parties given by the governor and his entourage. Chinchona, as the place was known, was intended to be both a botanic garden and the seat of government.

But by the middle of this century, Chinchona had been abandoned and forgotten, a "ghost garden", overgrown and vandalized. Restoration did not get underway until 1981. Today, in the year 1984, the hill is once again cared for. A cabin or two have been rebuilt, a roof repaired, graffiti carefully sanded off the old walls, the main house cleaned and sparsely furnished, gardens trimmed and paths cleared, and nearly ready. Ready for what? Andre Oberli, the new curator, says the grounds will one day be the setting for education and scientific research. The gardens will be a spectacular sight *and* a useful tool to help preserve the natural environment of the island.

Jim Crisp and I were fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Jamaica with Drs. Nalini Nadkarni and Jack Longino of the University of California at Santa Barbara. Dr. Longino came to Jamaica to search the island for ants. The most recent surveys, published at the turn of the century, were incomplete and apparently ignored arboreal ants altogether. Dr. Nadkarni, who investigates epiphytic communities in the canopy of tropical forests, hoped to compare potential forest study-sites on the island to sites in the forests of Costa Rica. My atten-

Streamertail Hummingbird



tion centered on the forest birds, especially the identification of those that visit epiphytes such as bromeliads. Within a week's time we visited the two mountain regions on Jamaica, the Cockpits in the west and the Blue Mountains in the east. My comments concentrate on the Blue Mountains, as they are, and will be, the more accessible of the two areas.

"If only" was in our minds as we began our trip pushing our Datsun sedan up steep, washed-out curves in the road. Three of us positioned ourselves at the back bumper, and the fourth at the wheel. Shortly before sunset our persistence was rewarded by the sudden sight of uncut virgin forest of the Blue Mountains, the amazing array of vegetation transported in the 1800's from London's Kew Gardens, and, behind and below, the glittering view of Kingston. There we stood on the top of the hill... Chinchona Botanic Gardens.

We camped in the gardens for two nights and explored the forest by day. Blue Mountain Peak rises to 2290 m and is made of igneous shale and limestone. Its slopes are very steep, but not steep enough to prevent farmers from clearing and burning the vegetation. The cleared areas are farmed while the soil is still rich, and eventually abandoned. Because of this slash-and-burn activity, deforestation and erosion are two serious problems facing Jamaicans today. Mr. Oberli is looking forward to the day when the Botanic Gardens can be used to propagate trees that are fast-growing and useful. His plans address the need for currently impacted areas to be properly managed, and the remaining Blue Mountain forest preserved.

The rain forest here is impressive, with low trees and a very substantial growth of lichens and bromeliads. This "rain" forest is referred to by David Lack in his very comprehensive book "Island Biology", as "montane" forest. The term "montane" is perhaps more accurate since the forest is not as wet, tall, diverse, or lush as a typical lowland "rain forest". Here on Jamaica, as on other islands, there is not the quantity of bird species found in mainland rain forests, but the birds that are here, are certainly as interesting. Especially unique to Jamaica and the Blue Mountains is the *Jamaican Blackbird,* which feeds largely in the bromeliads. The *Blue Mountain Vireo* is a speciality here, the only Jamaican bird without a local common name. I surmise that this is because of its extemely plain looks and retiring nature; it lacks the white iris and wingbars of the *Jamaican White-eyed Vireo,* which is also found in the mountains. The *Arrowhead Warbler* inhabits the forest at high and low elevations. He is the only endemic warbler, sharing the trees during parts of the year with migrating North American warblers. The *Stripe-headed Tanager* can be seen on other islands in the Greater Antilles, and in the Bahamas. Its colorful patterning differs markedly from island to island, and the Jamaican race is the largest in size. The *Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo* is also a striking and impressively large bird. He is likely to be seen in more sparsely wooded areas rather than dense forest. The *Jamaican Woodpecker, Jamaican Tody, Orangequit, Jamaican Euphonia, Rufous-throated Solitaire, White-eyed Thrush, White-chinned Thrush,* and *Jamaican Greater Antillean Bullfinch,* are all common forest inhabitants. Want to see these birds??... you *got* to go to Jamaica, mon!

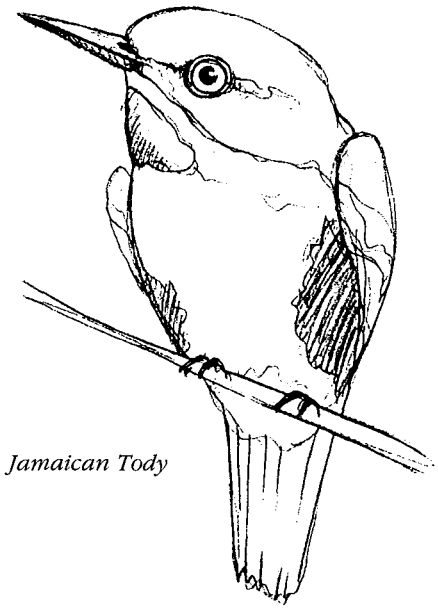
After three all-too-short days in the Blue Mountains, we wound our way down the hill (only slightly easier than going up) to the capital city of Kingston. We located the National Art Gallery and delighted in seeing the extensive collection of local painting and sculpture displayed there. After a simple lunch, we headed west toward Black River. An obscure dirt road called the "South Coast Road" proved passable, and remarkable in its diversity. Mile after mile we bounced along the limestone island edge. The inland side of the road was rocky and desert-like, while the other side of the road was thick with ferns and Mangrove swamp vegetation. The Gut River seemed to, and indeed did, arise from under the road and flowed to the ocean meters away. We stopped very frequently to watch for birds and to gaze into the deep, clear, fresh-water ponds abutting the road. *White-wing* and *Zenaida Dove, Antillean Palm Swifts, Grey Kingbirds, Ani,* and *American Kestrel* abound here. Bands of raucous *Jamaican Parakeets* screech from their roosts. Sometimes lumped with Olive-Throated Parakeets, such as are found in Central America, they are usually considered a separate Jamaican species. Many of Jamaica's birds can be found here in the lowlands, as well as in the lower mountain elevations, and in the Cockpit Mountains. The *Streamertail Hummingbird,* more flamboyant than any other hummingbird anywhere in the world, lives in a wide range of habitats. The *Jamaican Mango* and the *Vervain Hummingbird* are also dispersed throughout the island. Better be sharp-eyed while searching for the Vervain; it and its close relative, the Bee Hummingbird of Cuba, are the smallest hummers in the world.

We couldn't help feeling disappointed to see the end of the 40-mile coast road. However, there was the comforting anticipation of a nice hot shower, which we needed desperately. We arrived in the early evening at the town of Black River, where we spent

the night at a very fine hotel called The Port O'Call. Rested and ready to begin the second leg of our trip, we left early the nest morning and headed north toward the Cockpit Country. En route we saw *Jamaican Becard, Loggerhead Flycatcher, Jamaican Owl,* and *Mangrove Cuckoo.* On this day we made few stops along the way. My eyes scanned the trees for birds while we purchased an assortment of vegetables from the street vendors. Our goal was a pre-arranged meeting with Dr. Frank Davis, from U.C.S.B. Dr. Davis, who had organized our stay in the Cockpits, is involved in a long-term study of the biogeography of these mountains. I had assumed that the name of this mountain region of Jamaica had something to do with an airplane, but no... the numerous low areas between mountains suggest the pits used in Cock-fighting. The Cockpits are actually very rocky limestone, characteristic of Karst topography. In areas of this kind caves are everywhere, above and below ground level. We hiked seven miles past a small settlement called Quickstep to a very large cave in the forest. The dirt road we followed climbed and twisted through farming plots, and patches of forest. Strangely comical sounds of *Jabbering Crows* followed us most of the way. The sight of the cave was startling. The wide jagged cave mouth hanging ten feet above the trail stopped us in our tracks. One by one we hoisted ourselves up onto the mouth edge, anxious to see the interior of our temporary quarters. We found cool air, very fine-powdery-soil on the ground to pad around on, and infinitely detailed formations in the rock and earthen cave walls. Two tents were pitched and a cooking hearth set up inside the cave, and still we had plenty of room to amble around. In the dim evening light, with the hearth fire burning, we perched on the rocky cave entrance and watched the fruit bats streak out of the cave. Appearing suddenly from the black inner regions they appeared as nothing more than flicks of grey light. In the morning, the *Cave Swallows* arrived chirping wildly as they skimmed the ceiling of the cave and swooped through the forest. Several members of our group willingly followed our friends from Quickstep into distant back chambers of nearby caves. Their stories of stalactities and stalagmites gleaming in the glow of their flashlights painted a mysterious picture. The open front chamber of the cave was a most fascinating place, but the dark hole leading to the back chambers of our cave had no allure for me.

During the daylight hours, we hiked in the forest near the cave. In spite of the difficult footing, I managed to look up enough to see the *Jamaican White-eyed Vireo, Orangequits, Arrowhead Warbler, Ruddy-quail Dove, Rufous-tailed Flycatcher, Greater Antillean Peewee, American Redstart, Bananaquit,* and *Yellow-shouldered Grassquit. Yellow-billed* and *Black-billed Parrots,* in dwindling numbers, live exclusively in these western mountains — they are more easily heard than seen. The *Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo?...* maybe next time!

Our visit to Jamaica turned an average week in March into a "month-long-adventure". The Cockpits, Blue Mountains, and everything around them contain all the elements of a sensational story. Perhaps next year the road to Chinchona Botanic Gardens will be improved, providing better access into a most unique place. If restorations go according to plan, this protected garden area and its surroundings could provide a special place from which to observe and study the natural history of Jamaica; a peephole for Jamaican residents and vistors into a rugged but fragile environment.



Jamaican Tody

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Birds of the West Indies. James Bond

State Income Tax Checkoff for Endangered Species

California's income tax checkoff program for rare and endanged species got off to a half million dollar start last spring, but more will be needed in succeeding years.

"We would like to see wildlife enthusiasts of every conviction participate in this program," says the Director of California's Department of Fish and Game, Jack Parnell.

"If each of them gives five dollars by checking it off on the state tax return every year and gets a friend to do the same thing, we can have a positive impact on our endangered species."

Legislation in 1983 provides a line on the California income tax form that invites tax filers to contribute money for the benefit of rare and endangered species. The contribution is deductible the following year on the U.S. tax form but not allowable on the California form.

The half million dollars contributed for the 1983 tax year, while less than spectacular when compared to returns in other states, was considered a good start in California because of different circumstances. Along with the deductibility problem not found in other states, last year's program had competition from checkoffs for the political parties, the Olympics, the program for children and the program for Senior Citizens.

Despite all that, the checkoff for Rare and Endangered Species proved to be the major money raiser for the year.

The contributed money this year is being used for critical wildlife habitat purchase and enhancement of habitats critical to endangered or candidate species. Among the habitats to be purchased are properties that support peregrine falcon, the California condor, two subspecies of rails, the San Joaquin Kit fox, the Nelson's ground squirrel and the Lost Hills salt bush.

On the habitat restoration and enhancement side, money will be spent on bald eagle reintroduction, condor nesting sites, protection of the Island mahogany, land enhancement for the Alameda manzanita and special enhancement efforts for the blunt nosed leopard lizard, the Santa Cruz long toed salamander and a number of endangered plants.

Contributors last spring amounted to less than one percent of the tax paying public and each gave an average of $4.12. Sources at Fish and Game have decided on a stepped up promotion campaign this season to gain up to 2½ percent of the taxpaying public at $5.00 per contribution. This would raise one million, 375 thousand dollars.

Considerable effort will be made to remind people to be sure to tell their tax preparers they want to make the contribution and for how much. Failing that, would-be contributors are reminded they can make the necessary changes on their own tax returns and initial the changes.

Plant Communities Bird Habitats in Southern California

PART II: THE OPEN OCEAN

by Paul Lehman

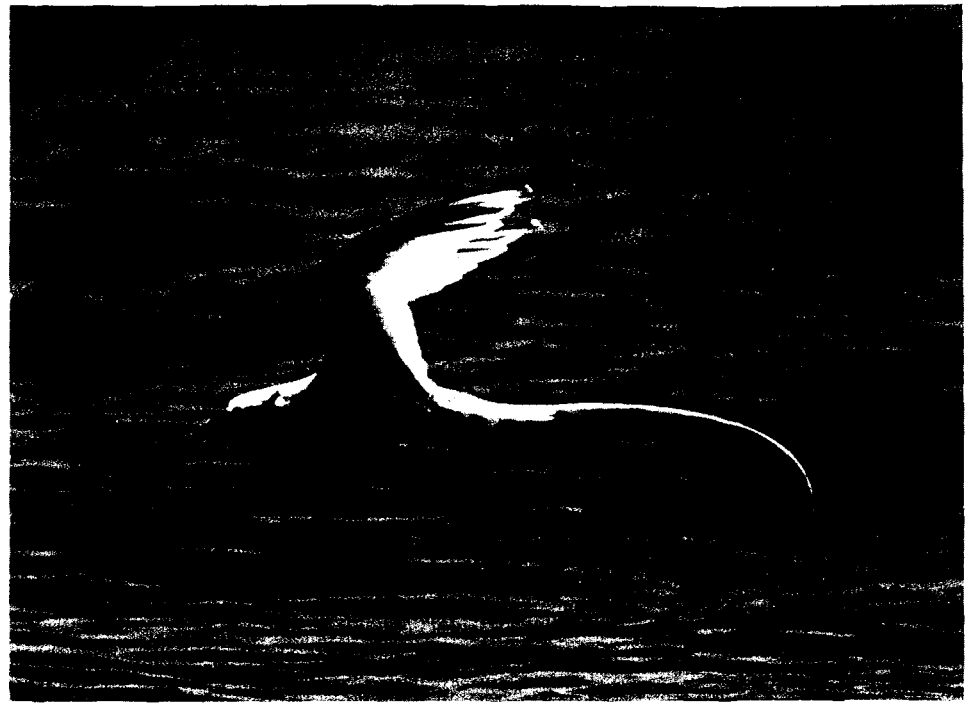

Photo by Herb Clarke

Red-Billed Tropicbird

Too many people, the vast offshore waters off Southern California appear as a uniform habitat. However, the ocean is anything but uniform; instead, it varies significantly in its characteristics, resulting in major variations in the distribution of marine life, including seabirds. Such parameters as sea surface temperatures, salinity, and biological productivity fluctuate with changes in depth, season, and location (both latitudinally and with distance offshore). Small variations in these parameters (for example, a change of only 1-2°C) may have significant impacts on the distributions of marine life. Conditions north vs. southeast of the Point Conception area often differ significantly; waters to the north have characteristics similar to those off Northern California (e.g. lower temperatures), while those to the southeast make up the Southern California Bight and share many of its associated characters (e.g. warmer temperatures). Surface characteristics of the waters also vary with time at a frequency ranging from weeks to years.

The Southern California Bight is an open embayment of the Pacific Ocean bounded on the north by Point Conception and on the south by Cape Colnett, Baja California. It extends offshore to the California Current, a broad, southerly-flowing current along the California coast. The currents in a coastal region such as the Southern California Bight are caused and modified by a number of factors, including the wind acting directly on the water surface, tides, waves, bottom topography and islands, and differences in the mass of the water due to variation in temperature and salinity (which affects water density).

Wind-driven currents are formed by the wind acting on the ocean surface and causing the uppermost few centimeters of water to move at 2 or 3 percent of the wind speed in the direction of the wind. Due to frictional drag and to Coriolis Force (a force caused by the earth's rotation and which, in the Northern Hemisphere, deflects motion to the right relative to the direction of movement) deeper waters move slower and the transport of surface waters is at a 45-90° angle to the right of the wind. This process is of interest along the coast of California since the prevailing northwest winds present during the spring and summer flow parallel to the coast and transport the surface water away from the coast. This surface water is then replaced by colder, deeper water which wells up in the coastal zone in a process called upwelling. This upwelled water is rich in nutrients (e.g. phosphorus) and supports high biological productivity.

The California Current is the broad, eastern boundary current of the North Pacific Ocean. It has its origins where the North Pacific Current, flowing eastward from Japan, intersects the North American continent at 45° to 50° north latitude and divides, flowing north as the Gulf of Alaska Gyre and south as the California Current. The California Current is 600 to 1000 kilometers wide and 100 to 500 meters deep. It comes within 40 to 150 km of the coast in the region north of Point Conception. South of the Point, in the Southern California Bight, the California Current flows some 200 km offshore since the shoreline swings sharply to the east while the edge of the continental shelf continues in a more southerly direction. The California Current follows the edge of the shelf past Point Conception until it is off northern Baja California, then bends shoreward near Ensenada. Near the coast this shoreward flow diverges, with one arm continuing south and the other flowing north as the Southern California Countercurrent (See Figure 1). Because the water is of northern origin and because of upwelling of cold water along the coast, the waters of the California Current are colder than those farther offshore. Heating of the surface water as the current moves south isolates it from the deeper, colder waters. Off Southern California, these waters are further modified by their mixing with warmer and more saline southern water.

The Southern California Countercurrent exists at all seasons, though it is probably best developed during the winter. Upon intersecting the Channel Islands and Point Conception, the countercurrent either continues north as the Davidson Current or turns back and flows southeast along the continental shelf. This looping feature of the surface current system is called the Southern California Eddy or Gyre, which is largely permanent in location and is centered over the shallow (c. 200m) Santa Rosa-Cortez Ridge that trends from San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands southeastward to San Nicolas Island and beyond (see Figure 2). Circulation within this counterclockwise gyre is complicated by the interaction of various currents with the many islands and bottom irregularities, as well as by differing local weather/wind conditions. The water in the countercurrent is a mixture of northern, California Current, water and southern water. The mean monthly temperature ranges from 1° to 3°C higher than that in the California Current; salinities also average higher.

It can be seen from the above discussion that the Southern California Bight is characterized by *both* northern and southern waters. The northwest section of the Bight around the northern Channel Islands, particularly San Miguel Island, and further offshore is

dominated by colder, less saline, higher oxygenated, more nutrient-rich, northern waters, and their associated marine life. Many northern species of marine plants and animals reach their southern limit in the waters of this area. For example, the northern Channel Islands support the southernmost breeding colonies of Pigeon Guillemot and Cassin's Auklet, and formerly those of Common Murre and Tufted Puffin. In contrast, the southeastern section of the Bight from Los Angeles to San Diego is characterized by southern waters of higher temperatures and salinities and generally lower biological productivity. Such southern species as Black Storm-Petrel, Brown Pelican, and Xantus' Murrelet nest no farther north than the Bight. The storm-petrel is restricted as a breeder to the warmer southern section (i.e. Santa Barbara Island). Therefore, the entire Southern California Bight is a "transition zone", biologically speaking, between north and south. This results in a rich and varied assemblage of marine life. Its birdlife is no exception.

Oceanic conditions vary not only in space, but also in time. The large-scale seasonal changes which occur are primarily the result of changes in major current patterns. These patterns result from the direction and strength of the prevailing winds and the resultant direction of water flow. The oceanic conditions off California as a whole can be broken down into three distinct seasons: the upwelling period, the oceanic period, and the Davidson Current period. During spring and early summer northwest winds occur frequently, the California Current comes closer to shore, and the surface waters flow south and offshore bringing colder subsurface water rich in nutrients to the surface. This upwelling results in lower surface temperatures, higher salinities, and higher biological productivity. This productivity results from the "fertilizing" of the water by the phosphorus and other nutrients which leads to "blooms" of plankton (e.g. diatoms and dinoflagellates). These phytoplankton are then eaten by zooplankton (e.g. copopods) which, in turn, are eaten by other zooplankton, anchovies, and squid. The latter two are very important food items for seabirds. Therefore, areas characterized by upwelling (which also results from local wind patterns, underwater topography, and the meeting of different currents) are typically characterized by large numbers of birds. This upwelling process occurs south of Point Conception mainly during April, May, and June, beginning somewhat later north of Point Conception (Jones, 1971). Particularly strong upwelling conditions often exist off Point Conception. Before the end of the upwelling period in late summer, sea surface temperatures may differ by as much as 3°C between the eastern Santa Barbara Channel and the waters to the north of Point Conception and west of the Santa Rosa-Cortez Ridge. In winter, this difference may be only 1°C at most. The extent and duration of upwelling in a given year may vary depending on wind speed and direction. During the following oceanic period (late summer-fall), the winds and southward flow slacken, allowing an inshore and northward flow of warm, subtropical waters displaced westward during the upwelling period. Sea surface temperatures now reach their maximum, salinities remain high, and phytoplankton production is at the lowest level of the year. The Davidson Countercurrent dominates the third period during the winter months and moves northward close to shore. This current is pushed by the strong southerly winds accompanying storms (Ainley, 1976). During this period, plankton production is low, surface salinities reach their annual low as a result of storm-water runoff (of minimum importance off much of Southern California where runoff is low), and temperatures begin to decline. In general, this hydrographic cycle occurs later in the year with increasing latitude.

The characteristics of the offshore waters and their variations, as determined by currents and submarine topography, have important consequences for marine bird distribution and abundance. The clearest relationship between oceanographic conditions and bird distributions involves ocean temperatures, less so salinity (Ainley, 1976). Water temperatures affect bird abundance and distribution in two ways. First, they are an index of the degree of upwelling taking place, and, thus, the nutrient-richness of the waters. High phytoplankton production in the upwelled water would, in turn, feed greater number of zooplankton and fish. However, Ainley (1976) points out that this relationship is not well understood and that high food abundance does not necessarily mean high food availability (e.g. Northern Anchovies, a principal food source for seabirds off California, remain in deep water when surface temperatures are warm). Productive waters are certainly known to support large numbers of seabirds; areas regularly characterized by upwelling, such as off Point Arguello and Point Conception, near San Miguel Island, and along the Santa Rosa-Cortez Ridge, have been frequented by large numbers of seabirds the relatively few times they have been explored by observers. If upwelling has been poor in a given year, smaller numbers of birds than usual may occur.

The second way in which water temperatures may affect seabird distribution and abundance is that certain species frequent only a specific range of temperatures. In the northern Pacific each water mass or oceanographic region, as defined by certain physical factors, has a particular marine bird community associated with it (Ainley, 1976). Therefore, the occurrence of certain species off Southern California may be tied to rather strict seasonal controls and also may differ significantly north and south of Point Conception, an oceanographic boundary region.

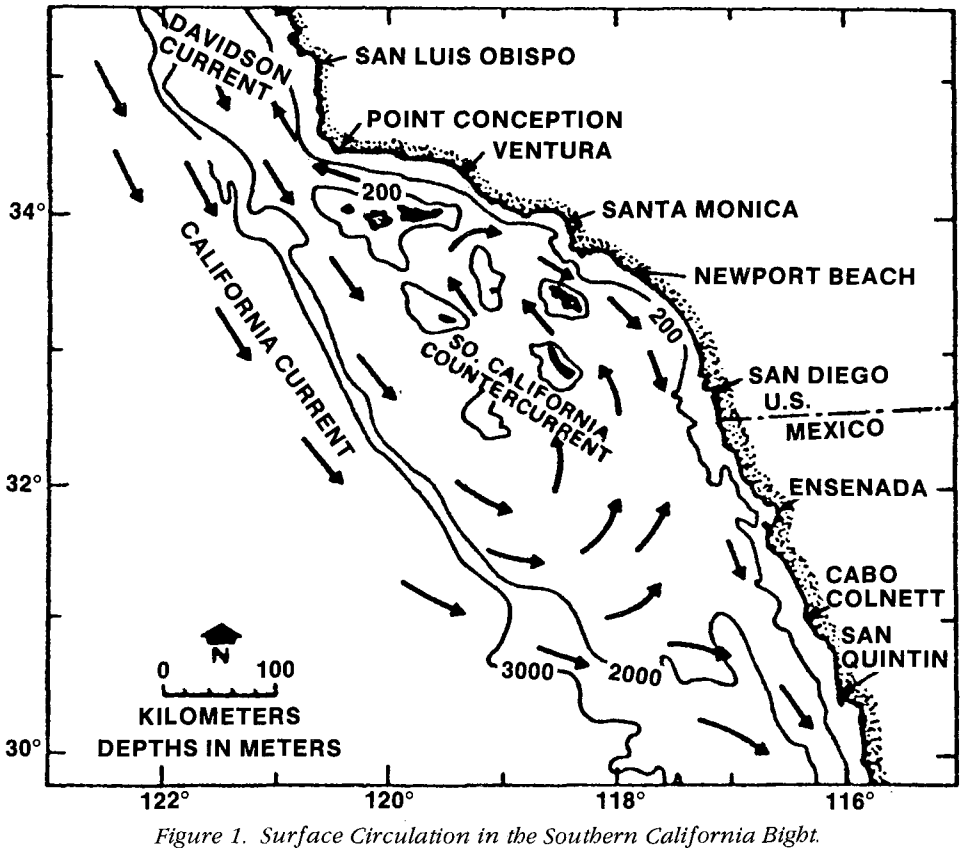

Figure 1. Surface Circulation in the Southern California Bight.

This is illustrated well by several southern, warm-water species: the Least Storm-Petrel, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Craveri's Murrelet. Virtually all the records to date for the storm-petrel and murrelet off Southern California are for late summer and early fall during the warm, oceanic period. The largest numbers of individuals typically occur in the warmer, southern half of the Southern California Bight. Almost all of the frigatebirds have been observed during the summer months and the species is much rarer north of Point Conception. This accords with Ainley (1976), who states that the occurrence of frigatebirds is strongly tied to the presence of sub-tropical water conditions. The Black Storm-Petrel also frequents warmer waters and is most numerous off Southern California during late summer when ocean temperatures are at their maximum. Virtually all the records of the sub-tropical Red-billed Tropicbird also come from this period, and from the southern part of the Bight (e.g. off San Diego). As stated earlier, the differences in water temperature north and south of Point Conception are usually at their greatest during the late summer months; this would help explain the significant differences in occurrence of the Least Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, Magnificent Frigatebird, and Craveri's Murrelet discussed above. During oceanic periods characterized by abnormally warm conditions farther to the north, such southern species may travel north of Point Conception in significant numbers, resulting in less of a north-south contrast.

Such relationships and contrasts are not so pronounced in cold-water species, but are suggested from seasonal and geographic distribution data. Northern Fulmars and Black-legged Kittiwakes, both winter visitors which frequent cold water, regularly reach their peak abundance later in the winter with decreasing latitude and are scarcer during warm-water years (Ainley, 1976). In the Santa Barbara Channel and southeastern Southern California Bight region where waters may be "too warm" early in the winter, maximum nearshore kittiwake counts have come during the late winter and early spring. Ainley (1976) states that areas of high salinity (which peaks in spring, associated with upwelling) may also be frequented by fulmars. Sooty Shearwaters, abundant off the coast most years, May–September, also frequent colder waters and are usually recorded in the largest numbers in much of the Southern California Bight during May and June, a period of upwelling, and before temperatures rise to their late summer highs. During mid-summer (July–August) they are often most abundant north of Point Conception, corresponding to the period of maximum productivity and relatively low temperatures in those waters.

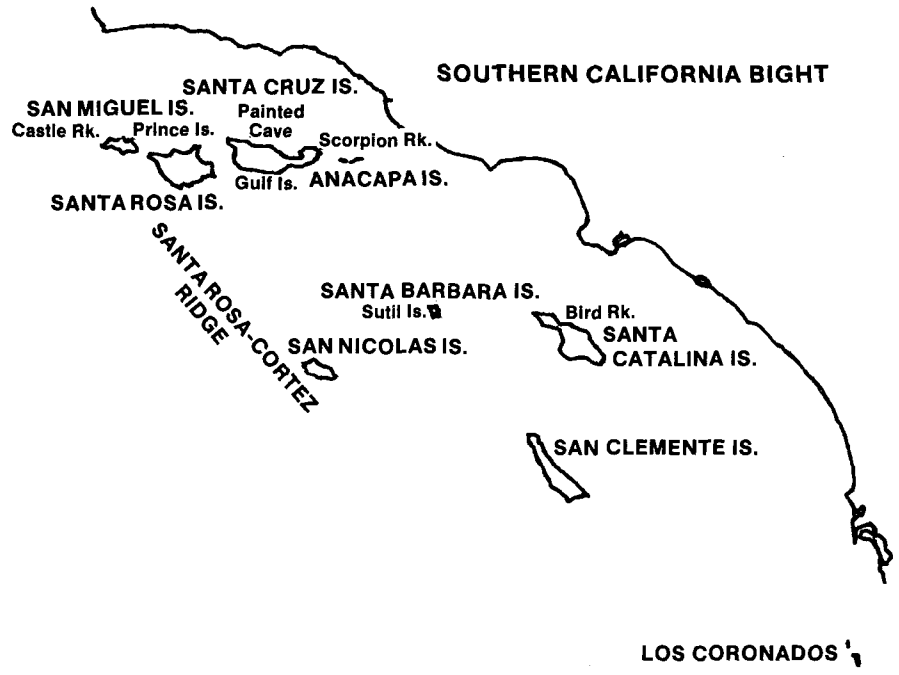

Figure 2. Offshore Islands of Southern California.

In addition to preferences in one or two parameters such as water temperature and salinity, a number of species may have additional predilections such as water depth and the presense of waters with a set of characteristics. Black-footed Albatrosses frequent deep water; Black-vented Shearwaters occur in more shallow conditions. Ainley (1976) suggests that "oceanic" waters far from land may be favored by such species as the Laysan Albatross and Horned Puffin, and that altered circulation patterns resulting in the inshore movement of oceanic waters may play a part in bringing these species closer to land.

In sum, a relationship between marine bird species' status and distribution and several physical and biological parameters of the ocean waters off Southern California is shown for a number of species and suggested for several others. A birder interested in seeing such cool-water species as Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters, Ashy Storm-Petrel, South Polar Skua, Ancient Murrelet, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, and Tufted Puffin would likely have a better chance of venturing, at the proper season, into the richer, northern section of the Southern California Bight, such as to San Miguel Island or to the northern Santa Rosa-Cortez Ridge. For those interested in such warm-water species as Black-vented Shearwater, Least Storm-Petrel, Red-billed Tropicbird, and Craveri's Murrelet, the southern waters off Los Angeles to San Diego are typically preferred. In any case, a knowledge of the spatially- and temporally-changing characteristics of our offshore waters will help observers to better plan on when and where to take boat trips so that they can increase their likelihood of observing particular species or large concentrations of birds.

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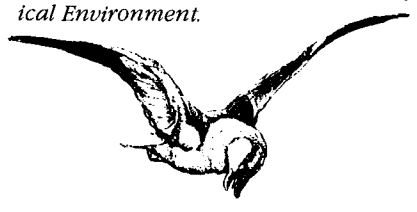

Monarch Watch

Monarch butterflies migrate to the coast of California and overwinter in clusters in trees in sheltered locations along the coast. The Monarch Project of the Xerces Society aims to survey the state for overwintering colony sites and to monitor those sites. Amateur lepidopterists and interested persons can play an important role in this project. There has never been a thorough survey of the state to locate monarch butterfly overwintering sites.

Clustering behavior commences as the monarchs are migrating towards their overwintering sites. In fall, numerous small, temporary cluster sites develop, especially in areas near the coast. Many of these early, small colonies disappear within a few weeks, and large colonies continue to gain numbers of butterflies during this time. Presumably, with weather changes, the small "temporary" colonies break up and many of their individuals fly on to join in with other butterflies in the larger "permanent" colonies which actually persist through the winter. By simply returning to a colony site every few weeks, one can easily determine whether the site is a "temporary" or "permanent" colony. And some sites may be temporary some years and permanent other years. Only monitoring over several years will tell.

Cluster sites are typically located close to the coast, usually within one mile. The site will be wooded, usually with tall trees and some shorter trees as well. Sometimes a small clearing within a larger stand of trees is favored. The site will be well protected from winds by a combination of tree cover and topography. Gullies, canyons, and lee sides of hills with good tree cover are likely areas. Clusters may form from about twenty feet from the ground up to fifty or more.

Adults flying on sunny days in midwinter are a sign a colony is nearby. Following their flight in late afternoon, or when the temperature falls below their flight temperature limit (about 55 degrees F.), can lead one to the clusters. Of course, resting clustered butterflies look like dead leaves. In sunny weather, specimens may be seen flying short distances (up to 1/4 mile) for water, nectar, or may simply rest on trees or shrubs in the sun warming up to fly.

What we need from interested volunteers is:

1) Reports of clusters, as quickly as they are found, so that someone can be sent out to monitor them. Locations, property owners' names, phones, etc. so we can gain permission to come onto private property. Even just leads, someone who knows, etc.
2) Persons who can "adopt" a nearby colony, to visit it periodically to determine if the clusters persist.
3) If you are familiar with a colony, then ideally we would like to know: a) date clustering begins (often late September); b) date clusters become dramatically large; c) date clusters definitely begin to break up; d) last date monarchs seen in area; e) exact cluster locations (trees, branches, exact map location); f) approximate number of trees involved, size of area, and if possible, an estimate of the number of butterflies seen (ballpark, 100s, 1000s, 10,000s, etc.).
4) Information on extinct colony sites. Leads to old timers, high school teachers, photos, news reports, etc.

When you discover a colony or obtain information, please report it to Julian Donahue at the LACM (213) 744-3364.

Added note: A number of studies involving marking monarchs are underway in California. Collectors should be aware that any specimen with ink marks, usually on the lower left hind wing, in or around the cell, are of value and should be reported. The specimen should be collected if a good drawing, xerox, photo, etc. cannot be made. It is the position and color of dots that is needed, unless simply a number is written in the lhw discal cell. Specimens and reports can be made to the above station.

* * *

Winter birders in the desert should also be alert for another very poorly documented phenomenon: monarch clusters over permanent (at least during the winter) bodies of water. So far, these have been in shrubs *(Baccharis, Larrea, Salix,* even *Prosopis)* overhanging water.

Documented sites so far are: Willow Creek (2300'), McElvoy Canyon (1700') and Hunter Canyon spring (1500'), all on the eastern slope of the Inyo Mountains.

I think that a likely candidate would be Fort Piute in the eastern Mojave, and perhaps the eastern side of the Granite Mts. (near Granite Cove). Another candidate would be Pachalka Spring on Clark Mountain; there must be many others I am not personally familiar with that should be checked.

Even negative observations from the desert would be useful to have on file.

— *Julian P. Donahue*

WESTERN TANAGER

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Pelagic Trips in 1985

Spring Trips

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th: *Alcid and Shearwater Trip, Santa Barbara Island and out to sea.* Depart 6 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Herb Clarke. Price: $24 per person.

SUNDAY, MAY 11th: *Puffin and Shearwater Trip, Santa Barbara Island and out to sea.* Depart 6 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Richard Webster. Price: $24 per persn.

Expected Species on Spring Trips: Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters, Black Storm-Petrels, Pomarine Jaeger, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Xantus Murrelet, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Cassin's and Rhinocerous Auklets.

Other Possibilities and Rarities seen on Previous Trips: Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmar, Flesh-footed, Black-vented and Short-tailed Shearwaters, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Brown Booby, Red-necked Phalarope, South Polar Skua, Horned and Tufted Puffins.

Summer-Fall Trips

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th: *Shearwater and Jaeger Trip, Santa Barbara Island and out to sea.* Depart 6 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Kimball Garrett. Price: $24 per person.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: *Red-billed Tropicbird Trip, San Clemente Island.* Depart 5:30 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Richard Webster and Louis Bevier. Price: $25 per person.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5: *Tropicbird and Storm-Petrel Trip, out to sea towards Santa Barbara Island.* Depart 5:30 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: Herb Clarke, Larry Norris. Price: $25 per person.

Expected Species on Summer-Fall Trips: Pink-footed, Sooty and Black-vented Shearwaters, Black, Ashy and Least Storm-Petrels, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Xantus' Murrelet (Aug.), Craveri's Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet.

Other Possibilities and Rarities seen on Previous Trips: Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters, Leach's and Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, Red-billed Tropicbird (Sept. and Oct.), Red Phalarope, Long-tailed Jaeger and South Polar Skua.

* * *

All trips are on the *Vantuna*, leaving from the USC Docks at Fish Harbor, Seaside Ave. on Terminal Island, across the Vincent Thomas Bridge from San Pedro. There are 38 spaces, plus 2 for leaders. Remember: If possible, you should get your reservations in at least 4 weeks before trip date. (See Reservation Policy on Calendar Page).

Book Review

THE JOY OF BIRDING: A Guide to Better Birdwatching, by Chuck Bernstein, with an Introduction by Roger Tory Peterson, Capra Press (1984), 201 pages, $8.95.

Chuck Bernstein is well known as an astute observer of birds, and as anyone knows who relished the excerpt from this book recently published in the *Tanager*, he is also an astute observer of the hard-core birding scene—a witty and gifted writer whose sensibilities are attuned both to the profundities and the irresistible absurdities of America's fastest-growing outdoor sport. In this rambling grab-bag of reminiscences, homilies, and parables, Chuck recounts with insight and wry good humor the high times and low of his own wide-ranging adventures along the birding trail. Highlights, for me, include a tragicomic tale of a solo expedition to the Salton Sea in midsummer, a moving account of a winter pilgrimage in search of the California Condor, and an evocactive description of a gruelling fiasco known to history as "The Hawfinch Death March"—all of this enhanced by cleverly comic line drawings, "friendly" typography, and inviting, soft-finish paper.

Though a few of the chapters fall short of the rest, at its best Chuck's prose blends a bit of Jack Kerouac with some Konrad Lorenz, a dash of Tom Wolfe with some Stephen Jay Gould, and a liberal helping of his friend and mentor, Jack Smith.

Though the shelves of bookstores groan with volumes about birds, this is the only book I've encountered which captures the innocence, the enthusiasm, the agony and the ecstacy, the excitement and the camaraderie of birding as we know it. I intend to commend it to every birder we meet, whether beginner or old hand. For it is a book which can help us all to see ourselves and our avocation in a less serious light. After all, whatever else it may be, the pursuit of birds has something of both the absurd and the heroic about it—a grandly "impractical" act which might well serve as a tonic for these overly "practical" times.

Now we may all hope that as Chuck gathers in more adventures along his way, he'll find the time to share them with us in "More Joy of Birding."

— *Barry Clark*

ANNUAL BANQUET

celebrating

LAAS' 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday, February 12, 1985
at Channel Islands Ballroom
Marina City Club

4333 Admiralty Way
Marina Del Rey

Cocktails 6 p.m., Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Cost: $20.00 per person

Speaker: **Dr. James F. Clements**

75 Years of Birding:

A bird's-eye view of the evolution of bird-watching around the world.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!
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Send check with stamped self-addressed envelope to LAAS no later than Tuesday, February 5th.

San Joaquin Valley Trip

The July 27 & 28 IAAS San Joaquin field trip resulted in 141 species being recorded by 19 observers and co-leaders Bob Barnes and Rob Hansen.

Saturday morning's 6:00 a.m. start saw a stunning Sierra accented sunrise at the marshes of the 3200 acre Nature Conservancy Creighton Ranch Preserve. Highlights were a family of Swainson's Hawks flying and perching around a recently used nest in a Valley Oak; Blue Grosbeaks singing from perches in a morning light designed to best show their rich colors; five Common Barn-Owls flushed from willows along a dry stream channel; and four American Bitterns lifting from the Creighton Ranch's splendid examples of cattail/tule marsh. Preserve manager Rob Hansen could not have ordered a better start to a memorable weekend.

Leaving Tulare County, the field trip proceeded to the Kings County fresh and salt water basins located at the southern end of the Tulare Lake bed. Light and Dark-phased Western Grebes with young; a lone American White Pelican; eight White-faced Ibis winging in the distance; sixteen shorebird species including 6000+ American Avocets, 2000+ Wilson's Phalaropes, 1000+ each of Black-necked Stilt, Least Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher, and 300+ Long-Billed Curlews; 100's of Caspian Terns including downy young; and Yellow-headed Blackbirds revealed the incredible richness of the one hundred square mile area.

On Saturday night John Lindsay came to Porterville to give his exensively researched program "The Way It Was"; a slide and lecture presentation explaining the natural history of the Tulare Lake from its position as the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River to the leading agricultural area it is today. John talked of the tremendous populations of Tule Elk, Pronghorn Antelope, White Pelicans, and numerous additional waterbirds and mammals that lived and bred in the San Joaquin Valley as recently as the latter half of the last century. John's presentation added an enriching perspective to this much-changed area visited only a few hours before.

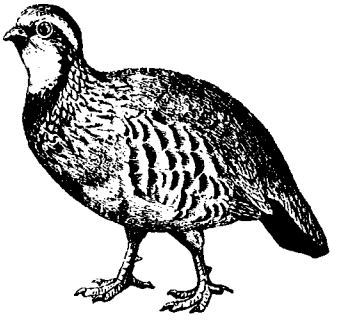
Sunday morning the field trip participants decided to chance a visit to Blue Ridge in hopes of finding the California Condor. A 7:15 arrival at this Tulare County roost north of Springville found an "I've been waiting for you!" adult Condor sitting in a roost tree to the west. Amazingly, the Condor was a life bird for only three people; although nineteen admitted to never having seen a perched individual before!

Globe Drive in Springville yielded a female Wood Duck, and the foothills, mountains, and meadows of Sequoia National Forest turned up the varied assortment of bird species found there. Who could ask for more? We could!

On departing Quaking Aspen Campground at 3:00 p.m., it was assumed that the field trip was winding to a scenic close through the mountains and foothills of southern Tulare County. An incorrect assumption to say the least. The group wanted to see the Giant Sequoia grove across from Redwood Meadow Campground. From the grove a raptor scream was heard, soon followed by Rob Hansen's exclamation "I have a Goshawk in the scope." A life bird for most of the group. Soon a second immature plumaged individual was found. Both birds flew and perched for twenty plus minutes along the Sequoias, in and out of excellent light. Rob called it a "magic moment in a magic place." Oh! *Everyone* got their first life double Goshawk sighting!

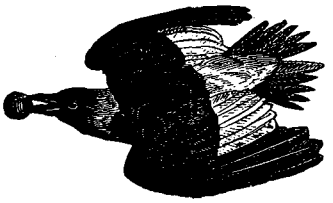
Now the group wanted to quit. Right? Wrong! There was nothing more to see. Right? Wrong? After a lovely walk around Holey Meadow with numerous feeding Selasphorus hummingbirds holding court over meadow flowers, the group headed for an exit by way of Parker Pass. Just beyond Parker Pass the group stopped and looked at the exquisitely lighted Olive-sided Flycatcher. Suddenly, Deborah Herczog stated, "I've got another Condor in my scope." Sure enough, an adult California Condor stood in a small snag at a considerable distance to the south. Now the day had finally ended... as it had started... with an adult California Condor in a snag, only 25 miles to the south. What a day! What a trip!

Bob Barnes



Birds of the Season

by Hal Baxter and Kimball Garrett



At this writing, just after Thanksgiving, we can begin to take stock of the status of our irregular winter visitants. The comings and goings of these erratic populations are not so strongly tied to our local weather conditions as they are to complex patterns of resource availability over a wide area of the continent. The difficulty of ferreting out the ecological factors underlying winter invasions (or their absence) can be appreciated when one considers that, in most cases, we don't even know where the birds are invading *from*. Almost all observers would agree, for example, that **Pine Siskins** are in higher than average numbers in our lowlands this winter, but are these birds which have dropped out of our local mountains? Or, more likely, have they come from afar (and if so, from the Pacific Northwest? From the Rocky Mountains? From the Sierra Nevada? Or from a variety of sources?)? There is indeed much to be learned, but we can continue to contribute by documenting the patterns through our regular note-keeping and through participation in surveys such as the Christmas Bird Counts (from which you will be recovering as you read this).

This winter has thus far been marked by a virtual absence of invasive corvids (such as nutcrackers and Pinyon Jays), only a minor flight (perhaps well below average) of **Red-breasted Nuthatches,** and a better than average flight of cardueline finches. In the last group, aside from the aforementioned siskins, **Red Crossbills** have been relatively numerous. Up to 50 have been seen regularly in the Chilao area of the San Gabriel Mountains (e.g. 9 November, Phil Sayre and Bert Mull), with at least 20 at nearby Charlton Flat. Very small numbers have also been noted in the desert and coastal lowlands, e.g. two at Morro Bay State Park on 10 November (L.A.A.S. field trip). **Evening Grosbeaks** have been reported in small numbers in the desert lowlands, such as at California City on 13 October (Matt Heindel). Also shaping up is an invasion of **Lewis' Woodpeckers,** with up to 30 at Chilao on 2 November (Gayle Benton, Hal Baxter) and other flocks elsewhere in the San Gabriel Mountains; additionally, two were in the La Jolla Valley on 17 November (Bob Pann) and two were at the west end of Lake Sherwood on 20 November (Sandy Wohlgemuth).

Among seabirds, an incursion of **Northern Fulmars** seems indicated by a number of beached birds found in the Redondo Beach area (Nancy Spear); a dark phase bird was seen from Pt. Fermin on 21 October (Eric Brooks). There also seems to have been a good flight of **White-winged Scoters,** with at least 30 with the large **Surf Scoter** flocks near Big Rock, Malibu, on 25 November (Kimball Garrett); these same flocks also contained three **Black Scoters** on the same date. Exceptional was a White-winged Scoter inland on Holiday Lake in the western Antelope Valley (John Karges and Kimball Garrett, 18 November).

A flight of 28 **American White Pelicans** heading south over King Harbor, Redondo Beach, was unusual for that area (Art Baker, 19 November). An immature **Reddish Egret** frequented the end of Avenue E in Chula Vista, south of San Diego, and both **Little Blue** and **Tricolored Herons** were recorded in the same area. A flock of 50 **Cattle Egrets** was found by Peter Jensen in Malibu Canyon at Mulholland Hwy on 8 November, and a single Cattle Egret was in the midst of a soccer game at Rancho Park on 24 November (Kimball Garrett). A **White-faced Ibis** near the mouth of Zuma Creek on 28 October (Kimball Garrett) and one at Malibu Lagoon the same day (Ian Austin) may have been the same individual. A female **Wood Duck** had arrived at the arboretum in Arcadia by 23 October (Barbara Cohen), and a male had joined her by 4 November (Virginia Escher). The only **Oldsquaw** report to date was of one at McGrath State Beach on 21 October (Brian Keelan and John Parmeter).

A **Zone-tailed Hawk** reported flying over Torrance on 20 October (Rusty Scalf) could not be refound. A dark-phase **Ferruginous Hawk** in the Sepulveda Basin, Encino, on Thanksgiving weekend (Fred Heath) was quite a sight. There were several reports of **Merlins**, including one at Malibu Lagoon on 8 November (Tom Keeney). A **Peregrine Falcon** frequented the Palos Verdes Landfill on 20-21 October (Eric Brooks). Quite late was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** along the Santa Ana River in Anaheim from 9 November to at least 11 November (Doug Willick). A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** was at the same locality on 9 November (also Doug Willick). Another **Glaucous Gull** was reported near the San Jacinto Sewage Ponds, 18-19 November (Rick Clements, Henry Childs). Thirty-six **Common Murres** flying past the Palos Verdes Peninsula on 14 October (Dave Bradley and Rusty Scalf) is perhaps indicative of a winter incursion of this species.

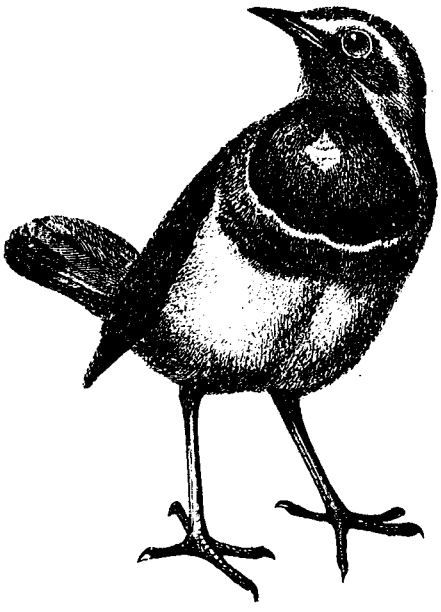
The **Ruddy Ground-Dove** at Iron Mountain Pump Station played hide and seek with observers during November. It is unfortunate that the influx of birders looking for this probable escape caused this small private residential area to be placed off limits — birders are once again reminded of the importance of respecting private property during their pursuits. Closer to home, a **Common Ground-Dove** at Will Rogers State Park (Rob Hofberg, 22 October) was at an unusual locality. The scarce **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was heard at Chilao on 20 October (John Parmeter). A **Short-eared Owl** was observed being rudely escorted out of Exposition Park by a flock of American Crows on 30 October (Kimball Garrett). Another flying south over the Santa Ana River in Anaheim (Doug Willick, 9 November) was also being harassed by crows. A **Lesser Nighthawk** was flying over the San Joaquin Marsh, Irvine, at dusk on 9-11 November (Doug Willick). A **"Red-naped" Sapsucker** was at the north end of Harbor Lake on 24 October (Barbara Elliott *et al*), and at least one bird of this race was at Chilao. Up to three **Williamson's Sapsuckers**

were at Chilao after late October (Jim and Ellen Strauss, Brian Keelan, *et al*).

The standout landbird of the period was a **Thick-billed Kingbird,** Los Angeles County's first, discovered near the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont on 3 November (Milt Blatt) and seen at least through 10 November by numerous observers. The Irvine Ranch Thick-billed Kingbird had returned to East Tustin by 8 November (Doug Willick). A **Great Crested Flycatcher** stopped by Jonathan Alderfer's Santa Monica yard briefly on 28 October, and another was at Carpinteria Creek 19-20 October. Extremely unusual was a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** near Santa Barbara in late October, the first well-documented record for the southern California coast. A **Greater Pewee** was found in Montecito on 10 November (Jon Dunn), but the Griffith Park bird had not returned as of this writing.

Among the few **Red-breasted Nuthatches** reported from the coastal lowlands were two at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 14 October (Richard Hubocek). The first **Winter Wren** report was of one at Switzer Picnic Area on 3 November (Brian Daniels and Doug Willick). Small numbers of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were found through the coastal lowlands, e.g. at the north end of Harbor Lake (Don Sterba, 21 October). Significantly, there were no local reports of **Varied Thrush** as of this writing (in marked contrast to last fall and winter). Six **Mountain Bluebirds** in the Sepulveda Basin on 20 November (Sandy Wohlgemuth) constituted a first recent record for that well-worked locality. A **Brown Thrasher** was on Pt. Loma 27-28 October, and a **Sage Thrasher** was near the Palos Verdes Landfill on 20 October (Eric Brooks). A **"Plumbeous" Solitary Vireo** at Huntington Beach Central Park after 21 October appeared to be wintering (Doug Willick).

The rarest warbler of the period was a **Cerulean** found at Oceano Campground on 27 October (Brad Schram). A crowd of birders in the area the next day failed to find the Cerulean, but any disappointment was tempered by the presence of a **Black-and-white Warbler,** two **Black-throated Blue Warblers,** two **Blackburnian Warblers** and a **Blackpoll Warbler**, as well as a striking male **Hooded Warbler** up the coast at Montana de Oro Campground. Closer to home, **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Huntington Beach Central Park (after mid-October, Kurt Radamaker) and Harbor Lake (21 October, Don Sterba). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** was near Palos Verdes Reservoir 21-25 October (Eric Brooks *et al*); a late **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was on the U.C. Irvine campus on 11 November (Doug Willick); and a **Pine Warbler** was south of San Diego on 4-5 November. Montecito's perennial **Grace's Warbler** was back on Oak Road for its sixth winter. A **Palm Warbler** was found at the mouth of Zuma



Creek on 25 November (Kimball Garrett and Fred Heath). The L.A.A.S. field trip to Morro Bay was highlighted by a female **Scarlet Tanager** obligingly foraging in a flowering eucalyptus tree at the State Park Campground on 11 November (Kimball Garrett *et al*), affording excellent studies of its field marks (bright green back contrasting with darker wings, lacking in wingbars; small bill; lemon yellow underparts). A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Huntington Beach Central Park 30 October to 5 November (Loren Hays). A **Swamp Sparrow** was found along the Los Angeles River between Willow St. and Pacific Coast Highway on 21 October (Arthur Howe). Finally, a **White-throated Sparrow** was in Rancho Park on 24 November (Kimball Garrett).

The late winter birding agenda in southern California proceeds more or less as follows: (1) looking for rarities "staked out" on various Christmas Bird Counts, (2) a trip to the south end of the Salton Sea for a post-hunting season goose chase, and (3) looking for those early spring transients, particularly, *Selasphorus* hummingbirds and swallows. Any variation on this theme will carry the potential of new discoveries. Happy New Year.

Send any interesting bird observations to:
Hal Baxter
1821 Highland Oaks Drive
Arcadia, CA 91006
Phone # (818) 355-6300

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.

Renew Your Membership Through LAAS

When you receive your annual renewal notice from National Audubon, we strongly urge that you complete the form and send it along with your dues check to Audubon House rather than directly to National Audubon. National has been having difficulties with the data processing firm handling membership. This has led to may errors in chapter records across the country, including ours. It has also resulted in some of our members missing issues of the WESTERN TANAGER. By sending your renewal directly to us, many of the problems should be avoided.

Before forwarding your renewal to National, we will photocopy your form and check, and make sure that our records are current. By renewing through L.A. Audubon you will be sure not to miss any issues of the TANAGER. We will also be able to confirm that National has placed you in the correct membership category.

We care about your membership, and are willing to make this extra effort to serve you better.

Third Annual Membership Slide Contest

For the third year in a row, our January meeting (Tuesday the 8th) will be devoted to the showing of slides of wild and free birds by our members and guests. Show off your best work in the spirit of fun and art. Or just come and enjoy the work of our amateur and professional bird photographers.

1) All slides must be received in the Meeting Room in Plummer Park by 7:45 p.m. Please label each slide with your name (though all slides will be judged anonymously).
2) We can accommodate up to five slides per individual. Judging will be by three non-participating members, but the audience is encouraged to vocally guide the judges!
3) Slides are to be judged on the basis of originality and composition. EVERYBODY is encouraged to participate, regardless of experience.
4) No entry fee or notice required.
5) Subjects must be *wild* and *unrestrained.*
6) Photographers *must be present* to enter.
7) Winners will be chosen through a sequential elimination process. PRIZES will be awarded!!!

CALENDAR

CALL THE TAPE!

Before setting out for any field trip, call the Audubon Bird Tape **(213) 874-1318** for special instructions or last-minute changes that may have occurred by the Thursday before the trip.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 — Reserve* a space to tour **Norconian Lake** on the limited access Naval facility with **Pat and Paul Nelson.** A wide variety of numerous ducks and a lovely setting is the highlight. $5 per person, refundable to attendees at facility.*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 — Annual Photo Contest in Plummer Park — See details in December Tanager.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12 — Join **Bob Shanman** (545-2867 after 6 p.m.) for his monthly walk in the **Ballona Wetlands.** We'll undoubtedly see a wide variety of birds, perhaps including some raptors. Take Marina Fwy 90 west to Culver Blvd; turn left to Pacific Ave., then right to footbridge at end. Meet at 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 — Jerry Johnson will lead a morning outing through some of the **Long Beach urban parks** to see chaparral birds and wintering vagrants. Please check with the bird tape, since meeting location is dependent upon up-to-date info. Meet at 8 a.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 — Deadline for March Western Tanager. Send material to Editor Fred Heath, c/o Audubon House.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 — Reserve* your space with **Paul Lehman** for a special day of observing and studying birds in **Santa Barbara.** Mr. Lehman is a local resident with major interest in bird distribution and field identification. He teaches at USCB, heads the famous S.B. Christmas Count and is co-author of "Birds of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties" and "Master Guide to Birding". Limited participation; $10 per person.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19 — David White will lead a walk at the **Whittier Narrows Regional Park** in search of a wide variety of both land and water birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave., So. El Monte, near crossing of freeways 60 and 605.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 — Reserve* your space on this annual jaunt to the **Salton Sea Area** with **Hal Baxter**, for a day of unforgettable birding. The highlights are the large quantities of ducks and geese. In addition to birding around the world, Mr. Baxter has been active with Audubon in many ways over the years; he currently leads two annual trips and gathers the material for the "Western Tanager" article, "Birds of the Season." Limited participation: $14 per person.*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27 — Loren Hayes says to "expect the unexpected" while viewing the shorebirds, ducks, gulls, terns and raptors during a morning walk at **Bolsa Chica.** From Fwy 405 take Seal Beach Blvd. to Pacific Coast Highway and go south past Warner Blvd. and the entrance (opposite State Beach); make a "U" at signal back to parking lot. Meet at 8 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 — Reserve* a morning tour, led by **Bruce Broadbooks,** through the natural habitats of **Pt. Mugu Naval Air Base.** Shorebirds and other waterfowl will be highlights, with White-faced Ibis a probability and a chance for rarities in this desireable location. Carpooling on the base is required. As the base desires ensured participation, a $5 fee will be charged, refundable to attendees. (If not a U.S. citizen, please give date and place of birth with reservation.*)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 — Ballona Wetlands with **Bob Shanman!** See January 12 for details.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 — Meet **Gerry Maisel** at the bridge of the **Santa Clara River Estuary** at 8 a.m. for a special day of viewing shorebirds. Bring a picnic lunch and be prepared to wade. Go north on Fwy 101 beyond Oxnard taking the Victoria Ave. exit; go left under the fwy. approximately 1 mile to Olivas Park Dr. and turn right to Harbor Blvd., turn left and park on right just before bridge.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 — LAAS Annual Dinner at Marina City Club — See details inside.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15 — Deadline for April Western Tanager material. Send to Editor Fred Heath c/o Audubon House.

WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 16-17 — Make reservations* for a professionally guided tour of marvelous birding with **Rob Hanson** through several wildlife areas in the **southern San Joaquin Valley.** Some highlights: a good variety of ducks and geese, Golden Eagle, Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Mt. Plover and Sandhill Cranes. Mr. Hanson is Manager/Naturalist of two Nature Conservancy Preserves, is very active with the San Joaquin Valley Audubon Chapters, gave LAAS a May '84 program followed up by a super summer trip to the area. He is also in the process of completeing a status and distribution of birds for his area. Limited participation. $20 per person.*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 — Whittier Narrows with **David White**. See Jan. 19 for details.

CARPOOLING: As conservationists, let's try to reduce gas consumption and air pollution whenever possible. In sharing costs, remember that a typical car journey costs 20¢ a mile.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 — Join former LAAS President **Jim Huffman** for a morning of birding **Upper Newport Bay.** Bring scopes if available to look for shorebirds and migrating ducks and picnic lunch for afterwards. Take Fwy. 405 south to Jamboree Blvd.; go west to Back Bay Dr. (just prior to Pacific Coast Highway); turning right to Newporter Inn parking lot—ocean side. Meet at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 — Reserve* your space on an **Alcid and Shearwater Pelagic** with **Bruce Broadbooks and Herb Clarke.** We'll spend the day going to Santa Barbara Island and out to sea. $24 per person*

WEEKEND, APRIL 13-14 — Travel in comfort on a tour bus (reclining seat and restroom) to see the displaying **Sage Grouse**. We'll also look for Blue Grouse and other mountain birds such as Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak and Clark's Nutcrackers. $75 fee includes one night lodging, double occupancy; $15 additional for single room. Please note on your reservation whether you would still be interested in going by car, should we either not get the minimum 30 participants or if road conditions would prevent bus access to the area. (A car trip would require 2 nights lodging and 700 miles of driving; fee $20 each.)*

DATES TO KEEP IN MIND:

Jan. 6-8: High tides 8-9:18 a.m.
Jan. 19-21: High tides 7:29-8:50 a.m.
Feb. 4-6: High tides 7:49-9:13 a.m.
Mar. 9: Ballona - Bob Shanman
Mar. 12: LAAS Meeting in Plummer Park - speaker to be announced

***RESERVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE:** Reservations will be accepted **ONLY** if **ALL** the following information is supplied: (1) Event desired; (2) Names of people in your party; (3) Phone numbers (a) usual and (b) evening before event, in case of emergency cancellation; (4) Check to LAAS for exact amount for each event, unless fee not required; (5) Self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and associated event information. Send to: Reservations Chairman Ruth Lohr, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

If there is insufficient response, the event will be cancelled two weeks prior to the scheduled date (4 weeks for pelagics) and you will be so notifed and your fee returned. No refunds during these periods unless there is a paid replacement.

If you desire to carpool to an event, Ms. Lohr (usually in office on Tuesday) can provide information of anyone coming from your area for you to make contact and possible arrangements.

Los Angeles Audubon Society
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90046

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