



# WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

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## Birding Ecuador

By Henry E. Childs

Ecuador has been, for me, one of those exotic countries with fabulous birds, scenery and people which it was highly unlikely that I would ever visit. Well, with retirement, a little extra money, a program of getting into shape and a Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) brochure at hand, the impossible happened and I was off to Ecuador. Circumstances prevented the original leader from participating and the substitute was Robert Ridgely, author of "Birds of Panama" and an authority on birds of South America! How lucky can you get?

My former students and good friends, Marci Clements and Corinne Bandell, joined me on the trip and represented Pomona Valley Audubon with distinction. We arrived in Quito, elevation 9400 ft., a few days early for the trip as we expected to have problems adjusting to the altitude. Little did we realize the effort it would take to get from the taxi to the reception desk at the Hotel Colon! A day later we could ascend at least three steps without pause!

Quito is a beautiful, clean and scenic city, with volcanos in view in all directions. At the Hotel Colon we had no problems as we took reasonable precautions with food and drank bottled Guitig Mineral Water. No, we didn't have to use iodine anywhere on the trip as VENT saw to it that plenty of Guitig and Pilsener were available.

On the first morning of the tour we drove east on Papallacta Rd. in a comfortable 21 passenger bus ending up at the pass at 13,000 ft. The scenery was splendid and the birds incredible! Ridgely's fantastic eyes spotted a Giant Hummingbird along the road just out of town and that was the beginning of a long list of mind-blowing species. To list a few! Andean Condors (5), Carunculated Caracara, Green-tailed Trainbearer, Sparkling Violetear (both hummers), Andean Tit and Azara's Spinetail, Red-crested Cotinga, Tufted Tit-tyrant, Brown-bellied Swallow, Great Thrush, Spectacled



Hoatzin

Redstart, Buff-breasted Mountain Tanager, Dusky-bellied Bush-tanager, Plumbeous and Ash-breasted Sierra Finches. And that was only the first day!

Next day we flew to the "oriente", to the Rio Napo, a major tributary of the Amazon where we stayed on the famous Flotel just below a point where 40 Sand-colored Nightjars were roosting on a pipeline crossing the river. In the morning we birded the river islands where some rare endemics were found. Some of the birds seen here were: Oriole Blackbird, White-bellied, Russet-backed and Dusky-backed Spinetails, Olive-spotted Hummingbird (possibly a first for Ecuador!) River Tyrannulet, Lesser Hornero, and Orange-headed Tanager.

We were surprised and pleased at the relative lack of insects, the ease of adjustments to the lower elevation after several days in the clouds and our ability to operate in constantly wet clothes, wet from either the rain or from the sweat of the high humidity. We were taking the necessary precaution for malaria. Again we did not need to iodize the water as we drank only bottled goods!

Enroute to Limoncocha by motor-driven dugout, along the river a few goodies were spotted such as Drab Water Tyrant, Castelnau's Antshrike, King and Greater Yellow-headed Vultures, Hook-billed Kite and Black Hawk-Eagle, Crane Hawk, and a Pigmy Marmoset!

After a cold one at Limoncocha we went

Photo by Henry E. Childs, Jr.



Photo by Marcyn Del Clements

Andean Gull

out on the lake where, spectacles of all spectacles, Hoatzins abound! Red-capped Cardinals vied with Lesser Kiskadees for attention. Azure Gallinule, Capped and Cocoi Herons, Pigmy and Ringed Kingfishers, and the Troupial kept our eyes down while Blue-rumped Parrolet, Red-bellied, Chestnut-bellied and Blue and Yellow Macaws, Cuvier's Toucan and the Amazonian Umbrellabird kept them up! That night Ferruginous Pigmy Owl, Tropical Screech Owl and Common Potoos entertained those that didn't fall asleep 5 seconds after hitting the sack!

The rainforest at Lake Taracoa abounded with antbirds of many kinds and tanagers defying description. The list is long. I mention only the Golden-tufted Toucanet and the Ivory-billed Aracari. A close view of a Rufescent Tiger Heron pretending we couldn't see him while he regurgitated made our day!

Back at Quito we spent the next several days on the Nono-Mini road where our list became enormous. The Crested Eagle was

considered to be our rarest bird, Bob Ridgely having only seen two in 20 years of South America birding and there it was in the Questar! A dozen species of tanagers, 2 foliage-gleaners, half a dozen hummers, many tyrant flycatchers, antbirds and spine-tails, Tourquoise Jay, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker (which I considered the most beautiful bird seen on the trip, but others said that the Toucan Barbet which looked like it was painted in Taiwan on black velvet was better) and so many others that it was mind-boggling.

We began our trip down the west side of the Andes by first traveling south to the volcano Cotopaxi. Here in a well-cared for national park we birded up the slope to 13,000 ft. At this elevation where the wet "paramo" occurred east of Quito, a much drier habitat was found, neither of them similar to the arctic-alpine of North America and they, of course, provided spectacularly different birds. At a lake located at over 11,000 ft. a sole Andean Gull observed along with the Slaty-backed Coot, Yellow-billed Pintail, Spectacled Teal, Plain-capped, White-browed and Spot-billed Ground Tyrants, Streaked-backed Canestra, Paramo Pipit, and the Andean Hillstar, a practically ground dwelling and beautiful hummer. The Band-tailed Sierra Finch, one of several Sierra Finches seen on the trip, occurred along the road at lower elevations, i.e. 9500ft!

Dropping down to the Hotel Tinalandia near Santo Domingo at 5000 ft. a whole new avifauna from that to the east of the Andes was present. This charming spot is highly recommended for delightful birding and real Ecuadorean home-like atmosphere. On the grounds were Golden-olive Woodpecker, Crimson-rumped Toucanet, Sooty-crowned and Golden-faced Tyrannulets, Crimson Finch, Masked Water Tyrant, Pale-



Photo by Marcyn Del Clements

Black-throated Mango

mandibled Aracari, Olivaceous Piculet, Guira Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, Barred Puffbird, and Pale-crested Pigmy Tyrant.

Next day, up the road, we saw Torrent Duck, Fasciated Tiger Heron, Black Phoebe, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Double-toothed Kite, and Red-billed Parrot. Additional views of the Golden-headed Quetzal seen previously made this a special day.

At the Rio Palenque Scientific Center enroute to Guayaquil, an island of undisturbed vegetation in a sea of cultivated land, a host of new species were seen. We were much lower in elevation and so the heat and humidity increased as did the variety of species. A sampling of the birds seen would whet the appetite of the most jaded birder: Buckley's Ground Dove, White-necked Puffbird, Red-masked Parakeet, Buff-rumped Warbler, Yellow-breasted Antwren, Scarlet-browed Tanager, Blue-headed Parrot, Blue-black Grosbeak, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Rufous-rumped Foliage Gleaner, and Pied Puffbird.

Flotelle

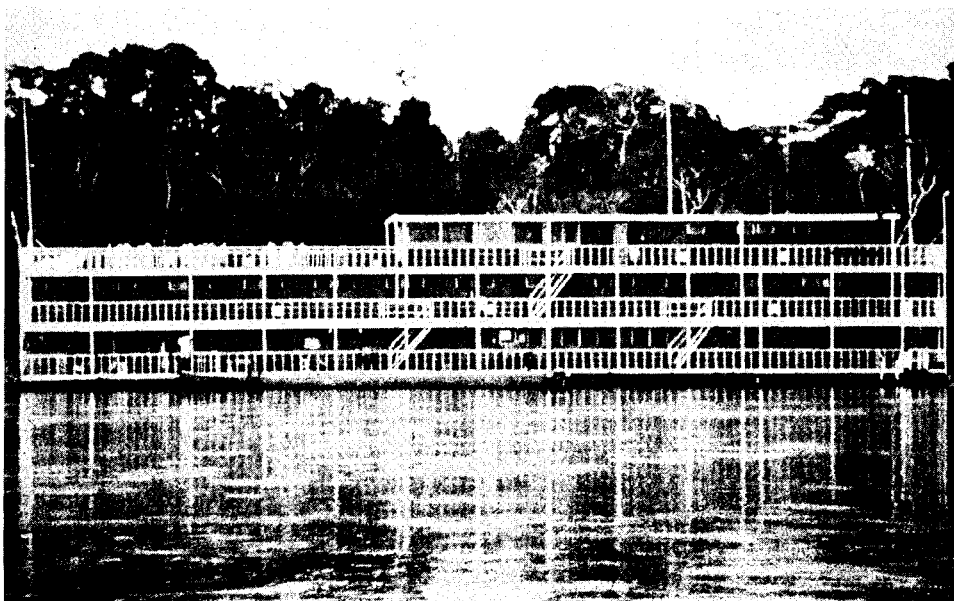


Photo by Marcyn Del Clements



During the six hour drive to Guayaquil from Tinalandia, roadside birding was productive. Old friends like Grey, Harris and Savannah Hawks sat on the poles while Peruvian Meadowlark, Orange-crowned Euphonia, and House Sparrows were along the fences. At stops, the Scarlet-backed Woodpecker, Greenish Eleania, Ecuadorian Bare-eyed Thrush were found.

After checking in at the Hotel Oro Verde and having a quick and late lunch, we were off to the Chongon Hills just out of town where we birded until dark and also the next morning. Here again in a new habitat we found a whole new group of spectacular lifers: One-colored Becard, Little Woodstar and Amazilia Hummers, Saffron Siskin, Fasciated Wren, Croaking Ground Dove, Snowy-throated Kingbird, Grey-cheeked Parakeet, Red-lobed Parrot, White-edged Oriole, White-tailed Jay, Laughing Falcon, and Collared Ant Shrike.

One of the most memorial incidents demonstrating the ability of Bob Ridgely occurred that last morning. We had stopped the bus to look at a Parrot-billed Seedeater at some distance. After about 10 minutes taken for all to see this bird, Bob said "Now let's see the Elegant Crescentchest which is in

this isolated group of shrubs right here close to the bus." I have always been reasonably proud of my ears. He had heard the bird, I hadn't, and I was standing next to him! Finally, after much concentration, I heard it and then it popped out, a magnificent little bird, rare and shy! It's that kind of ability and expertise that one expects when taking a VENT but this topped anything I'd experienced before.

Most of us had cameras and expected to get plenty of pictures. In this we were disappointed. Conditions for taking pictures were poor. First of all, the number of people didn't allow time for getting close to a particular bird; second, the darkness of most of the habitats didn't help and lastly, the birds didn't cooperate. And there were too many birds to be seen! I got what I could!

The trip total was over 550 species, mine was 501 with 351 lifers. You can't see them all! The trip wonderful... and exhausting. And the next time I've got \$3500 (\$700 airfare and \$2600 land cost plus \$200 incidentals) I'm ready to "suffer" again. VENT may be a little more expensive but their leaders and planning make the difference worth every penny. They threw away the mold when they made Bob Ridgely!

## Research Awards

The Los Angeles Audubon Society will be giving annual Research Awards beginning in February 1986. Award recipients will be limited to students, amateurs and others with limited or no access to major granting agencies. The Awards shall be given for research relevant to the biology of birds. Applicants must reside in southern California (from San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino Counties south) or be currently enrolled in a southern California academic institution; there is no geographical restriction on the research area. One or more awards will be given. The total amount to be awarded will be approximately \$2,000.

The application deadline for the 1986 Research Award is 30 November 1985.

For applications, write

Sharon Milder, Education  
Committee Chairman, L.A.A.S.  
Los Angeles Audubon Research Awards  
134 Greenfield Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90049

## Fine Feathers

by Dorothy Dimsdale

For years birding clothes consisted for me of any oldish shirt and worn jeans, however after checking the closet where I keep my birding clothes realization came that I had become the victim of the sporting goods mail brochures.

It all started when a birding friend bought a pair of boot laces from L.L. Bean. Not only did she get the boot laces, she also got their catalogue — and passed it on to me.

First I purchased a 'chamois' cloth shirt, mainly because I was curious as to what 'chamois' cloth was. Soon I was into tropical gear. I had rejected an idea which appeared in the London *Times* stating: 'To put paid to mosquitos, sprinkle your bed with grated myrrh.' As I just couldn't see my husband going for that, I purchased instead a mosquito 'headnet' for about four dollars. It really seemed like a good investment, but that was before I'd seen it. So far I haven't worn it — except for laughs. Undeterred I added to my defenses by becoming the proud owner of a 'Shoo Bug' jacket, complete with two bottles of insect spray and this does work very well if you can stand the strong smell of the spray. Also, given a chance, it will melt your binoculars so you must hold them well away from the sprayed jacket.

Every birder knows that a solid pair of boots or shoes is a must. Sketches of both my

feet repose in all the best catalogue mail rooms. Bulky packages of boots are mailed to and from for me to try, but invariably my feet become numb fifteen minutes after I've laced myself in, so its either shoes for me or those boots I commanded from by husband. They are too large as well as having strange pointed toes, but my progress through impenetrable thickets is like that of Fred Astaire (Ginger Rogers?) so fleet of foot am I when wearing these seven league clodhoppers.

Hats seem to be an area where birders show a little individuality. One can often recognize a birder from a great distance just by knowing what kind of hat to look for. I have one gortex hat which is too hot in summer and too heavy in winter, mainly because I have a zillion bird pins stuck in it

from my adventures to such places as Placerita Canyon and Audubon House. I have some feathers from a Montezuma Quail, found dead on a road in Texas. Should I risk putting them on the hat with the pins with the chance that they will get lost? Life is full of decisions. In the meantime those so-called washable cotton hats go through my laundry by the dozen. They always shrink and if only I could find an army of pin-headed people I'd feel less guilty about the number I buy. There's little choice in the catalogues, most of the hats give one the appearance of an escaped gillie from the Scottish salmon rivers. But as with the boots, I guess I must persevere.

There is a glorious selection of thermal underwear, but modesty prevents me from going into any detail regarding the voluminous bloomers and woolly undershirts I may, or may not have purchased.

Fortunately it seems to make no difference to the birds whether you wear gold lame or a night shirt. All the catalogue shopping in the world will not guarantee one bird.

Bill Oddie, an English T.V. personality as well as a birder of note, simply makes sure that he's never without his 'bins' or 'nookies' as he calls his binoculars, and really what else does one need?

Looking at my packed closet sanity has finally prevailed and I shall order no more — for a while anyway. After all, I have the most important items — a pair of eyes and a good pair of 'nookies'.



## Lanfair Valley Trip

by Brian W. Keelan

The LAAS field trip to the Lanfair Valley and vicinity was held on Memorial Day weekend, 25-27 May 85, with 13 people participating. The purpose of this excursion was to observe far eastern Mojave Desert fauna and understand its dependence on the plant structure and composition of the various habitats visited. Scientific names are given for plants mentioned below, as vernacular nomenclature is often ambiguous.

The trip began Saturday in the southern Lanfair Valley at Goffs (2700'). As we ascended to the Vontrigger Hills (3700') in the central Lanfair Valley, the sparse creosote scrub became densely vegetated with a variety of interesting desert plants. The Vontrigger Hills yielded a dozen species of shrubs and nine species of cacti, including fruiting Desert Fishhook Cactus *Mammillaria tetrandra*, Devil Cholla *Opuntia stanleyi*, and Pencil Cholla *O. acanthocarpa* provided excellent perches and nesting sites for a number of desert birds: Bendire's Thrasher (which probably reaches its highest breeding densities in this type of habitat), Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Ashthroated Flycatcher, Phainopepla. As the day warmed up, several beautiful species of desert butterflies appeared: Rudkin's Swallowtail, Nicippe Sulphur, Cloudless Sulphur, and Queen. Herps also became more active, and, among others, Desert Tortoise, Desert Spiny Lizard, and Zebra-tailed Lizard were observed. Mammals included Desert Woodrat (or packrat) and their cholla joint-decorated nests.

Old Man Cactus

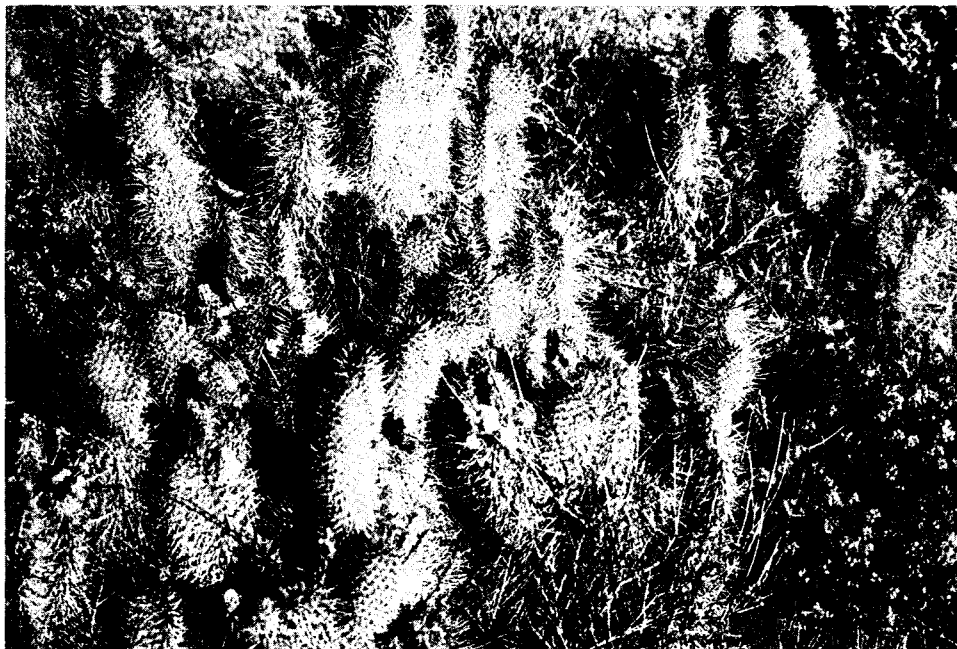


Photo by Fred Heath



Buckhorn Cholla

Photo by Fred Heath

We then ascended into the remote New York Mts., passing through lush Joshua Tree woodland, containing the striking bluish Spanish Dagger *Yucca baccata*. Breeding birds encountered in this area are included "Gilded" Flicker, Scott's Oriole, Cassin's Kingbird, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker. At Carruther's Canyon (5700'), a grove of Canyon Live Oak *Quercus chrysolepis* and Scrub Oak *Q. turbinella* contained half a dozen new shrubs and many blooming wildflowers. Oaks are rare in the Mojave Desert, occurring only in the New York, Providence, and Granite Mts. The spectacular decompos-

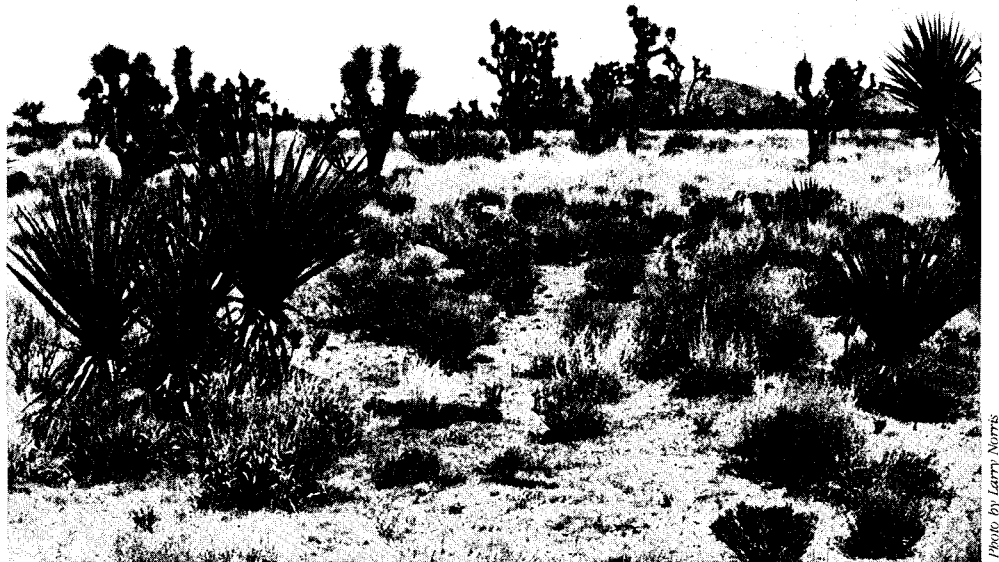
ing granitic formations, cloaked with pinyon *Pinus monophylla* / *edulis* and juniper *Juniperus osteosperma*, harbored Rock Squirrels and Panamint Chipmunks, both of rather restricted distribution in the state. The Scrub Jays here belong to the *nevadensis* subspecies and appear much deeper blue on the upperparts, and much sootier on the underparts, than the coastal slope birds, and lack the black breast band. Black-chinned Sparrows sang in the brushier areas, where the unusual Pincushion Cactus *Coryphantha vivipara* was found in full bloom.

The last stop of the day was Live Oak Canyon, on the east side of the New York Mts. This abandoned mining area is ecologically similar to Carruther's Canyon, and can only be reached by four-wheel drive or hiking. One of a pair of highly territorial Gray Vireos was located after some effort, and was viewed by most of the group from a 30' high dilapidated trestle connecting the mine shaft to the ore chute. Earlier in the week I observed this pair scold a bobcat and attack a Scrub Jay. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers amused everyone with their antics, and one of the ratty venturing into the mine shaft was nearly decapitated by a Canyon Wren nesting there. A variety of minerals were evident in the areas where ore had been dumped: blue and green copper minerals (chrysocolla, malachite), pyrite (fool's gold), purple fluorite, and dendritic (plantlike) growths of manganese minerals. On the way out, we examined the saddest-looking specimens of Pancake Cactus *Opuntia chlorotica* I have ever seen; these apparently belong to the variety *frederickii*. Lesser Nighthawks and Poorwills were encountered on the drive back to Needles.

On Sunday, the group was ferried into Ft. Piute (2700') by the four-wheelers, though I returned with only three. This is perhaps the most remote and beautiful desert oasis in the state. For a mile and a half water flows on the surface, fed by Piute Spring, and dense willow *Salix gooddingii* stands occur with sedges, desert willows *Chilopsis linearis*, and a few cottonwoods *Populus fremontii*. Here the group was treated to excellent views of Browncrested Flycatchers, Crissal Thrashers, Bell's Vireo, Hooded Oriole, Summer Tanager, and Black-chinned Hummingbird. Red-spotted Toads in all stages of growth were abundant in the riparian habitat.

Clark Mt. has the largest of three white *Abies concolor* stands in the California Mojave Desert, consequently a number of unusual species can be found there. On the south slope we briefly encountered one or two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, which nest in the fir grove near the summit and often forage lower on the slopes. Rock Squirrels perched high up on rock pinnacles basked in the late afternoon sun. Black-throated Gray Warblers were singing despite the late hour. The elegant *Agave utahensis* was found in fine stands in several places. It appears that the one-needled *Pinus monophylla* and the two-needled *P. edulis*, rare in the state, may hybridize here and in the New York Mts., and it was remarked that the taxonomic status of these two forms is certainly a matter of opinion.

Monday morning we birded at Vidal Wash on the Colorado River, where we located the

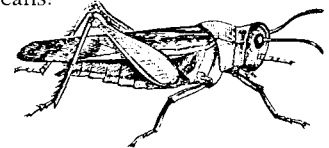


Lanfair Valley — Joshua Tree and Mojave Yucca

very rare Cardinal (heard at close range but not seen), Brown-crested Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Crissal Thrasher, Abert's Towhee, Common Ground-Dove, and other District R specialties.

In total, approximately 75 species of birds, 6 butterflies, 7 herps, 7 mammals, and 65 plants were noted on the trip, including 16 of 30 cacti in southern California. The group ended this trip with the rather warped

impression that the far eastern Mojave Desert is a land of fir slopes, oak canyons, lush streams, and densely vegetated valleys... and I ended up with a rather warped impression of some of the group... peanut butter jelly beans?



## From The Editor

by Fred Heath



Well I've managed to launch the first issue of Volume 52 of the *Tanager* with a jam packed twelve pages. My pleas for more material is being quite nicely filled with lots of short articles. The longer lead articles, however are far and few between. Henry Childs, who has provided many articles for the *Tanager*, has saved the day for this issue with an article on birding Ecuador. With all due respect to Mr. Childs, I'm going to bite the hand that feeds me: This kind of an article is the least appealing of all to me. It almost reads like a checklist of the birds of Ecuador. All strange sounding combinations of birds and other animals like ant-tanagers, tit-spinetails, gnatwrens and

tody-tyrants. I just had to check some of these names out in Jim Clements' *Birds of the World: A Check List*. My personal favorite was the Croaking Ground Dove. You'd be croaking too, if you were ground. I was left to wonder if Mourning Doves appeared after these doves croaked.

I would very much like to know how you the reader views this kind of article. If enough people let me know they like it, then I will search out this kind of article for future *Tanagers*. I'm here to please.

You'll note I've managed to corral a few of my old favorites Dorothy Dimsdale and Rona Parrot (known to be a close relative, if not the same species as Kimball Parrot) to write a few lines for the *Tanager*. Between the Rona Parrot piece and "Murder Most Fowl!" I'll probably get a ton of letters from the Great Rescue Organization and Society for Starlings (G.R.O.S.S.)

I was lucky enough to be on the Los Angeles Audubon field trip led and described in this issue by Brian Keelan. I don't remember when I've had so much fun while getting an extensive education on the flora and fauna of the Mojave Desert. I can't understand why he thought our eating peanut butter jelly beans was strange, we needed something to get the taste of the spinach jelly beans out of our mouths.

For those of you that occasionally read the *Tanager* you may remember the article by Harold Swanton in the April issue entitled "Birding for Bucks comes of Age". We had a little fun and made like it came from the front page of a future *Wall Street Journal*. Well imagine my surprise when my boss dropped his May 16 copy of the *Journal* on my desk with the following headline on the first page circled: "Birds in the Bush, Or in the Marshes, Are Worth Plenty". The article went on to describe how birding teams in New Jersey compete for money prizes for seeing the most birds in a 24 hour period. I had to double check to make sure Harold Swanton wasn't the author.

Your editor and the *Tanager* have finally made the big time: A portion of my first editorial in the March '85 issue was reprinted in the July 15 edition of *The New Yorker* magazine. I don't think that even Sandy Wohlge-muth has been printed in *The New Yorker*. Unfortunately the piece used was my lengthy and convoluted explanation as to how the volume and numbering system had gotten screwed-up. They added insult to injury by calling the piece "Clear Days at the Audubon Society."

Remember send articles, notes, poison pen letters, drawings, photo, etc to me: Fred Heath P.O. Box 5036, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Fred Heath  
Editor, The Western Tanager  
Los Angeles Audubon Society

Dear Editor:

As you are aware, our English language is replete with colorful terms of plurality for numerous kinds of birds, as in your basic "gaggle of geese", "exaltation of larks", "murder of crows", and so on. Being rather less than proficient at the art of birdwatching, however, I find that we are sadly lacking in a more useful set of terms indicating the LACK of a particular species. To rectify, in part, this unfortunate situation, I offer the following:

A lackle of grackles  
A null of gulls  
A naught of knots  
A regret of egrets  
A nadir of Killdeer  
A nary of canaries  
A fail of quail  
A thin of rails  
A refrain of cranes  
A sheer waste of shearwaters  
A forget-it of frigates  
An abyss of ibis  
A gone of swans (or guans)  
A fizzle of pheasants  
A moot of coots  
A jilt of stilts  
A pshaw of macaws  
A bummer of hummers  
The pits of tits  
A blooper of bluebirds  
An ideal of starlings

Thank you,



Rona Parrot

## Murder Most Fowl

by Judith Singer

From my second story office window I peer through binoculars at the grevillea tree across the yard, spying on the stealthy killer and his female accomplice. He hones his sharp, pointed lethal weapon on a tree branch, leaving no doubt as to his intention. Among the clusters of golden blossoms his own colored plumage glows; the natty stripes on his cheeks, very much a dandy, his dusty blue and rose plumage, his speckled breast.

"Do it," I urge, murmuring aloud.

Overhear, in the crawl space between ceiling and roof, the potential victims persist in their aggravating behavior, as if unaware of any peril. Their insouciance encourages me. Squatters, tenants who refuse to be dislodged, a clan of Starlings has expropriated space. Their persistent bird song, an unmelodious clamour, interrupts my working concentration. It is a choral concatenation, like a dozen rusty, unoiled hinges continually squeaking and yapping. Nursery and toilet, the clan proliferates, breeding bumptious, raucous fledglings, scuffling, occasionally stomping across the ceiling overhead sounding as if they're shod in size ten steel toed Red Wing lumberjack boots. Their white droppings mar the staircase and wall, certainly a stain on the neighborhood.

Despite being a member in good standing of the Audubon Society, a long time bird lover and supporter, I confess to an unredeeming negativism about Starlings. They probably have a place in the ecological chain. I however think of them as a weak link, except as they provide food for more appealing or more obviously useful creatures. I would even allow for them if they would keep down their numbers! But they have no sense of proportion. If they were discreet I could bear with them as a tolerable presence. But if they were discreet, they would not be Starlings!

The killer bides his time, honing and preening till, in a blur he makes his move, covering the two hundred feet in seconds. The rusty hinges groan louder. Now it has been brought home to them; and my heart rejoices in proportion to their cries. Triumphant, the Kestrel flies back to his mate with the day's provendor, a fledgling in his curved beak, one Starling less.

A rain of feathers floats past my window gently. The rusty hinge chorale dies down, till next mealtime, now that the Kestrel has discovered this fruitful cache.

Lady Macbeth of Brentwood, I rejoice. Bon appetit, Kestrel; would you like some ketchup with your Starling?

# Resource Listing of Birdwalks in the Greater Los Angeles Area



The first column on this page lists morning birdwalks held on a regular basis (at 8 a.m. unless otherwise noted). You may wish to check the sponsoring organization to confirm

date, time and meeting location. Addresses and Phone Numbers for these groups are listed in the 2nd column. Please remember that most walks are led by volunteers and

conflicts do arise. Permission for the listing was obtained.

## First Saturday of the Month

Bolsa Chica (9 a.m. Oct. through Mar.)

*Amigos de Bolsa Chica*

### • Franklin Canyon

*William O. Douglas*

*Outdoor Classroom*

## First Sunday

### • Topanga Canyon State Park (\$)

*Santa Monica Mountain Task Force*

### Sepulveda Basin

*San Fernando Valley*

*Audubon Society*

### South Coast Botanic Gardens (\$)

*Palos Verdes Peninsula*

*Audubon Society*

### • L.A. State & County Arboretum (\$)

*L.A. Arboretum, Arcadia*

## Second Saturday

Ballona Wetlands (Aug. thru Apr.)

*Los Angeles Audubon Society*

### Newport Backbay

*Friends of Newport*

(9 a.m. Oct. thru Mar. ex. 11/16)

## Second Sunday

### • Descanso Botanical Gardens (\$)

*San Fernando Valley*

*Audubon Society*

## Third Saturday

### • Whittier Narrows (or 3rd Sun, varies)

*Los Angeles Audubon Society*

### • Eaton Canyon

*Eaton Canyon Nature Center*

## Third Sunday

### • Malibu Creek State Park (\$)

*Santa Monica Mountains Task Force*

## Third Wednesday

South Coast Botanic Gardens (\$)

*Palos Verdes Peninsula*

*Audubon Society*

## Fourth Sunday

### • Descanso Botanic Gardens (\$)

*San Fernando Valley*

*Audubon Society*

\* Held year around.

\$ Admission or Parking Fee of \$1<sup>00</sup>-\$3<sup>00</sup>

## Audubon Societies of Southern California

Coachella Valley

Conejo Valley

El Dorado

Fresno County

Kern County

Los Angeles

Morro Coast

National-So. Calif. Office

Orange Co. (Sea and Sage)

Palos Verdes Peninsula

Pasadena

Pomona Valley

San Bernardino

San Diego

San Fernando Valley

Santa Barbara

Santa Monica Bay

South Coast

Tulare County

P.O. Box 367, Rancho Mirage 92270

P.O. Box 1782, Thousand Oaks 91359

c/o El Dorado Nature Center

7550 E. Spring St., Long Beach 90815

P.O. Box 9324, Fresno 93791

P.O. Box 3581, Bakersfield 93385

7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046

805-528-7182/544-1777

805-658-6064

2291-A Portola Rd., Ventura 93003

P.O. Box 1779 Santa Ana 92702

P.O. Box 2582, Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

c/o Eaton Canyon Nature Center

1750 North Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91754

c/o Pomona College Ave. at 6th,  
Claremont, 91711

P.O. Box 254, Lakeview 92353

4536 Park Blvd., San Diego 92116

P.O. Box 2504 Van Nuys, 91404

300 North Los Carneros Rd., Goleta 93117

P.O. Box 5326, Santa Monica 90405

c/o Art Palmer, 233 Calle Marina,  
San Clemente 92672

P.O. Box 588, Porterville 93257

## Related Organizations that sponsor birdwalks on either a regular or sporadic basis.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica

714-897-7003

P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach 92647

Cabrillo National Monument

714-293-5450

Pt. Lomo, San Diego

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

818-794-1816

1750 North Altadena Dr., Altadena 91001

El Dorado Nature Center

213-425-8569

7550 East Spring St., Long Beach 90815

Friends of Ballona

213-821-7695

P.O. Box 5159, Playa del Rey 90293

Friends of Newport

714-646-8009 786-8878

P.O. Box 2001, Newport Beach 92663

L.A. State & Co. Arboretum

818-446-8251

301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91006

Louis Rubidoux Nature Center

714-683-4880

5370 Riverview Dr., Riverside 92509

San Diego Field Ornithologists

c/o Eva Aiken, 3669 Lloyd Terrace,  
San Diego 92117

Santa Monica Mountains

213-477-2153 taped info

(Request Quarterly Activity Schedule)

National Recreation Area

818-888-3770

22900 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills 91364

Santa Monica Mountainsce

Task Fo

711 1/2 Stepney, Inglewood 90302

\*\* The Nature Conservancy -  
So. Calif. Office.

805-962-9171

213 Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara 93101

Western Foundation of

213-208-8003

1100 Glendon Avenue, Suite 1400,  
Los Angeles 90024

Vertebrate Zoology

213-208-8003

1100 Glendon Avenue, Suite 1400,  
Los Angeles 90024

Wm. O. Douglas

213-858-3834

1936 Lake Dr., Beverly Hills 90210

Outdoor Classroom

There are undoubtedly many other birdwalks and organizations in our area that are unknown to me. Your help in updating this information would be greatly appreciated. Please send any changes or additions to LAAS Audubon House, Attn: W. Conway.

\*\* Has a particularly wide variety of outings.

Compiled by W. Conway 7/85

See also companion Pelagic Resource Listing,  
Western Tanager June 1985



# Conservation Conversation



by Sandy Wohlgemuth

**T**una Canyon. Half a mile north of Topanga Canyon, it rises gently from the Pacific Coast Highway and curls up through the Santa Monica Mountains. For the first mile the road follows a year-round stream, a rare gift in arid southern California. On a clear April day the new-green leaves of sycamores and cottonwoods are a delicious sight, as clean and refreshing as a gin and tonic. Uncommon white alders grow vigorously along the stream bed, giving the canyon a special character. It is a narrow canyon with steep sides covered with blooming chamise this spring day. Yellow-orange monkey flowers appear in dense clusters, and here and there one sees venegasias with bright yellow sunflower-shaped heads set off by green-green triangular leaves. With luck, a Canyon Wren may be seen perched on an outcropping, pouring forth his liquid descending song. Wrentits are a dime a dozen here and can be easily enticed into view with a pishing or a "tsk-tsk-tsk" sound. Goldfinches nest in the willows. A Western Flycatcher once nested in a cave-like hollow in the sandstone a few feet above the creek. A Great Horned Owl sometimes glares down from a yucca stalk. On a good day during migration the trees and shrubs can be alive with flashing colors. One fall, a rare Painted Redstart was discovered upstream, and the next day a crowd of birders appeared — long before breakfast — clogging the roadway with cars. Horse-tail,



the rough-stemmed "scouring rush" of pioneer days, grows in the creek bed. Looking at this ancient plant at arm's length you are reminded of museum dioramas of the dinosaur age.

About a mile above Pacific Coast Highway the road makes a hairpin turn up and away from the stream, but one can follow the water beyond the road where the canyon

narrows. Climbing over boulders, with a wary eye cocked for poison oak, you find yourself surrounded by mountain greenery, trickling water and the sounds of silence. With a smidgeon of imagination the canyon becomes a miniature Yosemite, a taste of wilderness a few miles from high rises and shopping malls. Alas, the bucolic illusion can be sustained only if the enchanted observer doesn't look too closely. The creek-bed of Tuna Canyon is littered with refuse of monumental proportions. Fast-food detritus, bits of furniture, rusted remains of orphaned automobiles are sprinkled the length of that first mile. It is as if a loaded trash truck sprang a leak as it chugged up the hill and all its contents rolled into the creek. By far the most common artifacts here are bottles and cans.

In a perfect world there would be no litter problem. We would all be civilized ladies and gentlemen who would set our trash out for the weekly pick-up, carry litter-bags in the car and, when we hiked or picnicked, we would "Pack it in, Pack it out." In the real world there are no infallible solutions to the problem of slobery. But there is one that helps: a Bottle Bill. Does this sound as if we've been here before? We have. In 1982, Proposition 11, the initiative that would have levied a 5-cent deposit on all beverage containers, was defeated at the polls. A \$5.8 million deceptive media campaign by the grocery, container and beverage industries did it in. A few months before the elections, opinion surveys showed that 67% of the voters were in favor of the proposition. In previous years, bottle bills in the state legislature died in committee. That dismal precedent was broken in May of this year by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee which approved AB 2020 by a 7-4 vote.

(Since we do not know when the bill will reach the Assembly floor, it may already have been passed or defeated by the time this column is read. There will have to be a similar Senate bill, of course. If the measures are still alive, may we suggest that letters to your state representatives might be helpful in determining the outcome.)

Here are a few items of interest:

- Nine states already have bottle bills — and they work. A survey of the law in New York State by the Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government said, "there is overwhelming support for the bottle law across all constituencies." Container litter was reduced by 70 percent. Landfill space was

saved by 5 to 8 percent. In the industry there was a net *increase* in 3900 jobs. Beverage prices did *not* go up.

- The California Medical Association supports the bill as a public health measure. In 1976, 250,000 Californians were injured by broken bottles and twisted cans; 102,000 required hospitalization.
- Figures from the beverage industry itself show this astonishing box score of recycling rates:

	Glass	Plastic
Bottle Bill States	90%	80%
California	7%	1%

- The California bill (AB 2020) requires that most bottles be refillable and that deposits will apply to wine and liquor bottles. Plastic beverage containers are included. Deposits on all containers will be 5 cents. Unfortunately, aluminum cans are exempted.

Apparently that was the price of approval exacted by some committee members. Well, half a loaf is better than none. At least the inducement of 25 or 30 cents a pound for aluminum can recycling has cleaned up a lot of that particular litter.

The bottle bill will not remove the moldy davenport or the rusty fenders from Tuna Canyon. But it may stimulate a greater public consciousness of the litter phenomenon. Who knows, even some of the troglodytes might pause a moment before they push the next washing machine into the creek.



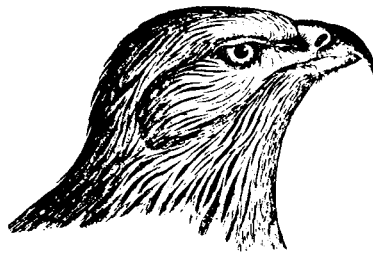
**S**pring. No matter how many years have rolled around since birders discovered birds, the excitement and anticipation of spring never lose their flavor. "The migrants are coming, the migrants are coming!" Seems to lie just beneath the surface of our everyday thoughts. The fresh new plumages dance before our mind's eye: the bright yellows, the startling patterns of black and white, the olive backs, the wingbars, the eye-rings. We welcome the change from the drab brown of most of our chaparral birds.



Spring has come and gone this year but the migration left something to be desired. Though a few lucky birders were in the field when the trees were jumping with warblers and vireos, for the most part it was a disappointing time. A common complaint was, "Where are the birds?" This cry was not limited to southern California. Birders in the East and the Midwest were equally unhappy with the number and variety of migrants. All precincts have not yet reported at this writing, but it doesn't seem to have been a very good year. Why? No one really knows. There are always population fluctuations in nature and this may simply be a low point on the graph. However, more than ever before we are hearing about tropical forests. As most of us know, many nesting North American birds spend the winter in Mexico, Central and South America.

Tropical forests make up only 6% of the land surface of the world but contain over 50% of the world's total species. They are a reservoir of plants and animals that provide us with medicines, food, and germplasm stocks to improve our crops. The accelerated

destruction of rainforests for agriculture — and particularly for grazing land for cheap beef — has had a serious effect on this complex ecosystem. Is time running out? Is the birders' innocent complaint the symptom of a profound disease: the loss of habitat in the tropics that eventually might spell extinction for hundreds of living things? To quote the California Academy of Sciences, "The current situation is nothing short of a major crisis... By conserving tropical rainforests we will preserve resources of global interest that will enrich our lives and enhance our understanding of life on earth." (The Academy is sponsoring a San Francisco symposium in September on "Diversity and Conservation of Tropical Rainforests.")



The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. have long been concerned with the fate of these enormously rich areas of the world. The MacArthur Foundation has offered a challenge grant of one million dollars toward the purchase of *La Zona Protectora* in Costa Rica. Conservation organizations must equal the grant by the end of this year or the foundation money will be lost. The "Protected Zone" is a strip of untrammeled rainforest running from La Selva Research Station at 140 feet altitude to the Braulio Carrillo National Park at 9500 feet. Researchers on a ten-day expedition there recently observed 175 species of butterflies and discovered 28 species of plants new to science. They estimated that the zone harbors up to 80% of Costa Rica's 848 species of birds. There are 19,000 acres of privately-owned land that must be purchased, but the Costa Rica National Park Service does not have the money.



At its June meeting the board of directors of Los Angeles Audubon contributed \$2000 to the Nature Conservancy for *La Zona Protectora*. At a previous meeting \$1000 was donated to WWF-U.S. and earmarked for tropical rainforests. We're trying to put our money where our mouth is. As Kimball Garrett (author and philosopher) once said, "There is life after warblers." The question is, would there be an acceptable life *without* warblers?



Individual contributions for *LaZona Protectora* may be made to: World Wildlife Fund-U.S. at 1601 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009, or The Nature Conservancy at 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

## California Wilderness Conference

On the weekend of October 25-27 there will be a conference on California wild lands and scenic rivers at the Visalia Convention Center. The conference will have speakers such as Senator Allan Cranston and others from various conservation organizations as well as workshops on specific problems. Cost is \$15.

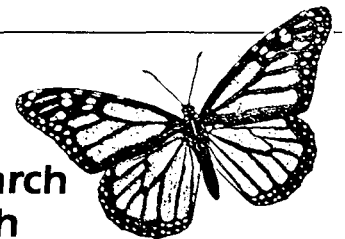
Contact:

Bob Barnes, P.O. Box 269  
Porterville, CA 93258 (209)-784-4477  
for further details.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society Bookstore is pleased to announce that it has for sale a complete 26 volume set of **Life Histories of North American Birds** by Arthur Cleveland Bent. These fine references have long been out of print.

This set is specially priced at **\$350<sup>00</sup>** complete, plus sales tax, shipping and handling charges.

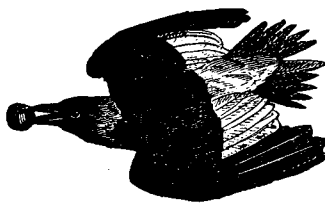
## Monarch Watch



It's time again to be on the look out for the beginnings of winter clusters of Monarch butterflies (see the Jan.-Feb. 85 *Tanager* for details). Report such sightings to Chris Nagano, The Monarch Project, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105. Telephone (805) 682-4711.

# Birds Of The Season

by Hal Baxter  
and Kimball Garrett



It is hardly surprising that the record-setting heat of early summer served to curtail birding efforts in southern California, although a good number of our local birders demonstrated their hardiness by making the trek to the even hotter environs of southeastern Arizona to look for an impressive array of unusual species there. And while we don't mean to suggest that summer birding in southern California was by any means dull, we will break with tradition and start out this column "farther afield" in Arizona.

The male **Flame-colored Tanager** mentioned in the last issue was widely seen through June and July in the south fork of Cave Creek Canyon. He and his Western Tanager mate were working on raising their second brood by mid-July. While Flame-colored and Western Tanagers are perhaps not each others closest relatives within the genus *Piranga*, such mixed pairing is not surprising when one species (in this case the Flame-colored) is at, or beyond, its range limits. It should be noted that the call notes of the two species are essentially identical. An adult **Northern Jacana** (a species with more pronunciations of its name than records for the United States) was found at a pond at Kino Springs, near Nogales, Arizona, on 7 June (Richard Hellman); this bird, a first for Arizona, was subsequently refound at nearby Guevavi Ranch and was seen by numerous observers at least through mid-July. Jacanas are abundant in Sinaloa, Mexico, but habitat in Sonora is poor for the species and its occurrence in southern Arizona was somewhat unexpected. A female **Green Kingfisher** was observed at the Guevavi Ranch in mid-July; and individual of this species has been present in that area for many months. As always, hummingbirds were abundant in southeast Arizona's mountains, with a greater than average number of **White-eared Hummers** reported and a widely seen **Plain-capped Starthroat** in Paradise (Chiricahua Mountains).

The California bird which merited the most attention in June was the adult **Swallow-tailed Gull** which was discovered by Alan Baldrige on the shore of Monterey Bay at the Hopkins Marine Station on 6 June. This striking nocturnal gull, a near-endemic of the Galapagos Islands, was seen for a four-day period either at Hopkins or to the north at Moss Landing. As the species has only once been recorded as far north as Panama, several birders have implicated the far-ranging effects of the major 1982-1983 El

Niño/Southern Oscillation in the long distance wandering of this individual. But while Galapagos nesting populations were severely affected by El Niño, there is no evidence for any long range dispersal caused by that event in this species (and, in fact, surprisingly little evidence for any seabird species). It would seem more likely that the bird's appearance in Monterey was somehow human-aided, an unpopular viewpoint to those who are lucky enough to see this unusual gull.

**Magnificent Frigatebirds** were observed in small numbers at the Salton Sea, as expected. Locally, one was at the Manhattan Beach Pier on 7-8 July (Jim Hecht), and it or another immature was flying past nearby King Harbor on 10 July (Art Baker). Inland, Mickey Long saw an immature frigate over Lake Castaic on 18 July. An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at the south end of the Salton Sea on 26 June (Grant Meyer), with a second adult at Sandyland Slough, Carpinteria, in July. Four or five **Wood Storks** were at the south end of the Salton Sea on 18 June (Gayle Benton), and numbers built up after that date. Two adult **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** found at the south end of the Salton Sea at the end of May (Richard Webster) were refound by wildlife refuge personnel and by Guy McCaskie, 15-21 June. A female **Oldsquaw** was at the mouth of the Ballona Creek channel in Playa del Rey on 5 June (Hank Brodtkin).

The early nature of the southbound migration of **Wilson's Phalaropes** was demonstrated by the presence of over 200 birds, most in full alternate plumage, at the south end of the Salton Sea on 18 June (Hal Baxter *et al*). Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at the north and south ends of the Salton Sea on 1 June (Guy McCaskie); these of course, were northbound migrants. Once again a **Sandwich Tern** showed up in the tern colony at the south end of San Diego (after 14 June), but it was not widely seen because of the sensitive, off-limits locality. An **Elegant Tern** at the north end of the Salton Sea on 1 June (Guy McCaskie) represented the first certain record of this coastal species for the Salton Sea, though a report from the same time last year at the same locality was likely correct. A **Xantus' Murrelet** was swimming just off the Playa del Rey jetties on 19-20 July (Eileen Weiss).

Once again both **Flammulated Owls** and **Northern Saw-whet Owls** nested in the Buckhorn Campground area of the San Gabriel Mountains. Birders should continu-

ally remind themselves of their potential disturbance to nesting owls and use caution when seeking such birds. Efforts to locate young Saw-whets along the Valyermo to Big Pines Highway, where several adults were found in February and March, were unsuccessful. Once again a **Whip-poor-will** was calling vigorously in the vicinity of Arch picnic area near Table Mountain in June (Brian Keelan *et al*). Another Whip-poor-will was heard near Camp Angelus in the San Bernardino Mtns. on 29 June (Richard Webster). A **Lesser Nighthawk** was foraging for moths in the Dodger Stadium parking lot after the Dodgers beat the Pirates (9-1) on 24 July (Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn); another Lesser Nighthawk was over Monte Nido in Malibu Canyon on the Fourth of July (Kimball Garrett). Sturdevant Falls in Big Santa Anita Canyon remains one of the best local spots to observe **Black Swifts**; Gayle Benton had at least two there on the evening of 23 June. The count of **Chimney Swifts** over Exposition Park peaked at 16 birds on 9 July; quite unusual was a single **Vaux's Swift** associating with the Chimney Swifts for several days after 26 June (affording excellent comparisons of size, shape, plumage and calls; Kimball Garrett). A single *Chaetura* swift over Anaheim Stadium on 13 July (Don Sterba) was likely a Chimney Swift.

A male **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** over upper Arrastre Creek in the San Bernardino Mountains (Richard Webster, 29 June) was one of the few records for that range. An **Eastern Kingbird** at 7500' in Mineral King Valley (Larry Norris, 8 July) established the first Tulare County record of that species. The **Gray Vireos** at Bob's Gap, near Valyermo, were found as late as 3 July (Dick Erickson), and the species was also found just to the east along Largo Vista Road (Brian Keelan and John Parmeter, 8 June). Unusual



was a **Steller's Jay** wandering through John Schmitt's neighborhood in Norwalk on 4 June. John also had a second year male **American Redstart** in his yard on 8 July. Late spring vagrant warblers included a singing male **Northern Parula** at the junction of Big Rock and Pallett Creeks, Valyermo (Jonathan Alderfer, 15 June), and a singing male **Black-and-White Warbler** in Charmlee Park, west of Malibu, on 23 June (Kimball Garrett). Rarer was a singing male **Hooded Warbler** at Crystal Cove State Park, near Laguna Beach (Sylvia Ranney, 12 June). A **Wilson's Warbler** at Tapia Park on 21 July suggested the possibility of nesting at that Santa Monica Mountains locality (Kimball Garrett). A **Painted Redstart** was in the San Bernardino Mountains along the Wild Horse Trail, off Hwy. 38, on 23 June (Priscilla Brodtkin).

A female **Summer Tanager** along Cold Creek in the Santa Monica Mountains (Kimball Garrett, Rick Ford and Sarah George, 21 July) was a vagrant, though this species is nesting this year as far west as Castaic Junction on the Santa Clara River (Kevin Spencer). Male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were noted at Crystal Cove State Park (Doug Willick, 13 June) and on the south fork of the Kern River (L.A.A.S., 29 June). Male **Indigo Buntings** were in Ice House Canyon off the Mt. Baldy Road (Rick Clements, 29 June), along Hwy. 38 just west of Forest Falls intersection (Rick Clements, 30 June), and in the Prado Basin (Dick Erickson, 2 July). At a new locality was a **Great-tailed Grackle** at Whittier Narrows on 30 June (Ralph Shankland). A female **Bronzed Cowbird** was in a

Niland yard on 1 June (Brian Daniels), with a male seen there on a later date. The latest lowland report of a **Red Crossbill** was of one at the Virginia Country Club in Long Beach on 14 June (Henry Spreadbury).

To the north, the sighting by marine bird researchers of a **Townsend's Shearwater**, **Solander's Petrels** and **Murphy's Petrels** off the coast (details presumably forthcoming) prompted the scheduling of a pleagic trip out of Bodega Bay on 23 July. The trip was highlighted by six **Cook's Petrels**; other species included **Black-footed Albatross**, **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** and **Horned** and **Tufted Puffins**; the sought-after petrels and shearwater were not seen. A second trip a week later was described by participants as, at best, "dull".

We hardly need to remind you that September is a month when nearly every kind of bird is on the move through southern California. The first half of the month will be dominated by shorebird-watching, but land-bird strays will be possible almost any time. Large numbers of western passerines will be undertaking their southward migrations through the higher elevations earlier in the month, while coastal plains and promontories will be the focus of vagrant hunting later in the month.

Send any interesting bird observations to:

**Hal Baxter**  
1821 Highland Oaks Drive  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
Phone # (818) 355-6300

## OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA

A seminar by Jon Winter sponsored by Los Angeles Audubon Society on Saturday Oct. 26, 1985. This seminar will cover several areas of owl biology with a main emphasis on vocal identification and how to find these nocturnal creatures. Recent advances in owl behavior research will be covered as well as their unnatural history (their place in folklore and mythology).

The seminar will last about 5½ hours from approximately 9:30 to 4:00 with an hour lunch break. Cost is \$20 per person. Send check with self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and further information to LA Audubon. Attendance will be limited, so don't wait too long to make your reservation!



## 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 many 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.



### PELAGIC TRIPS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5:** *Tropicbird and Storm-Petrel Trip, out to sea towards Santa Barbara Island.* Depart 6:00 a.m., return 6 p.m. Leaders: **Herb Clarke, Larry Norris.** Price: \$24 per person.

See Reservation Policy on Calendar Page

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**DESIGN** etc. graphics inc.  
**PRINTER** Artisan Press

**CONSERVATION EDITOR** Sandy Wohlgemuth  
**ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT** Kimball Garrett

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Audubon membership (local and national) is \$30 per year (individual), \$38 (family), \$18 (student), \$21 (senior citizen) or \$23 (senior citizen family) 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 to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Subscription 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.

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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.



# 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.

## FIELD TRIPS

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** — Join **Bob Shanman** for a morning walk at the unique **Ballona Wetlands**. This is peak season for viewing migrating shorebirds. Also see waterbirds and residents. Take Marina Fwy. 90 west to Culver Blvd., turn left to Pacific Ave., then right to footbridge at end. Meet at **8 a.m.** \$3 parking. (More info: 213-545-2867 after 6 p.m.)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** — Join a **Docent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area** for a 2-3 hour bird walk in search of fall migrants. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the kiosk of **Malibu Lagoon State Beach**.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** — Join a volunteer **naturalist for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area** for a 2-3 hour bird walk to look for migrant and resident landbirds at the **Paramount Ranch**. Meet at **4:30 p.m.** Take the Ventura Fwy. to Kanan Rd. exit and go south ¼ mile to make a left turn on Cornell Rd. Continue 2½ miles. Entrance on right side of road.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** — **David White** will lead his monthly trip at the **Whittier Narrows Regional Park**, in search of a good variety of residents in addition to returning waterbirds and possible migrants. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave., So. El Monte, off Fwy 60 between Santa Anita and Peck Dr. exits, west of Fwy. 605.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26** — Meet **Sandy Wohlgemuth** at the Tapia parking lot at **8 a.m.** for a half day of varied birding (migrants, residents and shorebirds) at **Tapia Park** then **Malibu Lagoon**. Tapia is located on Las Virgines/Malibu Cyn. Rd. about half way between Fwy. 101 and Pacific Coast Highway.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28** — Take advantage of a unique opportunity of free **bird sketching instruction with Jonathan Alderfer** (213-828-6568). Alderfer is the talented artist and illustrator of the forthcoming Dunn and Garrett Field Identification Manual. Bring pencils, erasers, and sketchbook or drawing pad along with your regular birding equipment (a scope if available). This outing is

designed for birders with no previous drawing experience. Emphasis will be on basic drawing skills and the recording of field marks through drawings. Come participate in an educational and entertaining experience. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the kiosk at Malibu Lagoon.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7** — Join **Ed Navojosky** for his popular annual jaunt (14th) from **Malibu Lagoon to McArthur State Beach**. A large variety of species are usually seen as a diversity of habitats are birded. Meet at **7:30 a.m.** in the parking area behind the market, across the street from the Malibu Lagoon entrance. Bring a picnic lunch for stop at Big Sycamore.

## FORTHCOMING TRIPS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12** — Ballona — Bob Shanman

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18** — Chatsworth Park South — Alan Keller

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19** — Whittier Narrows — David White

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26** — Huntington Beach Central Park — Brian Daniels

## RESERVATION TRIPS: (Limited Participation)

**WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 2 & 3** — Spend a special **Morro Bay** weekend with L.A. Co. Museum Ornithologist and L.A.A.S. Guru **Kimball Garrett**. View shorebirds and waterfowl, look for Peregrines, late fall and winter vagrants, then some owling Saturday night. There will be a drive up the coast, beyond Cambria, to look at coniferous forest and rocky shore species. Depending on timing, there may be some birding stops in the San Luis Obispo area enroute home. \$25 person.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17** — **Birds of Prey** will be highlighted in this unique opportunity to visit and become familiar with the **Harper Dry Lake** area, its varied habitats, and marvelous birding possibilities. We are pleased that **Gene Cardiff** has agreed to be our leader. Mr. Cardiff is an Ornithologist and Curator of Birds at the San Bernardino County Museum, teaches bird identification classes, and among other responsibilities is the cohesive force of the San Bernardino Audubon Society. \$12.50 person.

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7** — Spend a delightful day with author and professional bird tour leader **Jon Dunn** in the **Santa Barbara area**. Expect to see a good variety of shorebirds, waterbirds and wintering vagrants. \$12.50 person donation to new LAAS Research Award Fund.

## RESERVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

Reservations will be accepted ONLY if ALL the following information is supplied: (1) Trip desired; (2) Names of people in your party; (3) Phone numbers-(a) usual and (b) evening before event, in case of emergency cancellation; (4) Separate check (no cash please) to LAAS for exact amount for each trip; (5) Self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and associated trip information. Send to: Reservations Chairman Ruth Lohr, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

If there is insufficient response, the trip will be cancelled two weeks prior to the scheduled date (4 weeks for pelagics) and you will be so notified and your fee returned. Your cancellation during that time will bring a refund only if there is a paid replacement.

If you desire to carpool to an event, Ms. Lohr or Art Levine (usually in office on Tuesday) can provide information for you to make contact and possible arrangements.

## PELAGIC TRIPS See Page 11

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6** — Seminar **OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA** by Jon Winter. See page 11 for details.

## EVENING MEETINGS Meet at 8:00 P.M. in Plummer Park

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10** — **Dr. Herby Williams** retired UC Long Beach professor of history and geography, a long time photographer and world traveler will present **Wild Japan**.

**OCTOBER 8** — **Terry Stephenson** the resident ornithologist of the Lake Baringo Lodge in Kenya will give a slide illustrated talk entitled: **Bird Survey in Kenya**.

**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.

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