



# WESTERN TANAGER

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## Costa Rica, Jewel of Central America

by Olga L. Clarke

I was first asked by Russ Mason's Flying Carpet Tours of Florida to help lead a birding tour to Costa Rica with Burt Monroe, Jr. 15 years ago. I had birded most of Mexico, Guatemala, and Panama; and Costa Rica was a part of the Central American land bridge that I was most anxious to visit. Later, in February and March 1986, I returned leading more birding trips, and I fell in love with Costa Rica all over again.

Whether you are a first-timer in the tropics or a well-travelled birder, when you visit this lovely country you will discover why Costa Rica has lately become one of the world's top natural history destinations.

In the early 1500's when Columbus was making history, his glowing comments on the exuberant scenery of the newly discovered hemisphere inspired some of the Spanish literate pioneers to settle in various parts of the Americas. They then began to write detailed descriptions and accounts of the natural marvels of the New World. During the period of the 1500's to the 1800's, priests, army surgeons, and even barbers collected, observed and chronicled these natural wonders on their own initiative. However, most of the aristocrats of that period had little interest in the natural history of the Americas, and much of their efforts were spent on exploration and exploitation. Education of the lower classes was hardly allowed and treated as "works of the devil".

In 1843 an English merchant docked his almost empty ship in the port of Caldera on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, and proceeded by mule to San Jose to try to obtain cargo that would compensate him for the long and hazardous trip around Cape Horn. He was able to obtain (on credit) over 5,000 pounds of coffee, and returning in 1845 with more vessels and



View from Las Ventanas de Osa Lodge

Photograph by Herb Clarke

cargo, paid his debt. Thus, a new industry had been born. Ships arriving to load the coffee not only brought holds full of goods, they also brought immigrants from Europe who were searching for a new life.

The Costa Ricans are a gentle people with no military establishment, and one feels completely at ease walking down the streets of San Jose, the Capitol, or driving into the back country to search for birds. This tiny country is the size of West Virginia, and boasts of an extremely high literacy rate with schooling mandatory.

It was not until 1955 that a school of biology was established at the Universidad de Costa Rica. In 1961, the Universidad de Costa Rica, and the University of Southern California and other centers of learning, began offering field-oriented courses in tropical biology in Costa Rica. Almost 30 institutions of higher education have participated in this endeavor, producing more than 1400 tropical biologists with knowledge based on actual tropical field experience.

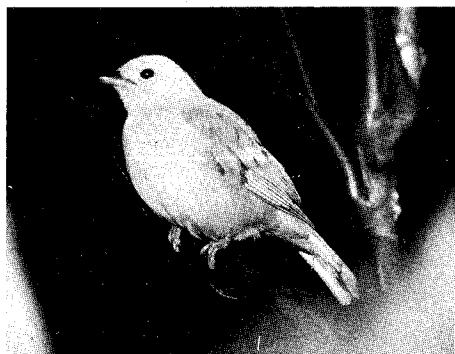
Costa Rica borders on both the Atlantic and the Pacific and is divided by a high mountain chain attaining an elevation of 12,000 feet. For such a small country, the

diversity of its flora and fauna is amazing. There are approximately 800 species of birds, 350 species of amphibians and reptiles, 8000 species of plants, 1200 orchids, and at least 10% of the world butterfly fauna is known to occur there. Among publications available are *Butterflies of Costa Rica and Their Natural History* by Philip J. DeVries, *Costa Rican Natural History* by Daniel H. Janzen with 174 contributors, and *Costa Rica National Parks* by Mario A. Boza (all at LAAS Bookstore). *A Field Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica* by Stiles/Skutch/Gardener is expected to be published in 1988.

Because Costa Rica is such a tiny country, it is possible to visit almost any major habitat within a day's ride from San Jose, including lowland deciduous forests and riverine swamps, premontane to lower montane formations, premontane rain forests, montane forests, lowland evergreen forests on both the Atlantic and Pacific, and marine and coral reef areas.

Flights leave Los Angeles International Airport at about midnight almost every day, and arrive in San Jose about 10:00 AM the next day. Then an hour's drive from down town can get you to Braulio Carrillo

National Park. A modern highway crosses the park from northeast to southwest, all the way to Puerto Limon on the Caribbean coast, and offers you an introduction to the richness of birdlife and spectacular scenery. This park was formally opened in April 1987, and contains regions with the most abrupt terrain in the country. High mountains densely covered with primary forests are carved by numerous rushing rivers which form deep canyons, many of which are boxed between sheer vertical walls. Two extinct volcanos, Barba and Cacho Negro, are within the boundaries of Braulio Carrillo. Tree ferns, palm trees, oaks, heliconias, and bromeliads are common. Birds such as Snowcap, White-tipped Sickle-bill, and Black-bellied Hummingbirds, Black-and-yellow, Silver-throated, and Spangle-cheeked Tanagers can be found here. Over 300 species of bird have been observed in the park. Animal life includes tapir, ocelot, jaguarundi, margay and at least 175 butterfly species. A recent addition of La Zona Protectora, a forested strip of land running from 114 feet above sea level to 5500 feet, has added 20,000 acres to the park and links it with La Selva, another famous birding hot spot.



Blue-grey Tanager

Photograph by Herb Clarke

For another easy day of birding, one can visit Volcan Poas (24 miles from San Jose), one of the most spectacular active volcanos in the country. The crater is an enormous opening measuring about one mile in diameter. It is approximately 1000 feet deep, and has a long history of eruptions, the last of which took place between 1952-54. Geyser-like eruptions sporadically shoot up from the center of the crater lake sometimes as high as 700 feet and have given Poas the fame of being the largest geyser in the world. This park has four distinctive habitats; areas without vegetation on the lip of the crater, blueberry thickets, dwarf vegetation, and cloud forest where epiphytes are especially common. Wildlife is not abundant, but birds like Volcano Junco, Green-fronted Lancebill, Violet Sabrewing, Green Violetear, Green-breasted Mango, Steely-vented, Variable Mountain-gem, and Scintillant Hummingbirds, Resplendent Quetzal (not common), Sooty and Mountain Robins, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, Yellow-thighed and Large-footed Finches, are well worth the short drive. The intense green color of the



Blue-crowned Motmot

foliage, and the great variety of wild flowers, including the rose color of the predominate Volcanic Melastome, are truly beautiful.

Further afield, a very early start from San Jose is recommended in order to arrive at the good birding areas near the Tapanti National Wildlife Refuge by 6:00 AM, and not miss the prime birding time. Just beyond Cartago, the drive through the scenic Orosi Valley offers a profusion of hummingbirds in the flowering trees and coffee plantations. The Refuge itself is a region of very broken terrain, with large numbers of rivers and gorges, and the trees are completely covered with moss, lichen, ferns, bromeliads and other epiphytic plants. Tapanti shares the rich flora and fauna of Chirripo-Amistad and was inaccessible until the hydro-electric station was constructed, which required an access road. This Refuge was established in 1982 and contains about 12,000 acres surrounded by a national forest. Even on a day of extremely heavy rain over 50 species of birds were tallied, including some specialties such as Black-chested Hawk, Black Guan, Brown and Green Violetears, Green-breasted Mango, Rufous-tailed, Magnificent, and White-bellied Mountaingem Hummingbirds, Collared Trogon, Blue-crowned Motmot, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Prong-billed Barbet, Emerald Toucanet, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Red-faced Spinetail, Spotted Barbtail, Black-and-yellow Phainoptila, Scale-crested Pygmy-tyrant, Black-faced Solitaire, Mountain and Clay-colored Robins, Slaty-backed Nightingale-thrush, Bananaquit, several North American warblers, Montezuma and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, Blue-hooded and Tawny-capped Euphonias, and seven species of tanagers.

Another excellent birding area is the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve which straddles the low continental divide in the Cordillera de Tilaran and is flanked on both Atlantic and Pacific sides by extremely

steep slopes and valleys. Elevations range from peaks at 5400 feet down to 3600 feet in the Penas Blancas Valley. This Reserve can be reached via the Pan American Highway northwest of San Jose. After the Punta Arenas turnoff (Rt. 17), continue north toward the Rio Lagarto Bridge, turn east just before the bridge, passing through Guacimal and Santa Elena. The forest reserve is approximately two miles beyond Monteverde. Although it is only about a 4-1/2 hour drive from San Jose, it can take about 8 hours because the birding is so great along the way. Just a word of caution, however. Cloud forest birding requires much time and patience as unpredictable weather combined with poor visibility can be problems, but in such an exceptional area, the whole experience is indeed worth the effort.

The Monteverde Reserve was dedicated in 1972 to save some of the fast disappearing cloud forest habitats and biota in the Tilaran Mountains. The Monteverde name was taken from the Monteverde Quaker community, a dairy-farming colony. Here an astonishing array of life zones is compressed into a very small area. Five months of strong, moisture-laden Atlantic trade winds ranges over most of the region, while Pacific valleys and slopes are protected by a dry season rain shadow, and only near the continental divide does the moisture spill over the upper slopes. Those same winds have, in turn, created a beautiful and unique elfin forest on the exposed upper Atlantic slopes. The five life zones in the Monteverde area represent a combination of altitude, rainfall and prevalence of mist which influences bird distribution. **Zone 1** - The dry woodland, scrub, and pastures as you leave the main highway from the village of San Luis, and the Guacimal Valleys to the top of the cliff along the lower edge of Monteverde (pre-montane Moist forest - 2,800 feet to 3900 feet). **Zone 2** - Patches of forest, scrub, and pastures which are wetter than Zone 1, but do not receive the mist (pre-montane wet forest - 4500 feet). **Zone 3** - In the vicinity of the field station, one finds forest, regenerating forest and pastures often completely enveloped in mist (4500 feet to 4800 feet). **Zone 4** - Near La Ventana, cloud forest and elfin forest, wet and misty, with luxuriant growths of epiphytes along the upper levels at about 4800 feet on the Pacific slope, and 4200 feet on the even wetter Caribbean slope (lower montane rain forest). **Zone 5** - This area is on the Caribbean side of the upper Penas Blanca Valley down to where the main trail meets the Penas Blancas River, and is mostly forest and overgrown pastures, and is extremely wet and misty (pre-montane rain forest - 4200 feet down to 2400 feet).

Birding Monteverde is a unique experience. At time there are birds at every bend of the trail. Then there are those times when you can hardly see the trail ahead because of the mist and wind. Practically

Photograph by Herb Clarke

the entire Monteverde Reserve can be considered cloud forest because of the prevalence of moisture-bearing clouds throughout the year. The birdlife here is rich and chances are good for viewing such wanted species as Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Black Guan and Azure-hooded Jay, which many times can be seen in the vicinity of the Information Center. A checklist of the birds with a map is available (LAAS Bookstore), and trails are well marked with most of them leading out from the Center. Good accommodations can be had (reservations should be made in advance because of the Reserve's popularity) at Hotel Belmar, Pension Quetzal, Hotel de Monteverde, and several smaller, but adequate, dormitory type facilities.

The main trail road from the Information Center leading up to La Ventana no doubt provides the easiest and best birding. Visibility (except when misty and windy) is excellent, and the variety of birds along this wide trail is incredible. Streak-breasted Treehunters nest in holes in the cliffs near the entrance to this trail. Black Guan, Brown-hooded Parrot, White-collared Swift, Resplendent Quetzal, Orange-bellied Trogon, Prong-billed Barbet, Emerald Toucanet, Golden-olive, and Smoky-brown Woodpeckers, Olivaceous, and Spotted Woodcreepers, Red-faced Spinetail, Ruddy Treerunner, Spotted Barbtail, Buffy Tufted-cheek, Slaty Antwren, Masked Tityra, Three-wattled Bellbird, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, three species of Robins, four species of Nightingale-thrushes, Black-and-yellow Silky Phainoptila, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Slate-throated and Collared Redstarts, Blue-crowned Chlorophonia, several tanagers, and if you're alert and lucky enough, even Wrenthrush and Silvery-fronted Tapaculo. This sample list should whet your birding appetite!



Gray-necked Wood-rail

Photograph by Herb Clarke

The tours that I lead, finish up the last 4-1/2 days at the fabulous Las Ventanas de Osa Wildlife Refuge, located on the southwest coast of Costa Rica, just north of the Osa Peninsula. After a one hour flight from San Jose to Golfito, we are met by the staff with two 4-wheel drive Land Cruisers for the four hour drive to the lodge. This



Volcan Poas

Photograph by Herb Clarke

Refuge was designed and is owned and operated by Fred Ross, a Canadian Naturalist. No more than 14 guests are permitted here at one time, so that you are never overwhelmed by a lot of people, thus assuring you much personal attention.

As you approach the entrance to the Refuge, you are surrounded by a truly pristine forest. The narrow steep roadway leading to the lodge teems with birds and wildlife. Your first glimpse of this luxurious villa set in the midst of a virgin rain forest, 500 feet above the Pacific Ocean, will take your breath away. Rooms are spacious with private baths and ceiling fans. There is a large modern swimming pool surrounded by green lawn and flowering plants adjoining the open-air dining room, library and lounge. Secluded, safe beaches are nearby for swimming and shelling. Food is outstanding, as Mr. Ross has a professional caterer brought in from San Jose for his guests. The lodge has its own pure water supply and power plant.

There are many forest trails rich with birdlife leading from the lodge where you can observe leks of Red-capped, Orange-collared, and Blue-crowned Manakins. Just outside your room Chestnut-mandibled Toucans, Fiery-billed Aracaris, Sulpher-winged and Orange-chinned Parakeets, White-crowned, Red-ored, Mealy, and Yellow-crowned Parrots are common. At least six species of hummingbirds including Garden Emerald, Charming, Sapphire-throated (and occasionally Mangrove) Hummingbirds feed in the blooming papaya trees and masses of hibiscus blossoms. Troops of Howler Monkeys and White-faced Capuchins will be your alarm clock in the mornings. In addition, the many fruiting and flowering trees surrounding the lodge act as magnets to the myriads of tanagers, honeycreepers, decnis, trogons, and at least 10 species of flycatchers, many of which can be seen even before your sumptuous breakfast is served. Besides the monkeys, 3-toed and 2-toed Sloths, Tropical Red and Variegated Squirrels, Agoutis, and Coatis can often be seen on the grounds, along with an occasional Jaguarundi.

Days can be spent wandering the trails where such specialties as Gray-headed Chachalaca, Crested Guan, Black-hooded Antshrike, Dull-mantled, Chestnut-backed, and Bi-colored Antbirds, Black-faced Antthrush, Northern Bentbill, and White Hawk are possible, while Three-wattled Bellbirds call from high in the canopy.

Short drives are taken to nearby riparian habitats where along the way White Ibis, King Vulture, Mangrove Black Hawk, Laughing Falcon, Yellow-headed and Chestnut Caracaras, sometimes Spectacled Owl, Olivaceous Piculet, Golden-naped, Red-crowned, Red-rumped, Lineated and Pale-billed Woodpeckers, seven species of woodcreepers and Rufous Piha are possible.

If all this seems too much, just lean back in your lounge chair while the staff brings you a cool drink, and lazily watch while Magnificent Frigatebirds, King Vultures, Roadside Hawks, Swallow-tailed Kites and perhaps an eagle circle overhead. Oftentimes, while you're savoring the gourmet evening meal, a Black-and-White Owl will entertain you by perching on one of the flag poles near the pool. A brief walk after dinner can sometimes produce a Streaked Owl.

On the morning you are scheduled to leave, you will feel that time has passed all too quickly, and yet you were fortunate to have been able to sample this little bit of paradise, Las Ventanas de Osa Wildlife Refuge.

Costa Rica cannot be completely described in a brief article. Many other special places such as the Guanacaste area, Cerro de la Muerte, Dr. Alexander Skutch's finca near San Isidro del General, La Salva, and the numerous national parks and refuges, are all worth visiting in addition to those mentioned.

Rest assured that if, and when, you do visit Costa Rica, whether on your own, or with an organized tour, you too will agree that it truly is the JEWEL OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

For more information on the tours I am associated with, you may write to me at 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, CA 91208.

# Birding Chino: Lake Serranos Revisited

by Henry E. Childs, Jr., Ph.D.

**T**he Chino area in southwestern San Bernardino County has been an excellent place for birding, not only for the numbers of normally occurring winter visitants but also for unusual to exceptionally rare vagrants. Lake Serranos has been, for me, one of those local, exotic, easy to get to, birds seen at close range places to bird that regularly turns up with exciting species (see Childs, H.E., West. Tan. 46(6):3; Ibid. 48(70:3). In addition, it is close to several other good spots and can make for a good day in the field during most seasons, but especially winter.

**Directions to Lake Serranos.** For Los Angeles, take Hwy. 71 south to Pipeline Rd. Continue south on Pipeline to the Lake Los Serranos Mobile Home Park, located on the left just south of Carbon Canyon Rd. NOTE: This is a private facility. Request permission to bird from the Manager at the office in the clubhouse on the lake or call ahead for

permission on 714-597-1791. I've never been refused a friendly request. RESPECT property rights. Most residents are interested in their birds and like to learn about them. Park by the club house.

**Where to Look.** Lake Serranos is an artificial lake surrounded on three sides by mobile homes (See map). The south side is, at present, undeveloped. Along the north edge is a thin lining of tules. To the west of the clubhouse the tules reach out along a small peninsula which juts out into the lake, making a small pond to the west mostly lined with tules. Several small trees are to be found along the edge. All are important spots to check for specific birds.

**South Side.** The south side has many tall Eucalyptus trees. Scan these for roosting Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, and Cassin's Kingbirds. On Dec. 8, 1985 a Zone-tailed Hawk had

been seen associated with the wintering flock of vultures. Construction presently in progress may have an effect on what can be seen here. Closer observation of these trees can be made along the Los Serranos Road, just south of the lake and outside the park.

**Parking Lot.** A good view of the deeper, eastern edge of the lake may be had from this point. At some times of day this area may be shore to shore Canada Geese, as over 10,000 are winter residents in the Chino-Norco area. Look also for the occasional white goose as both Ross' and Snow Geese have been seen here (beware of the domestics!). Most of the puddle ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Common Merganser, and occasionally three species of grebes. Double-crested Cormorants are usually present. Spotted Sandpipers work along the east wall. Black Phoebe and Belted Kingfishers are regularly present. Foster's and Caspian Terns may be seen. A rare but fairly regular species to be seen here is the Eurasian Widgeon.

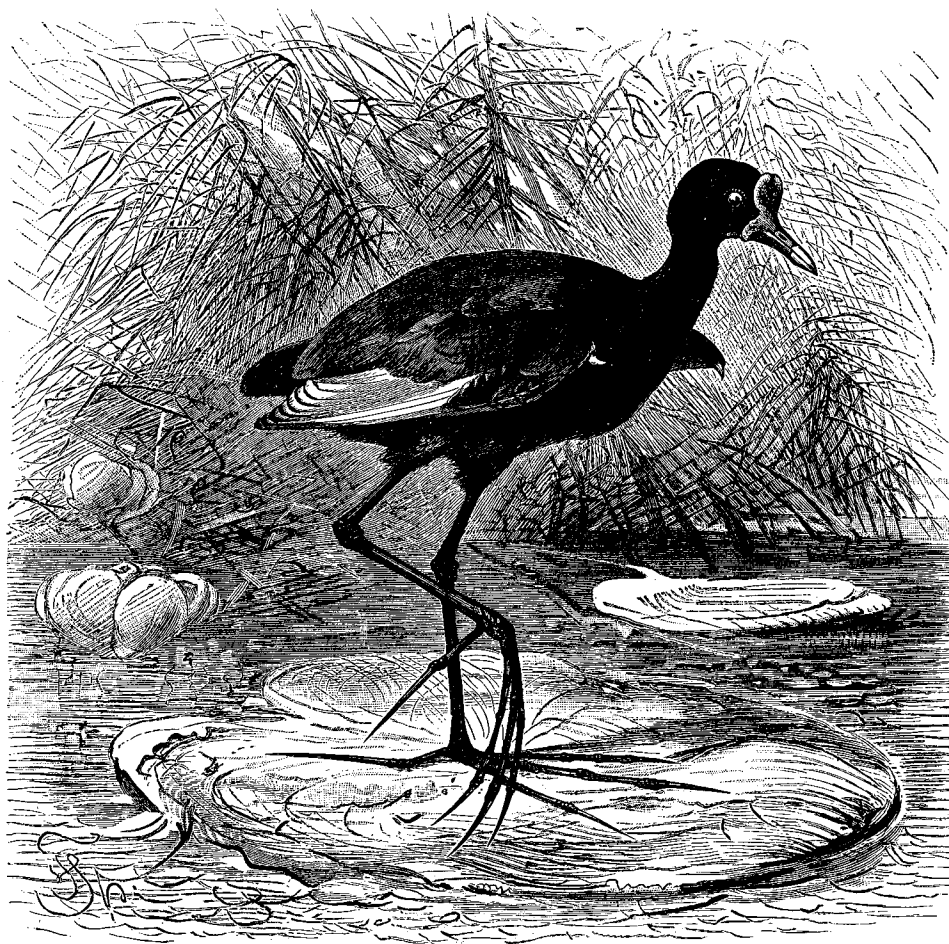
**Tule Edge:** Species to be looked for are Common Yellowthroat, Marsh Wren, Song and Lincoln Sparrows, Common Moorhen, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green-backed and Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets. A nesting colony of several hundred Tri-colored Blackbirds is found in the tules along the west edge of the peninsula and the birds are present there all year.

**Pepper Tree:** To the west of the Clubhouse is a lone Pepper Tree at the water's edge. Black-crown Night Herons regularly roost here and generally allow close approach. In winter a Red-breasted Sapsucker may hang quietly on the shore side in the shade and may be overlooked.

**Peninsula.** This is the best spot for seeing unusual species. Look first at the two small deciduous trees about 8 ft. tall. For years in the mid 80's a Tropical Kingbird has made these its center of foraging. If flushed it would fly across to the south shore. Occasionally a Cassin's Kingbird may take over. Either one is not your everyday backyard bird!

**West Pond.** Approach this area with care as the birds may be just beyond the reeds. The puddle ducks particularly like this area. Cinnamon and Green-wing teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, American Widgeon, Gadwall, American Coot and Canada Goose are plentiful in winter. Occasional Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers and a few peeps may be seen. Overhead, in season, are swallows of several species, and White-throated Swifts are often present in winter.

**Residential Area:** The usual species may be seen in the yards or on TV antennas: Mockingbird, Starling, House and White-crowned Sparrows, American Crow, Lesser



Goldfinch, Yellow-rumped Warblers. Once an Orange-bellied Parrot fed with the Coots on the grass!

**When to Bird:** Mornings are always the best. Human activity around the lake, or the occasional fisherman in his boat, may affect the birds on and around the lake. However, the birds are amazingly tame. Flights of hundreds of thousands of Canada Geese occur usually between 8:30 and 10 and in late afternoon. It is an awe-inspiring sight to see them come in to land, overhead, at a hundred feet!

**Additional Birding Spots Nearby:** In winter, mid-November to mid-March, after completing a circuit of Lake Serranos,

combine a visit to the fields around the prisons a few miles to the east, particularly those on the south side along Kimball Rd. between Central and Euclid Avenues. Look for Golden Eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Black-shouldered Kites, Burrowing Owls and immense flocks of grazing geese. Chino, the prison capital of the world, may also be the birding capital of southern California.

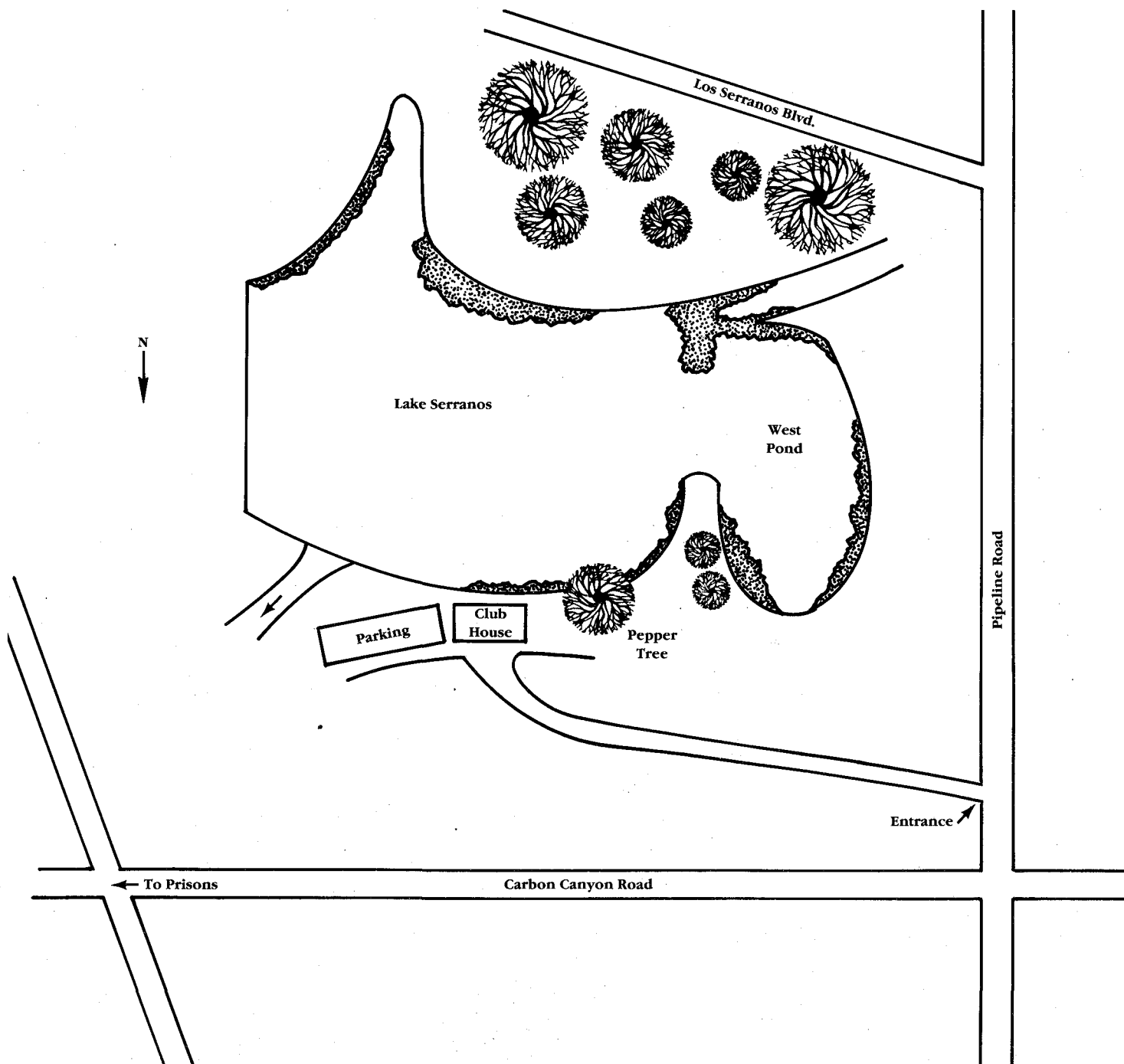
Prado Regional Park on Euclid Ave. produced a Sandhill Crane this fall. A few years ago a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher overwintered. Swamp Sparrows are fairly regular in winter below the dam.

Continuing east on River Rd. at Archibald Ave. is Prado River Park (you are now in

Riverside County) where a Vermillion Flycatcher, Great-tailed Grackles, Blue-winged Teal (across the street), Cassin's Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Common Ground Doves, Bell's Vireo, migrants and summer residents may be found. Watch the fields for Ferruginous Hawks.

It is only 30 minutes from here to Lake Mathews. Take the La Sierra offramp from the 91 Freeway to the far end of the dam. Here Bald Eagle, Common Loon and Common Merganser are to be found in winter. Black-tailed Gnatcatchers are to be found in the chaparral below the dam.

With luck, you can see 90 species or more in one day in winter. From Los Angeles, go East, young Man!



# Winter Buteos of the Carrizo Plains

by Jody L. Venema

**T**he Carrizo Plains are located in the southeast corner of San Luis Obispo County. The main access is from the west via Highway 101 to Highway 58 east, which begins at the township of Santa Margarita. As it winds through the coastal mountain ranges, the 50 mile drive is interspersed with a variety of habitats: chaparral, oak-pine savannah, grasslands, and juniper shrub lands. These habitats provide a wide range of bird species that gives the drive to the "plains" an added appeal.

The Carrizo Plains lie within a flat, treeless, and sparsely populated enclosed valley. The valley floor, at an elevation of about 2,000 above sea level, is approximately 40 miles long and 8 miles wide. The east side of the Carrizo Plains is enclosed by the Temblor mountain range, which

contains the San Andreas Fault and separates the "plains" from the San Joaquin Valley. The west side is enclosed by the coastal mountain ranges which separates it from the Pacific coast. This unique enclosure and high elevation gives the Carrizo Plains an above average annual solar isolation. The higher elevation reduces the incidence of tule fog from the San Joaquin Valley, and the coastal mountain ranges protect it from the ocean fog and cloudss. Thus, unless a rain storm is moving into the "plains", you can expect to have clear, bright, sunny days throughout the year. While a high percentage of the Carrizo Plains is dry land farmed for food grains, i.e., wheat and barley, there are unfarmed grasslands and shrub land areas which afford natural protection for the "plains" wildlife.

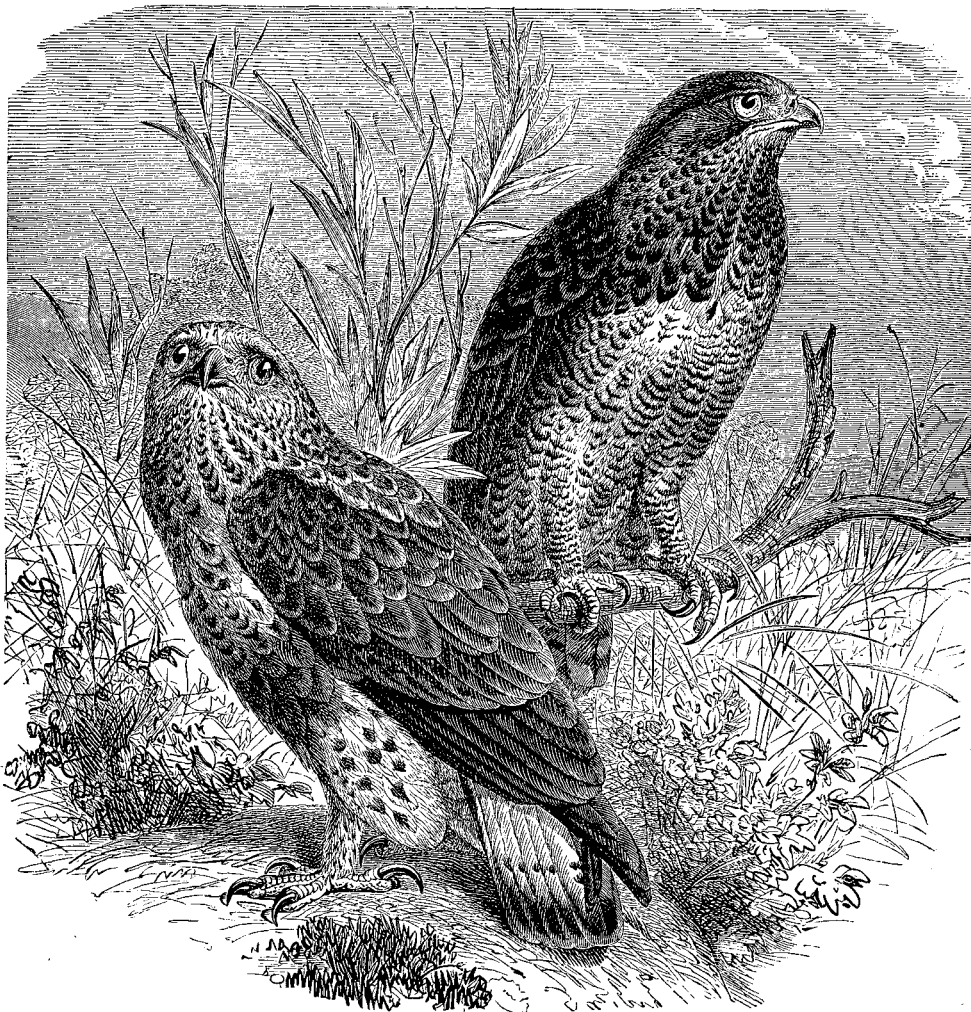
The Carrizo Plains in the winter months (November through March) host a large and varied population of raptors, of which three buteos are of particular interest - the Red-tailed Hawk, the Ferruginous Hawk, and the Rough-legged Hawk. These three buteos migrate into the Carrizo Plains for the winter because of its relatively clear mild weather, and its high rodent populations, that are due to the vast grain farming operations used in the area. From mid to late summer, the grain crops are harvested by machines, leaving a small percentage behind in the fields. This "waste" is what supports the local rodent populations and in turn is what the buteos prey upon.

The Carrizo Plains are unique in that it draws in all the different color phases of these buteos, i.e., from the common and earlier to identify light phases to the rarer and harder to identify dark phases. The dark phases are harder to identify and separate because of the vast similarities between the 3 buteos at a first glance. Trying to separate these dark phase plumages can be quite challenging and exciting. Some basic clues to help in identification of these dark phase plumages will follow.

The Red-tailed Hawk, which is one of the most common and widely distributed buteos in North America, is also the most common and widely distributed buteo of the Carrizo Plains. A wide range of color phases from light to medium to very dark feather plumages characterize the Redtail. To distinguish the dark phase Redtail from the Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, look for basic light phase field marks: no feathering on the legs, and the chestnut red upper tail. The Red-tailed Hawk hunts primarily while soaring and feeds on squirrels, gophers, snakes, field mice, rabbits and a variety of birds.

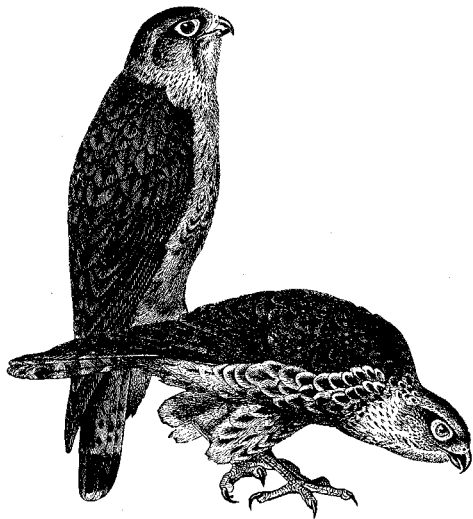
The second most abundant buteo to winter on the Carrizo Plains is the Ferruginous Hawk. These hawks probably migrate from their nesting ranges in eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, Idaho and Nevada to the Carrizo Plain. Its home ranges of treeless open dry grassland are simulated at the Carrizo Plains. The Ferruginous Hawk is one of the largest, most powerful of the North American buteos. This buteo swoops down from great heights in the sky to prey upon squirrels, rabbits, gophers, and snakes, as well as stray cats.

The Ferruginous Hawk is unique because in addition to its distinct light to dark color phases, it has a third "red" phase, which has rufous coloration to its plumage. All three phases can be found on the Carrizo Plains. The distinguishing field marks in its dark phase are: legs feathered to the toes, white tail washed with pale rust, and large white patches on upper wing surfaces. This bird is also the most vocal of the three buteos, often giving a harsh kree-ah or kaah-kaah call as it soars over the fields.



It is often seen standing in fields, on rocks, shrubs, fence posts and power poles.

The least numerous of the three buteos to the "plains" is the Rough-legged Hawk. The Roughleg migrates the farthest to the Carrizo Plains, because it nests in the open country tundra zone of northern Canada and Alaska. Winter populations in the "plains" vary according to the tundra lemming populations, which is its principal food source on its northern nesting range. When lemming populations crash, large numbers of Roughlegs move into the



United States to winter. This buteo has two distinct light and dark color phases, the latter being rarer. The distinguishing field marks of the Roughleg's dark phase are: feathered to the toes, small white patches on the upper wing surface, similar to the Ferruginous, and a long white tail with a dark band or bands, depending on its gender. Often seen perched on or near the ground, this buteo with the longest wing span may also be seen coursing low to the ground in flight or hovering in one spot similar to the American Kestrel. The Ferruginous Hawk may hunt in similar fashion, but not as frequently. Because of its smaller weaker talons, the Roughleg seeks out smaller prey items than the Redtail and Ferruginous, mainly field mice, gophers, small birds and insects. The Rough-legged Hawk is also a crepuscular hunter.

These three buteos can be seen throughout the Carrizo Plains, but larger concentrations are located along Highway 58, Bittersweet Canyon Road, and the Soda Lake Road, which starts at Highway 58 and heads south to Soda Lake. Most buteos are perched along the roads atop power poles, fence posts, sage brush, hillocks, rocks or even on the ground.

Finally, because of the Carrizo Plains' extensive area and diverse buteo populations, birding trips should be planned as an all day affair, or even plan for a two day trip to this unique and varied habitat.

# From the Editor

by Larry  
Steinberg

**Y**our editor has just returned from a two-week vacation trip to Nicaragua, which in recent years has certainly not been a major tourist center.

I have no intention of waxing politically tendentious on that trip in these pages (though on a personal level I would have no objection to talking about the trip to anyone who is interested in asking about it).

Nor do I have any intention of setting out a long and exciting list of strange and rare species of birds I managed to track to remote hideaways. For one thing, I'm not that good a birder. For another, I was completely unfamiliar with the birds of Central America, and had very little time in which to conduct birdhunts. Nor was I with a trained ornithologist or even bird-watcher. Birding was at most a secondary purpose of the trip.

Even so, on looking back I do recall a few vignettes of possible birding interest. I now set out three of them for you.

## 1. The Coquette: Bee or Bird?:

At an old fortress which in past times was used also as a prison, I went with others to view the cells. Quickly I became upset by the inhuman arrangements which would have permitted any inmates neither light, nor sufficient room to sit, stand straight up, or lie down.

To calm down, I went outside and looked about the wonderful green hillside. Within a bushy cluster of small orange flowers I saw a beelike being darting about and pausing on throbbing wings to feast on the nectar.

The busdriver continued to regard the creature as an insect. But as I watched it, often within arm's length, I could see it was unmistakably a bird. I checked my copy of Ridgley's *Guide to the Birds of Panama*, thoughtfully obtained from our very own bookstore. I could see that it was a Coquette, a small hummingbird less than three inches long, of which it is said that it "...often looks strikingly bee-like."

Like other Coquettes, this Rufous-Crested Coquette (this is what I concluded it was), has a pale rump band. It has a very short bill, and a crest. Its engaging confidence was especially welcome as a contrast to the grim horrors of the prison fastness from which I had just emerged.

## 2. The Case of the Disappearing Parrakeets:

We went to the beautiful volcano of Masaya, located in a national park. At present only one per cent or less of the country is devoted to parks and conservation areas; but some effort is being made to improve this situation.

As we stood at the top of the crater, we could look down into it, and see sulphurous fumes pouring out from inside. These fumes were so thick that we could see down only a little way into the volcano itself.

Exquisite green parrakeets were seen swooping around nearby. Suddenly they began to descend into the crater itself. Plunging down through the thick fumes, they vanished inside and did not reappear.

After a time some rose up from within, and others dropped down inside.

I asked the tour guide about this strange phenomenon. He told me that the parrakeets actually lived largely inside the crater. It was his belief that this is the only known example in the world of birds living within a heavily sulphur-filled volcano.

It is said that the birds have their lives shortened by this exposure (I can well believe that; I feel that my own life span in such circumstances would probably be about thirty uncomfortable minutes.)

Scientific examination into the matter is said to be planned, with one aim being to see whether the birds have organic adaptations which help them cope with their bizarre environment.

## 3. The Garbage Disposal with Wings:

I stood in the morning by a river at the town of Esteli.

As I watched for birds, a man came from a nearby market. He carried a large bucket full of entrails and other animal parts; the contents weighed probably twenty-five pounds.

My heart sank as he dumped it on the ground and walked away. What a terrible polluting mess that would create! But matters turned out not quite as expected.

Within perhaps fifteen seconds a black vulture dropped down out of the sky and began to tear at the entrails. Then came another, and another and another. Within perhaps ninety seconds there was a horde of vultures working away. I counted at least a hundred and twenty of them.

In an orgy of tearing and gorging that lasted no more than three or four minutes, the entire area was cleaned of the contents of the bucket. The vultures flew off.

I walked over and checked the ground. There was no smell, and only a few tiny bits of bone were left. The avian sanitation squad had done its work well.

**NOTE:** At least in Nicaragua, the Black Vulture is the urban scavenger, seen around towns. The Turkey Vulture, as in California, has a more rural habitat, and seems to subsist largely on wild animal carcasses.)

# Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth



**D**onald Hodel is keeping the faith. At last the Administration has found a man to fill the shoes of its original superstar defender of the environment, James Watt. Not as colorful or newsworthy as Mr. Reagan's first Secretary of the Interior, Hodel is playing a good game of catch-up. *Voilà:* The use of chlorofluorocarbons in the manufacture of styrofoam, as aerosol propellants and in refrigeration has been shown by leading scientists to be responsible for destruction of the ozone layer above the earth. This layer screens out excessive ultraviolet rays that, among other things, can vastly increase the incidence of skin cancer. Mr. Hodel's answer to this crucial international problem was to suggest - hold tight - using sunglasses, a hat, and suntan lotion! This is reminiscent of the deathless comment of a federal bureaucrat a couple of years ago when he pooh-pooed the dangers of nuclear war by advising that all you had to do when the bombs drop is to dig a hole and pull a door over your head.

This June, Hodel announced a five-year plan of oil and gas exploration for the entire California Outer Continental Shelf. This was over the protests of most of California's representatives in the House and both its senators. The bitter memory of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill hangs over the state like a pall of smoke. There are miles of untouched coastline in northern California, there are wildlife sanctuaries around the Channel Islands, there are hundreds of sea otters, thousands of pelagic birds and millions of fish threatened by inevitable oil catastrophes. Commercial fishing and tourism would be under the gun. And for what? The U.S. Geologic Survey estimates that there are 40 days worth of oil and gas off northern and central California and 130 days in southern California. After the Outer Continental Shelf is sucked dry, all us natives will be left with is a bunch of ugly black rigs where the horizon used to be.

But this is only part of Mr. Hodel's agenda. He is against Senator Alan Cranston's California Desert Protection Act which would create three new national parks and several wilderness areas - and still leave room for mining and ORV activity. (*Western Tanager*, March 1987.) He wants to allow mining and oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, one of the most magnificent,

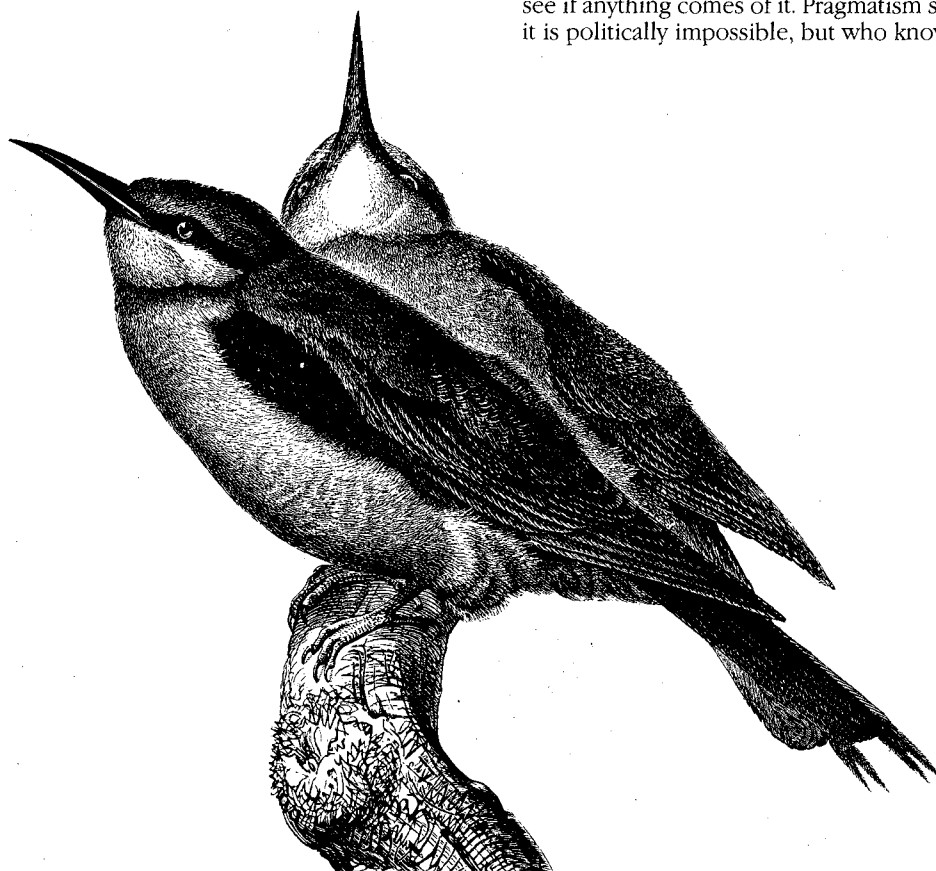
unspoiled ecosystems left on this planet. He is deliberately ignoring the role of the Interior Department in seeing that strip-mined sites are restored to a reasonable condition. Etcetera.

Sad to relate, Mr. Hodel's varied activities are part of the Administration's concentration on "getting the government off the backs" of big business and onto the rest of us. Remember last year when GM and Ford (with a wounded scream from Chrysler) were allowed to violate the fuel efficiency standards for their new cars? That didn't merely save the Big Two auto makers a pile of money; it also cost the nation about 3 million barrels of oil a year. By cutting back funding for mass transit, it is estimated that over a 20-year period as much as 3 billion barrels of oil may be lost. The President vetoed the bill to improve small appliance energy savings that would save us one billion barrels of oil by the year 2000. He abolished federal tax credits for

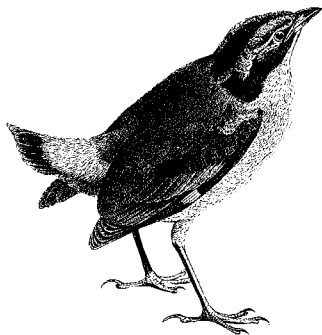
alternative energy development, destroying the incentives that might produce a cheap replacement for non-renewable resources like coal and oil. And so it goes.

In early August this year, Hodel threw a strange curveball at the environmental movement. This latter-day Watt, under whose jurisdiction the National Parks have been deteriorating, suggested that Hetch Hetchy in Yosemite National Park be resurrected. He would remove the dam that flooded this "jewel," this "Little Yosemite Valley" 60-odd years ago, clean it up and restore it to its natural state. The San Francisco area depends on the reservoir for water and power and the politicians will fight the idea to the death.

The thought of reclaiming a once pristine natural wonder, the valley that John Muir fought valiantly to save, is an exciting prospect for those who love wilderness. It is tempting to get behind Hodel and hail his sudden conversion to the environmental ethic. Many questions come to mind. Physically, can it be done? If it can be done, how long will it take to return Hetch Hetchy to its ancient glory? How much will it cost - millions, billions? Why did Hodel propose it? Suspicion has been voiced that this would be a great way to split the environmental movement and to start another bloody phase of the water war between north and south California. Perhaps it is an irrational Hodel aberration; it certainly seems on the surface to be inconsistent with his past performance. We will have to see if anything comes of it. Pragmatism says it is politically impossible, but who knows?



In any event, Donald Hodel will probably be with us for the next year and a half. We can only hope against hope that his apparent pursuit of James Watt's laurels comes up short of the mark.



## PROGRESS!

Two major fast-food chains have responded to public pressure and abandoned practices that promoted destruction of both tropical rain forests and the ozone layer.

Burger King on July 23 announced it would stop buying beef that was grown on Central American pastures that have been converted from rain forests. In response, the Rainforest Action Network called off an international boycott of the chain which it began in April, 1986.

The Carl's Jr. chain said it was replacing all but one of its styrofoam containers with paper products, and would see about redesigning the package for the one exception. Styrofoam, as we noted above, is a major contributor to the chlorofluorocarbons that destroy the ozone layer. Both the cities of Berkeley and Santa Monica are considering ways to ban styrofoam, at least for food containers. Perhaps with some encouragement McDonald's, Wendy's and the rest of the fast-food industry can be convinced to follow suit. Then Mr. Hodel might be able to take off his sunglasses and we could stop eating rain forest burgers.

\* \* \* \*

Most of us throw away throwaways. We've been immunized against free "literature" by the monumental piles of junk mail that is shoved through our letterboxes every day. However - there is one freebie that may be worth your trouble: the *L.A. Weekly*. Somewhat avant-garde, written in a raucous, entre-nous style, it uses a lot of newsprint on show business, restaurants and pop music. But it also makes room for political and environmental articles that are usually worth reading. A recent issue included pieces on pesticides in produce, Occidental Petroleum's efforts to drill for oil in Pacific Palisades, and one titled "Fast Food: Chomping Down the Rainforest." The last one went into the serious effect of raising cheap beef on land in tropical America that had been cleared of vegetation and wildlife. Not bad at all: short, trenchant and informative. Next time you pass the library or the liquor store pick one up. A very small investment.

## Herb Clarke's Pictures Identify Them, and Send Letters:

Five beautiful pictures of waterbirds by our own master photographer Herb Clarke graced Kimball Garrett's Waterbird Census article on Pages 1, 2, and 3 of the September *Tanager*.

Now at least you know who took the pictures—Herb Clarke.

But what waterbird species were pictured? Ah ha!!

I invite all of you to write to me at Audubon House identifying the species (and plumages, if you wish) of the five species in the pictures. I'll try to think of a prize—or at least appropriate mention in

the *Tanager*—for the first two correct solutions, in order of postmark. And next month I'll give the correct answers in this column. Save your *Tanagers*; that's a good general rule anyway.

I also invite you—each of you—to write to the *Tanager* with any letters of comment, suggestion, praise, criticism, analysis, or whatever. Make our communications a two-way street. I **may** run all or part of some letters in the *Tanager*; but I **definitely** will answer each and every letter by mail.

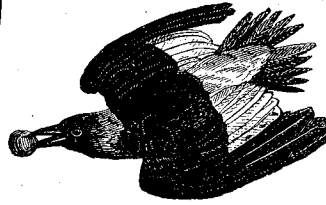
Snow me under with letters . . .

Larry Steinberg  
10336 Cheviot Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90064



# Birds of the Season

by Kimball L. Garrett



*Bird sightings reported in the "Birds of the Season" column have generally not yet been reviewed by the American Birds regional editors or by the California Bird Records Committee. All records of rarities should be considered tentative pending such review.*

**T**hough few reports have come in, the major birding event during August was the appearance in the lowlands of numerous montane bird species; the fall is shaping up as the biggest "invasion" year for species such as Pygmy Nuthatch since 1972-73. I'm a little hesitant to make this claim, since in past years such invasions have sometimes fizzled out early, but the records continue to pile up even as I write. Small numbers of **Pygmy Nuthatches** were found in August in the Monte Nido section of Malibu Canyon (Kimball Garrett) and closer to the coast in Barbara Elliott's Malibu yard. There were also Pygmy Nuthatches in the coastal lowlands of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. **White-breasted Nuthatches** are widespread in the Antelope Valley (Cal Yorke), and in the coastal lowlands as well (including Exposition Park on 25-28 August - Kimball Garrett). **Mountain Chickadees** were widely reported in the lowlands, and not just in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains (where small numbers occur annually in August and September). For example, two were in Lloyd Kiff's Encino yard on 31 August. To top the "montane connection", a male **White-headed Woodpecker** was in Monte Nido, Malibu Canyon, on 21 August (Kimball Garrett); this species is exceptionally rare below the mixed coniferous forest belt of the mountains.

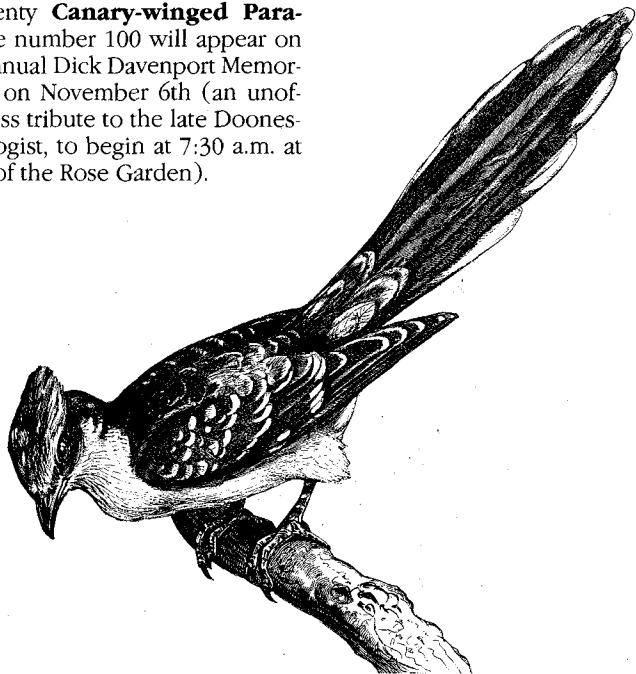
Are these species responding together to some set of environmental circumstances? Or are their appearances unrelated and coincidental? A far more basic question is, simply, from where are they coming? As has been pointed out many times in this column, we have no basis upon which to claim that these birds are simply dropping down out of our local mountains. They could be coming from Sierra Nevada . . . or from Idaho! We simply don't know. What is clear is that we must continue to carefully document the timing and the magnitude of the appearance of these and other montane species in the lowlands this fall and winter.

The rarest bird to appear in California in August was the immature **Red-footed Booby** on the coastline south of San

Francisco. Closer to home, the **Black-backed Wagtail** divided its time between an unlikely looking drainage channel in Port Hueneme and its roost site on the roof of a nearby convalescent home; but mostly it spent its time in some unknown spot or spots, conveniently out of sight of many birders who looked for it. Found on 2 August, it was still present a month later.

Carpinteria Creek was emerging as the prime coastal spot for vagrants over the early portion of the fall. Art and Janet Cupples found a bright male **Canada Warbler** there on 30 August. While looking for that bird on 31 August, Gary Rosenberg found a **Red-eyed Vireo**, and Jon Dunn found an immature **Lucy's Warbler**. On 1 September an **American Redstart** was at the same spot. And throughout that period, there was a **Bell's Vireo**, a rarely encountered migrant; of great interest was the fact that this Bell's Vireo was color-banded, most likely from the Mono Creek population in Santa Barbara County.

Saturated coverage of any locality will always yield interesting sightings and insights. The unofficial Exposition Park list (downtown Los Angeles) reached 98 in August with the addition of a **Red-shouldered Hawk** on 18 August, and an **American Redstart** and **Hutton's Vireo** on 31 August (all Kimball Garrett); and that's not counting the hosts of introduced and exotic species (including a daily flock of up to twenty **Canary-winged Parakeets**). Maybe number 100 will appear on the Second Annual Dick Davenport Memorial Bird Walk on November 6th (an unofficial, leaderless tribute to the late Doonesbury ornithologist, to begin at 7:30 a.m. at the west end of the Rose Garden).

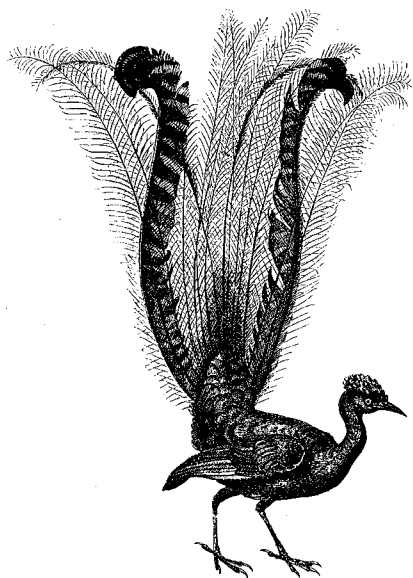


Gayle Benton, Dorothy Dimsdale and Barbara Elliott inspected a **Greater Scaup** at Bolsa Chica on 25 August; this species is extremely rare in southern California in summer. Barbara also reported a **Lesser Nighthawk** in her Malibu driveway on 24 August. Quite stunning must have been the full-tailed adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** observed by Jon Dunn and Gary Rosenberg at Crowley Lake, Mono County, at the end of August. The **Little Gull** found there earlier by Jon was also still present at the end of August, and the lakeshore was said to be teeming with shorebirds. **Baird's Sandpipers** were widely reported by mid-August, but apart from one or two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at the Lancaster Sewage Ponds, few unusual shorebirds were reported locally. Finally, a **Northern Waterthrush** along the edge of the small sewage ponds at Pepperdine University, Malibu (Kimball Garrett, 29 August), was the first reported locally this year.

Again we've offered you a rather abbreviated "Birds of the Season" column, but with the promise that the coming month will yield many interesting reports. Hal Baxter will be stepping down from his role as compiler of records for this column; the Los Angeles Audubon Society and Hal's friends from throughout southern California thank him for so admirably performing this important task, and we wish him the very best.

Send any interesting bird observation to:

Kimball L. Garrett  
Section of Birds and Mammals  
Natural History Museum of Los  
Angeles County  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
or phone: (213) 820-8170



The Los Angeles Audubon Society will be giving annual Research Awards in February, 1988. 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 1988 Research Award is 30 November, 1987. For application, write:

Sharon Milder  
Educational Committee Chairman,  
L.A.A.S.  
134 Greenfield Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90049

## The Latest From Our Bookstore

We are happy to publish for your use a list of currently available out of print, and difficult to find, books on birds.

What should be emphasized for the benefit of those who may rarely if ever have visited our bookstore, is that of course this list is only a very small fraction of the many birding books that our topnotch bookstore stocks.

We have an absolutely wonderful selection of field guides, bird lists, commentaries on good birding spots, etc. — that covers an amazing number of areas and places. Be sure to stop in and take a look.

We also have general books on birds: binoculars; and even hummingbird feeders.

The store is one of the really useful services offered to our members. Additionally, it regularly earns a substantial sum of money for the chapter, and so helps reduce any deficit otherwise incurred.

\* \* \* \*

And now for the list of some out of print but still available books. All titles are subject to prior sales. Call for prices. Additional books are added from time to time. Please inquire.

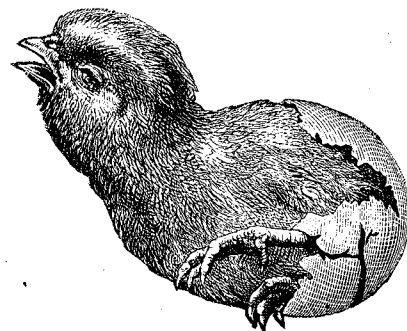
Alden/Gooders	<i>Finding Birds Around the World</i>
Brown/Amadon	<i>Eagles, Hawks &amp; Falcons of the World</i>
Davis	<i>Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico &amp; Central America</i>
DeDod	<i>Aves de la Republica Dominicana</i>
Delacour/Amadon	<i>Curassows &amp; Related Birds</i>
Dunning	<i>Portraits of Tropical Birds (original, not reprint)</i>
Etchecopar	<i>Les Oiseaux du Proche et du Moyen Orient</i>
Etchecopar	<i>Les Oiseaux du Nord de l'Afrique</i>
Forshaw/Cooper	<i>Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds (original)</i>
Gore	<i>Birds of Korea</i>
Gould	<i>Birds of South America</i>
Hannecart/Letocart	<i>Oiseaux de Nouvelle Calédonie et des Loyautés (2 vols.)</i>
Hoffman	<i>Birds of the Pacific States</i>
Humphrey	<i>Birds of Isla Grande (Tierra Del Fuego)</i>
Koepcke	<i>Birds of the Department of Lima, Peru</i>
Land	<i>Birds of Guatemala</i>
Lekagul	<i>Bird Guide of Thailand</i>
Lewis	<i>Butterflies of the World (original)</i>
Meyer de Schauensee	<i>Guide to Birds of South America (original with color plates)</i>
Murphy	<i>Oceanic Birds of South America (2 vols.)</i>
Olrog	<i>Las Aves Sudamericanas</i>
Pough	<i>Audubon Western Bird Guide</i>
Ridgely	<i>Guide to Birds of Panama</i>
Ripley	<i>Rails of the World</i>
Severinghaus	<i>New Guide to Birds of Taiwan</i>
Slater	<i>A Field Guide to Australian Birds (2 vols.)</i>
Watling	<i>Birds of Fiji, Tonga and Samoa</i>

## Membership Note

The National Audubon Society is computerized through the Neodata Company in Boulder, Colorado, so it is no longer advisable to renew through the Los Angeles Audubon Society. The only advantage in renewing through the Los Angeles Audubon Society is if your membership has lapsed. At that time it would expedite receiving the next Western Tanager.

Neodata has a system of sending multiple notices commencing four months prior to your membership lapses. Frequently, there is an overlap from the time you mailed your dues and the next scheduled renewal reminder. Many people have received notices after they have remitted their dues because of this.

Subscribers who are members of another Audubon Chapter should not send their renewals to the Los Angeles Audubon Society.



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**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 must send checks for \$5 to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Subscriptions to THE WESTERN TANAGER separately are \$12 per year (Bulk Rate) or \$17 (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.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 1987

## EVENING MEETINGS

Meet at 8:00 p.m. in Plummer Park

**Tuesday, October 13** - Three past recipients of **Los Angeles Audubon Society Research Awards** will discuss their projects:

**Carolee Caffrey** (Behavior and breeding biology of western American Crows)

**Brian Henen and Patrick Mock** (Estimating lipid reserves in live birds)

**William Longland** (Great Horned Owl predation on desert rodents)

Come and hear the progress of this exciting research.

**Tuesday, November 10** - **Olga Clarke** will present a program entitled **Costa Rica: Jewel of Central America**.

## IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

Precede the regular evening meetings, **7:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, October 13** - **Kimball Garrett: Towhee Identification**, a closer look at Towhee species and subspecies. Some ornithologists have recently recommended splitting the two races of Brown Towhee into separate species. Can you identify them?

**Tuesday, November 10** - **Jonathan Alderfer: First Winter Plumages of Mew, California Ring-billed Gulls**.

## FIELD TRIPS CALL THE TAPE!

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

**Sunday, October 4** - In cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountain Task Force, meet leader **Gerry Haigh** for his monthly morning walk through **Topanga State Park**. Spend the morning birding in lovely oak woodlands, meadows and chaparral. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. take a very sharp turn east on Entrada Dr. (7 miles south of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile north of Topanga Village). Keep bearing left on Entrada Dr. at various road forks to parking lot at end. 8 a.m. \$3 fee.

**Monday, October 5** - Join **Ed Navojosky** for his annual jaunt from **Malibu Lagoon to McGrath State Beach**. Participants will be treated to a large variety of land and water species. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking area behind the market, across the street from Malibu Lagoon entrance. Bring a picnic lunch for a stop at **Big Sycamore**.

**Sunday, October 11** - Join **Bob Shanman** for a morning at the unique **Ballona Wetlands**. This is an excellent marshland site practically in our own backyard. Take Marina 90 west to Culver Blvd., turn left to Pacific Ave. then right to footbridge at end. 8 a.m. (More info: call (213) 545-2867 after 6 p.m.)

**Friday, October 16** - **Allan Keller** will lead a morning walk at **Chatsworth Park South** looking for White and Golden-Crowned Sparrows, both phoebes, both towhees, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Flicker and other migrants and winter visitors. From Ventura Frwy. 101, go north about 6 miles on Topanga Cyn Blvd., or from Simi Frwy. 118 go south about 1 mile on Topanga Cyn. Blvd. to Devonshire: Turn west to street's end at park. 8 a.m. Recreation Building parking lot.

**Sunday, October 18** - **David White** will lead his monthly walk through a good diversity of habitats at the Whittier Narrows Regional Park in search of a wide variety of land and water birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave., So. El Monte, off Frwy 60 between Santa Anita and Peck Drive Exits, west of Frwy 605.

**Sunday, November 1** - **Topanga State Park** with **Gerry Haigh**. See October 4 for details.

**Saturday, November 7** - **Whittier Narrows** with **Dave White**: See October 18 for details.

**Saturday, November 14** - **Ballona Wetlands** with **Bob Shanman**: See October 11 for details.

**Saturday, November 21** - Join **Jean Brandt** for a day in the **Antelope Valley** as she leads us on the Quail Lake to Lancaster Loop. The Antelope Valley is L.A. County's great area for high desert birding. Jean will concentrate on winter raptors such as Rough-Legged & Ferruginous Hawks and Golden Eagle. Take Hwy 5 up Tejon Pass to the Hwy 138 turnoff. Drive East to Quail Lake. Meet at the West end of the Lake at 8 a.m. Bring scope, lunch and a full tank of gas.

**Saturday, December 5** - Join **Gene Cardiff** on a trip to **Harper Dry Lake**. Gene is one of the finest field ornithologists in California and our search for raptors, Mountain Plover and wintering flocks of Mountain Bluebird should be exciting. This might be a good chance to study Prairie Falcon. Take Hwy 15 North to the 395 stopping at Kramer's Junction (intersection of 395 and 58). We'll meet at the restaurant at 7:30 for breakfast. Then we'll depart for the dry lake sometime after 8:00 am.

## RESERVATION TRIPS

### Policy and Procedure:

Reservations will be accepted **ONLY** if **ALL** the following is supplied:

1. Trip desired.
2. Names of people in your party.
3. Phone numbers in case of emergency cancellation - day and night numbers.
4. Separate check made out to L.A.A.S. for exact amount for each trip.
5. Self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and trip information.

Send to: Reservations Chairman, L.A.A.S.  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard  
West Hollywood, CA 90046.

*Please Note:* A \$5.00 non-refundable handling fee will be charged for all trip reservations.

## PELAGIC TRIPS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11** - Join **Arnold Small** and **Kimball Garrett** for a trip to **Santa Barbara Is.**

**Price:** \$24

**Time:** 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15** - Join **Herb Clarke** and **Brian Daniels** for a trip towards **Channel Is.**

**Price:** \$22

**Time:** 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Los Angeles, CA 90046

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