WESTERN TANAGER

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I Didn't Come Here to Watch Birds

by Anthony Thorne-Booth
photographs by Kristine Miller

I wanted to do some fishing. I hadn't been fishing for a good fifteen years, and it sounded appealing once again. It sounded especially appealing to fish at Bass Lake, although I don't know why. It was the *last* place I had fished, a good fifteen years ago, and I hadn't caught anything.

But Bass Lake in September is appealing, even if it doesn't have big fish eager to escape its confines. 5 miles off California Highway 41, 40 miles south of Yosemite Village, the lake lies among rolling hills covered with tall pine and oak trees. It is National Forest land, and the west side of the lake is dotted with campsites equipped with flush toilets and running water. It isn't large by Lake Tahoe standards: 3 miles long and 1/2 a mile at its widest. The lake road boasts one cinema, two bars, three markets, four sandwich shops, two private communities, one laundromat, and a lodge where a buck will buy a grubby camper a shower in the off-season.

The lake is a magnet to water skiers and speedboat racers. During the summer vacation season, the water is full of them; the wash from the boats makes a shore-walker feel like a beachcomber. After labor day, things calm down a bit. And there is one truly wonderful rule enforced year-round by the local sheriff: between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., no power boats are allowed on the lake. The waters are still, the fish jump, nature can be heard. And on clear nights, the immensity of the universe is brought home to city dwellers like me who have forgotten that the Milky Way isn't just a candy bar. But in mid-September, I was camping at Bass Lake and I wasn't thinking about any of that. I wanted to do some fishing.

Bass Lake, California.

So on the night of the event, I crept out of the tent at two a.m., armed myself with my brand new rod and reel, and set off for the boat dock. I had rented a rowboat at the lodge not far from our campsite, and now I rowed it slowly out to the center of the lake. I'd intended to go out later, fiveish, but I knew I wasn't going to get back to sleep, and I was determined to be There When The Big Fish Arrived. As a result, I spent a good part of the night waiting for morning, avoiding bats by huddling in the bottom of the boat, listening to the insects and trying to forget that the local who sold the fishing license to me snickered when I told her I was going to Bass Lake.

The sun eventually rose, and the fishing began. I rowed as quietly as I could to bring the boat near a shallow patch of weeds,

which extended into the lake from a marsh at the shoreline. This is the sort of locale favored by Big Fish, so here I plopped my hook, line, and sinker, and settled down to watch the bobber. The air was still and clear, with a light mist hanging a few feet over the water.

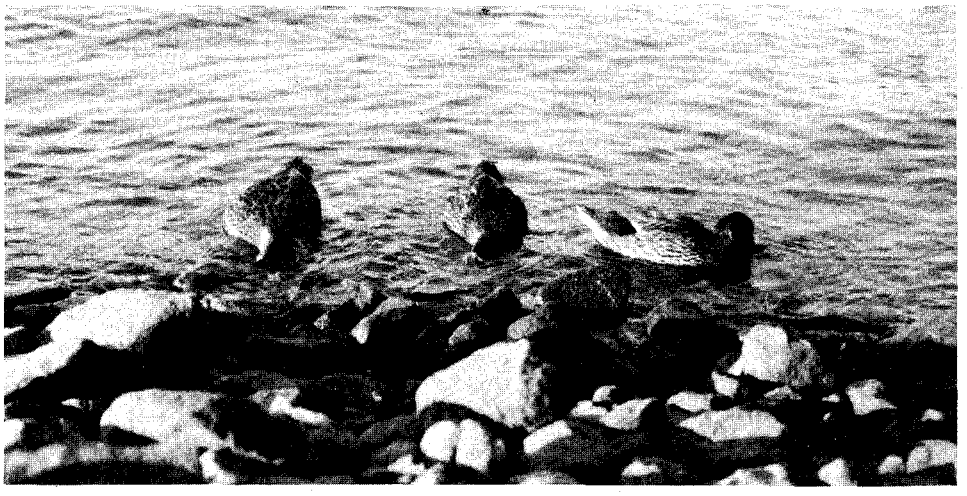
Fishing, any avid angler will tell you, is a wonderful way to relax. You can take your mind off your worries, they say, and concentrate on doing nothing for hours on end. Nothing to do but wait for the fish to bite.

This is a complete and utter fallacy. There is nothing quite as nerve-wracking as concentrating on a little red and white ball 20 feet away, trying to detect any unusual motion, while all around you fish are leaping after insects. When your bobber *does* disappear under water, you must restrain the urge to yank hook, line, and sinker back into the boat. And worst of all, you must shrug it off when the fish get a full banquet of nightcrawlers at your expense.

I had been enjoying myself in this way for about an hour when a splashing and growling on the shoreline made me look over my shoulder. I was astounded to see three ducks splashing away from a huge blue heron, which was chasing them off with its wings outstretched. I was fascinated. The ducks had apparently invaded the heron's fishing grounds, and were fleeing the consequences. I could identify with the heron. The previous evening, as I was testing my new fishing gear, three ducks had attempted to beat the fish to my worms when I had carelessly wandered away from the little styrofoam cup.

I had never seen a heron this close before. He was beautiful. Not the way an eagle is beautiful, by any means; there are much more elegantly proportioned birds. But I watched the heron at intervals all morning, and he moved like a ballet dancer among the reeds, moving so slowly that I felt sure he would lose his balance and topple into the water with a resounding splash. He would stand motionless for minutes on end, then suddenly dart his head into the water and come up with

Is this a Blue Heron or the Loch Ness Monster?



The Offending Ducks, too ashamed to show their faces.

something wriggling in his beak. His spindle legs looked like reeds themselves as he carefully lifted them out of the water and placed them back in, scarcely making a ripple.

I must admit that while I first felt vindicated by having chosen the same fishing spot as the heron, the feeling gave way to envy. He was, after all, catching something, and doing it with his stealth alone. I was an invader here, and I came in with my insect spray, flashing lures, monofilament line and earthworms, and all I'd succeeded in doing was feeding the fish.

The sun rose higher, and soon the powerboats came out. With a great flapping sound, the heron took to the air, powerful wings beating a slow rhythm as he flew across the lake, inches above the grey water. I wasn't that smart. I fished in vain, my rowboat rocking in the powerboat wash, for another two hours.

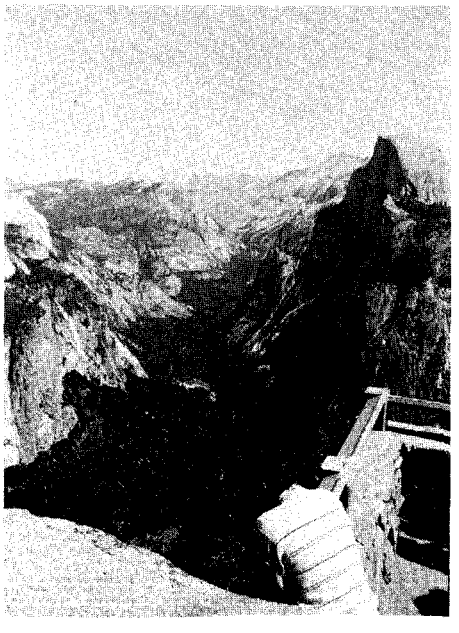
Time for an admission. I'm not sure I saw a blue heron. I think it was a blue heron. For that matter, I think the other birds were ducks. The truth is, I'm not much of a birder. My interest in birds is only just blossoming, fueled by my fortunate connection with the Western Tanager. Forgive me if I err here.

And Bass Lake wasn't solely a fishing spot for me. It was, in fact, the final stop on a ten day Central California camping trip that included Big Sur, Monterey, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite Park as well. The most amazing aspect of the trip was that everywhere we went, I noticed birds. They were always there, of course. I've been to Yosemite several times, Monterey and Big Sur once before, and the birds were there then. I was just more aware of them this time around.

And others are going to be more aware of them, too. There is a wonderful project taking place on Monterey's Cannery Row that is known as The Aquarium, which is so much more than a fish display. That alone would be enough, for the two main fish tanks are truly spectacular. Each is about 30 feet tall, and each contains an astounding variety of ocean life. Shark and ray swim over the flounder and sole, rockfish rest on the ledges under the simulated pilings, salmon cruise past the windows, sheephead peck at the coral while schools of small fish turn in unison above them. And then, a silvery blur darts down from the sunlit surface, weaving among the fish, chasing a straggler from a school, and you realize that *it isn't a fish.* Yep. It's a bird. If I remember correctly, a *murre.* I was fascinated. I hadn't come here to watch birds, but here was one that swam better under water than a lot of the fish in the tank.

The Aquarium is chock full of surprises. Three sea otters frolic in their own tank. A giant octopus with an eight foot armspan always had a huge crowd of admirers. There are jellyfish and pipefish and starfish and. . . . and "touch tanks". Touch tanks are attended by Aquarium employees, and visitors can reach into the waters and pick up starfish and sea cucumbers and feel a bat ray's fur as he swims by. Just when

Yosemite from Glacier Point.



you think you've seen it all, another surprise awaits you. The Aquarium contains a simulated seashore in cross-section, 15 feet by 100, complete with wave generator, shallows fish, shore plants, and. . . birds. Curlews. Sandpipers. Grebes. It is amazing to be able to stand two feet away from these birds and watch them in something like their natural habitat, especially if you didn't plan to. The birds seem oblivious to the humans parading past; they must see a lot of them. Not so the humans, for this was easily one of the most popular exhibits.

All in all, the Aquarium is a true delight. I highly recommend it to people who like . . *birds!*.

The other main attraction in Monterey is, of course, the pier. The main attraction on the pier, unless you *like* tacky gifts, is the seals. Down there where they moor *The Enterprise* (one of the tourist sightseeing/deep sea fishing boats) two or three seals congregate to catch fish tossed down by the tourists. You've seen them if you've been to the pier. You also know that feeding the seals requires good aim and great timing, because the local seagull population provides heavy competition for the seals, often grabbing the handouts in mid-air.

We made the pilgrimage to the pier as all obedient tourists do, but soon grew tired of the seal/seagull feeding, so we wandered off to a less crowded corner of the pier. Standing beside an empty wing of a seafood restaurant, enjoying the late afternoon sun, I noticed that one of the birds in the water below us was too large to be a seagull. It was, in fact, a pelican. What odd looking birds they are! All beak and jowl. Yet when he rose into the air, what a magnificent flier he was!

Taking the coast road, U.S. 1, back to Big Sur where we had raised our tent, I saw several small groups of pelicans flying together near the wave crests. I was looking for seals and sea otters, but after seeing these birds glide effortlessly over the waves, barely moving a wing, I decided they were good enough for me. From Monterey, we traveled through the Silicon Valley, through San Francisco, and on to Santa Rosa to attend my sister's wedding. From Santa Rosa we traveled across the state to Lake Tahoe, bypassing Sacramento. There wasn't much to see on that leg of our journey; but we did get a taste of the smoke that was produced by the massive forest fires that were (and still are, at the time of this writing) burning in the western states. There was a brown haze surrounding us and the acrid bite of wood smoke in the air during most of the trip, and that means a good 100 miles of open country.

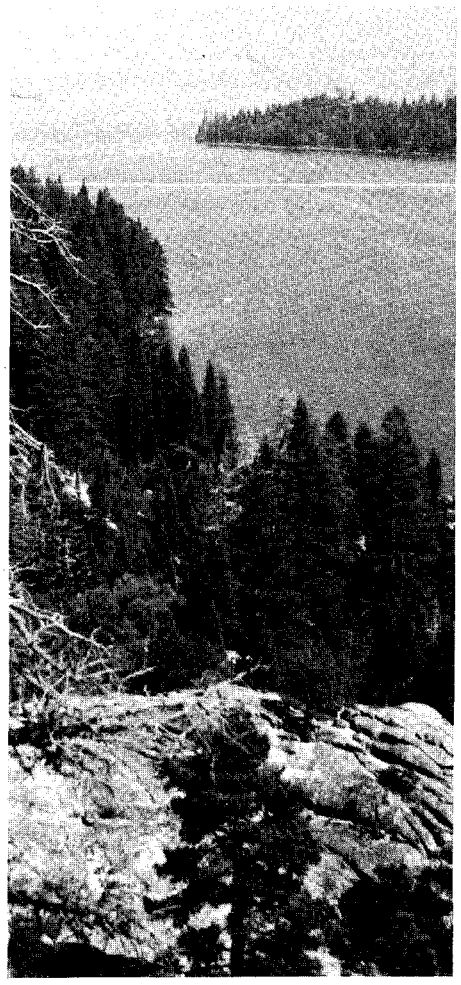
Lake Tahoe was smoke-free, however. This was a first trip for me, and I would imagine everyone is amazed at the size of the lake at first. It is huge. It is 22 miles long, 12 miles wide, 1645 feet deep, and 6229 feet above sea level. We camped on the California side, at a little lakeside campground that was quite pleasant. The camp's bulletin board contained a map of the grounds, some rules and regulations, and (didn't you know something like this was coming?) some pages out of a Bird Identification Guidebook. Armed with this information, I was able to correctly (I think) identify several Steller's Jays, which are beautifully colored but can't sing at all well, a Nuthatch, who was busily grooming the bark of a tree, and several large wasps. Well, I didn't need any help identifying *them.* They certainly didn't need any help identifying me as a source of food.

The scenery at Lake Tahoe.

On the morning of our departure from Lake Tahoe, we took a stroll through downtown Tahoe City (one street) and came upon a beautiful lakeside park that had become a home for a large flock of geese. These I can't identify any better than that, I'm afraid. But there were quite a lot of them, all cropping the grass that grew there, and they were quite unafraid of us as we moved past them to get a better camera angle. They were honking softly, and I like to think it was with content.

Next stop: Bass Lake. Our route took us over the mountains and past Mono Lake (an eerie landscape), through the Tioga Pass into the Yosemite Valley. I don't know if I can add anything to what has already been written and said about Yosemite Park, except to affirm that its grandeur is beyond compare from any angle, and that early September is a wonderful time to experience it. The waterfalls tend to dry up (the Yosemite Falls were just stains on the rock during our visit) and it gets a little chilly at night, but the summer crowds have dissipated by then.

I don't recall seeing that many birds in Yosemite. Perhaps I was preoccupied. I'm quite sure they were there. Let's just say that I didn't notice them. But regardless, I have the distinct impression that I am slowly becoming, for better or worse, *birdbrained.* Is there a cure? I hope not.



A Changing Policy On Predators In Sequoia

by George L. San Miguel

From our earliest childhood years, we were taught to fear wild beasts. Our culture retains admiration for "useful" animals such as deer, waterfowl and fish and dreads the flesh eaters like wolves, bears and snakes. During the early years of Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, wildlife management reflected society's view of "good" and "bad" animals. Most other parks followed this philosophy. Predation was looked upon with horror as evil, wasteful and repulsive. In time, the parks shed this antiquated and emotional approach in favor of a scientifically sound policy.

When the first national park, Yellowstone, was established in 1872, park land was set aside to be "...maintained in a natural condition..." to save "...the natural curiosities and wonders." Wildlife management was important, but secondary, Without a park service agency, stewardship fell upon the army. In 1890, the primary task in newly created Sequoia and General Grant National Parks was to save the spectacular Giant Sequoia from lumbermen.

The military superintendents realized, however, that the wildlife could not be protected in the tiny fledgling parks. Much more land was needed, and soon. Since the 1870's, literally hundreds of thousands of domestic sheep roamed over the higher mountains, land destined to later be added to the parks. Backcountry travellers on horseback often had to turn back or risk starving their horses since the sheep had cropped vitually all the available wild forage. The stockmen's rifles were also responsible for declines in local deer populations. Furthermore, severe hunting and trapping persisted on adjoining lands where park wildlife might seasonally wander. Poaching within the parks was also a big problem since the troopers did not stay the whole year.

The cavalry officers in charge saw the role of national parks as fully protected reserves for game animals. Poaching problems relaxed as the years passed. Attention was then focused on those carnivores which were thought to heavily prey upon game. In 1904, permission was given to park gardians to kill coyotes, bobcats and mountain lions. By 1910, wolverines, foxes, skunks, snakes, even porcupines were added to the "vermin" hit list. Owls, hawks and eagles were also thought of as undesirable. Recognizing black bears as little more than occasionally bothersome, they were usually treated with indifference, but were persecuted nevertheless. Based on ignorance, prejudice, folklore and hearsay, predators were systematically exterminated.

Meanwhile the game animals, mainly deer, quail and grouse, were strictly protected. In addition, alien game species were actively introduced to the park's habitats. Hundreds of thousands of trout were planted in high country lakes and streams that were naturally barren of fish. Asian pheasants and wild turkeys were set free in the foothills. A herd of elk was transplanted to the Potwisha area and plans for adding bison and pronghorn were endorsed. Wildlife management in the two parks ironically encouraged the propagation of game which no one was allowed to hunt. The national parks certainly needed better leadership with a much more sound and consistent plan for wildlife.

The National Park Service was established in 1916 to staff the parks with dedicated, civilian professionals. Clarification of park goals was also provided "...to conserve the scenery and natural historic objects and the wildlife therein..."

It was not until 1918 that wholesale predator eradication finally halted in Sequoia. Over the next fifteen years, predator control was gradually phased out of all national parks. Wildlife conservation in the parks was to preserve primitive America rather than an arbitrary ideal. Carnivorous animals would now be recognized as integral parts of the wildlife resource protected within national parks. In 1931, predator *protection* became official except in individual cases where public safety or a rare species was threatened by a particular animal.

But old ideas die hard. When Sequoia began protecting predators, an immediate storm of opposition arose from local ranchers, farmers, hunting clubs and developers despite ample contemporary, scientific studies which had already shown that predator control is usually unnecessary and, in national parks, inappropriate. A major objection to the creation of Kings Canyon National Park (1940) was the policy of predator protection. For the two parks, this emotionally charged issue was difficult to explain to a misinformed public.

Modern ecological principals were already formulated and understood among biologists in the mid-1930's. Nature was seen in a state of balance which could be ruined by man's tampering. Unforeseen side effects would then create more problems than were originally faced. It was with this knowledge that superintendent John R. White successfully fended off numerous attempts to reinstate predator control in Sequoia from 1918 in to the 1940's.

In more recent times, National Park Service goals became even more specific. In the 1963 landmark Leopold Report recommened "...the biotic associations within each park be maintained, or where necessary, recreated, as nearly as possible in the condition when the area was first visited by the white man." However, much had changed in those first one hundred years including the drastic reduction of many predator populations within and immediately adjacent to the two parks. During the winter of 1924-25, a single trap line in Mineral King (still long before it finally became part of Sequoia) killed 2 wolverines, 6 fishers, 13 mountain coyotes,

and 96 pine martens! A few years before Kings Canyon National Park was established, one trapper took over 200 pine martens in this area over one winter!

Today's goal in the national parks emphasizes allowing natural, ecological processes to continue without interference. Simply stated, Nature is permitted to take her course whenever possible. Events previously considered alarming such as cougars hunting deer, insects nibbling on trees and fires consuming fuel may now be termed natural phenomena. Nature is always ready to counterbalance each event. Without these endemic processes, we could not experience the natural scenery of park lands.

Even without predator control, the parks have some of the healthiest populations of "game." Think about this point. Flesh eating animals are not "bad" and their presence actually maintains healthy populations of their prey. They also add to our experience when we visit national parks.

Park Service policy has now come full circle. Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks are trying hard to find ways to save the grizzly bear both inside and outside the parks. Serious plans are being drawn up to bring wolves back to Yellowstone at the same time that wolves have naturally recolonized Glacier from Canada. Even introduced game species, such as the Rocky Mountain goats in Olympic National Park, are seen for what they are: aliens disruptive to the local ecosystems.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have long been without grizzly bears and will not likely ever support them again. Though more research is needed, it is quite possible that the wolverine and the native race of red fox have also become extirpated from these parks. Fortunately, the introduced elk, turkeys and pheasants did not survive. A very bright note is that the Peregrine falcons are once again taking up residence among the towering cliffs of Kings Canyon. Signs indicate that breeding may take place as early as 1988. Perhaps, with a lot of luck, we may one day even see the California condor fly over the wild Sierra Nevada.

With the growing scarcity of wilderness, people now actively seek these sancturies to enjoy the fascinating wildlife that was once persecuted. Sequoia and Kings Canyon are wild places and remain ever exciting to explore. In these rugged, evergreen canyons one may still hear the thrilling sounds of howling coyotes, the barking hoots of spotted owls and the piercing cries of the northern goshawk. Anyone can still come here and watch a majestic soaring eagle, glimpse a swift, running fox, or perhaps encounter the deep, malevolent stare of a mountain lion. Now more than ever, predators are a resource well worth preserving.

Birders' Bataan

by Dorothy Dimsdale

It started at the 1986 ABA Convention in Arizona. The words "Birders' Bataan" began to enter the conversation in reference to a small number of birders who had climbed the notorious four and a half mile route up Sycamore Canyon, and saw the Black-capped Gnatcatchers *(Polioptila negriceps)*. The phrase is now established as meaning the most arduous climb to see a bird in the U.S.

It's a catchy name, but I don't really comprehend the connection between Bataan and the Sycamore Canyon Climb. The story of Bataan could only be considered a defeat. The B.C.G. climb was a victory and the comparison is, I feel, poorly chosen because Bataan was a matter of life and death. The ultimate recapture of the Philippines was, of course, a great victory. However, we're looking for alliteration, perhaps "Birders' Backbreaker" would be more fitting.

Well, I wasn't present at Bataan, but I was present at the convention and also went to Sycamore Canyon.

With seventy-three others I had seen the Five-striped Sparrow *(Amphispiza quinquestriata)* in California Gulch and at noon we arrived at Sycamore Canyon. We knew that four and a half miles up the canyon were nesting Black-capped Gnatcatchers. The terrain was very rough, entailing climbing over large boulders and steep crumbly inclines in the hot sun (111° F). Of those who made the climb, many had sprained knees and turned ankles. It was a trip for the young and fit. We had been advised to bird for only a mile along the start of the route, which has tree shade and is quite scenic.

After about fifteen minutes walk, we came upon four young men, stripped to the waist and glistening with sweat, fatigue showing in their every step. Even pausing to answer our question, "Did you see them?" they gave only a moment's show of animation when they replied "Oh, yes!". Then they dragged one weary foot after the other to the end of the trail. They had set out at dawn and were just returning at half past noon. They were an impressive sight and I knew then that I would have to wait for the Gnatcatchers to choose a more easily accessible area before I would be able to see them.

That evening there was much chit-chat about those gutsy souls who had climbed the canyon. We were in the foyer of the hotel waiting to go in to dinner when I recognized a trio of California birders. These three men, Bruce Broadbrooks, Guy McCaskie and Gerry Oldenettel were discussing their day's birding. They were relaxed and in very good spirits. They said that they had left at dawn that morning and had been up Sycamore Canyon. After a long, hard climb, they reached the spot were the birds had been seen, then they discovered the nest. It was empty. The birds had fledged.

They felt that the birds must be somewhere near, still being fed by the parents, and so they spent some time scrambling arounf the area before they heard, then found the young birds and watched them being fed. A wonderful triumphant moment. They were back by 11 a.m. (one and a half hours earlier than the young men we had seen coming from the climb). They then continued birding for the remainder of the day! These men are certainly some years over twenty-one and didn't have the impetus from needing the Gnatcatchers for a life bird to spur them on.

What amazed me, was their general appearance in the hotel foyer, certainly a tribute to their stamina and fitness. There was absolutely no sign of their having made such a horrendous climb, in fact they were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Their pleasure in having made the climb and seen the birds was very evident. It was a moment for admiration and congratulation.

When ,eventually, I see the Black-capped Gnatcatcher, I shall remember those three stalwart birders. It was one of those occasions when someone else's pleasure was a delight in itself.

On a personal note:
If anyone sees the Black-capped Gnatcatchers at a garden feeder within easy access to a main road, or even within a few hundred yards of same, I will be grateful to hear of such a sighting. In addition, I will be more than willing to let the reporter delight in watching my pleasure when I see the bird. I have always regarded myself as an unselfish birder.

National Audubon Society 1987 Biennial Convention

Bellingham, Washington

by Bob van Meter

The by-line: ANCIENT FORESTS, PRICELESS TREASURES. The symbol: the Spotted Owl. The attendees: 700 plus Audubon Society members from all areas of the nation.

The irrepressible John Borneman opened the Conference on August 24th. And that day was climaxed by the challenging kick-off address of National Audubon Society President, Peter A. A. Berle, followed by greetings from the Honorable Booth Gardner, Governor of Washington. Peter Raven, Director, Missouri Botanical Gardens, then delivered a report of truly chilling import, "Forests, People, and Global Sustainability." The session ended with a "Song Celebration for the Pacific Northwest," presented by environmental troubadours, Bill Oliver and Gene Waldeck.

In the plenary session of the second day the most compelling issue of the organization was tackled. That issue was that of providing direct chapter input into the activities and decisions made by National. A plan to significantly alter the composition of the National Board of Directors was adopted. Nine of the 32 members of the Board would henceforth be elected, one from each of the nine regions. All chapter members in a given region will vote for one of the nominees in that region. The Western Region's representative would serve on the National Board of Directors for three consecutive years.

The second most important issue at the Convention was that of the dues split. A re-researched approach to this was unanimously deferred until the first meeting of the newly-organized National Board of Directors meeting to be held in December 1987.

A gamut of subjects was covered in ten plenary sessions. To name a few--PACIFIC FLYWAY WETLANDS; SANCTUARY REFLECTIONS; WESTERN HEMISPHERE SHOREBIRD RESERVE NETWORK. These meetings were chaired by the most knowledgeable and personable specialists and/or officials, i.e. Dan Taylor, Regional Representative, N.A.S Sacramento; Chris Maser, Research Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Corvallis, Oregon; Bruce Howard, Chairman, Chapter Relations Committee, National Board of Directors, N.A.S.; Jeff Froke, Asst. Director, Sanctuaries, N.A.S. Starr Ranch Sanctuary; Christopher Palmer, Vice-president and Executive Director, Audubon Television Programs, N.A. S. who screened a sneak preview of an Audubon TV Special on the Decline of the Wood Stork in the Everglades; Glen Olson, Regional Vice President, N.A.S. Sacramento; and Eric Metz, Manager, Ballona Wetlands Project, N.A.S.

The 1987 National Second Place Award for Newsletter, Chapter with over 900 Members.

Interspersed among the plenary sessions were 54 meetings with from one to five speakers each. These sessions were run concurrently and covered subjects highlighting strategy, issues, action, and/or info. Examples: Acid Rain Campaign; Platte River Discussion; Computer Help for Your Chapter; Publicity Skills; Nuclear Waste; Alaska Strategy Sessions; Tropical Forests and Population Growth; Having Your Cake and Eating It: How to Give $100,000 to Audubon Without Knowing It Is Gone; Endangered Species, Ocelots Along the Rio Grande; Southeastern Wetlands; Mono Lake and Western Water Policy Implications; Beyond Adopt-A -Refuge. All speakers were of the same high caliber as those for the plenary meetings.

On Thursday, August 27th, it was my pleasure to accept, on behalf of LA Audubon, the plaque for Second Place Winner in the national newsletter contest. Immediately afterwards I was deluged with compliments and congrats for the Western Tanager and for our now-transferred Editor, Fred Heath, whose dedication and hard work produced our winner.

Coordinated with all the above events was a Wildlife Art Exhibit; an Audubon Bookstore; cafeteria food far above the norm for such; hospitality hosted by Skagit, Seattle, Portland, and North Cascades Audubon Chapters; and great Field Trips to Mt. Baker, Mt. Ranier, the Olympic Peninsula, and Vancouver plus pelagic sorties among the San Juan Islands and out to sea off Westport, Washington.

In addition to myself as official delegate, LA Audubon was most competently represented by Gary Brower, our new Education Chairman, and his wife, Susan. The Convention adjourned at 12:30 PM on Saturday, August 29, 1987.

Winter High Tides at Upper Newport Bay

By William C. Bakewell

November, December, January, and February are the best months for searching for rails and other birds at Upper Newport Bay. American Bitterns, Clapper, Virginia, and Sora Rails are most often seen during these months; and the rare Black Rail is a possibility. These birds are by far most easily found at about the times of the highest high waters during the times of the spring tides of this season. There are no tide gauges in Upper Newport Bay, but most local biologists seem to agree that the times and heights of higher high waters at Upper Newport Bay and Los Angeles Outer Harbor may be taken to be about the same. In the paragraphs below the times of favorable high waters during this season will be set forth.

The heights of the tide for the times given below are all at least 6.2 feet. On 19 January 1988 the height of the higher high water reaches this season's maximum of 7.1 feet. Jean Brandt, in her earlier article on Upper Newport Bay (*Western Tanager*, October 1977), advises birders looking for rails to be on station a half hour before the time of higher high water and to stay for at least one hour. For that reason the times given below are all for higher high waters that occur more than a half hour after sunrise.

In November 1987 the times of higher high water are 0712 on Tuesday the 3rd, 0739 on Wednesday the 4th, 0808 on Thursday the 5th, 0837 on Friday the 6th, 0908 on Saturday the 7th, 0739 on Friday the 20th, 0811 on Saturday the 21st, 0847 on Sunday the 22nd, 0929 on Monday the 23rd, and 1017 on Tuesday the 24th.

In December 1987 the times of higher high water are 0711 on Thursday the 3rd, 0743 on Friday the 4th, 0813 on Saturday the 5th, 0845 on Sunday the 6th, 0756 on Sunday the 20th, 0840 on Monday the 21st, 0929 on Tuesday the 22nd, and 1018 on Wednesday the 23rd.

In January 1988 the times of higher high water are 0729 on Saturday the 2nd, 0805 on Sunday the 3rd, 0839 on Monday the 4th, 0752 on Monday the 18th, 0838 on Tuesday the 19th, 0924 on Wednesday the 20th, and 1012 on Thursday the 21st. The highest high water during this entire season of good birding occurs on the 19th, its height being 7.1 feet.

In February 1988 the times of higher high water are 0743 on Tuesday the 16th, 0832 on Wednesday the 17th, and 0918 on Thursday the 18th.

All of these data were gotten from the 1987 and 1988 editions of *Tide Tables West Coast of North and South America.* These books are published by the National Ocean Survey of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Good Birding!

From the Editor

The identification of Herb Clarke's five excellent pictures in Kimball Garrett's September article *"A Preliminary Waterbird Census of Los Angeles County Lakes and Reservoirs"* was unfortunately omitted.

As promised last time, we now make good that omission. Before reading what follows, we suggest that you dig out your September issue and make your own identifications--without benefit of field guide, if possible or with field guide, if necessary. This will be both educational and entertaining. All right, now; fair warning. Get out the September issue.

Now: ready or not, here we go.

First, note that the pictures, like all the ones that Herb Clarke takes, are not only beautiful but very clear. In each instance the bird is swimming or floating in the water, in a clear and unobstructed sidewise position.

The top picture on page 1

This is a light-billed bird, with the forehead steeply sloped. There is a dark nape that borders on a white throat; and there is a definite notch or indentation at the middle of the neck. The bird is rather low in the water. The head is held level. What is it?

The low position in the water and general appearance indicates that it is a loon. The level look of the head, the dark nape adjoining the white throat, and the white indentation in the neck all help identify this particular loon as the. . .

COMMON LOON, WINTER.

The top picture on page 2

This duck (which happens to be a small one) has a rather large, rounded head; a steep forehead; and its bill is quite small. Add to this the dark top and light bottom and the striking large white patch on the back of the head. This is clearly a. . .

BUFFLEHEAD, MALE.

The bottom picture on pg. 2

This bird has a dark crown and back. Its cheek, back of the head, throat, and breast are all white. Its bill is slender and straight and carried pointing slightly down. This bird, then, is a. . .

HORNED GREBE, WINTER.

The top picture on page 3

The lefthand one of this pair is a female. Observe the somewhat dark body with lighter cheek and throat. There is a pale eye ring and a dark bill with white ring and even darker tip.

The righthand bird is the male, with dark back and breast and a white vertical mark at the side of the breast. It has bill markings, with a white ring and a very dark tip (which in life is blackish).

This pair is the. . .

RING-NECKED DUCK, Male and Female
(The ring on the neck is, at best, hard to spot even in color or in life.)

The bottom picture on pg. 3

This bird has a strong, light-colored bill with a spot. The bird has a dark eye. The body is white, and the mantle is a quite pale color (in life, gray).

This is of course, a gull; the species is. . .

GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL.

After this, we will try very hard to see that no pictures that need credits and captions are without them.

* * *

Commendations to Paul Cooley and Lee Freehling, who correctly identified four of the five birds in a cheerful and well-written letter. On the fifth bird, they wavered a bit between the California and the Glaucous-Winged Gull and finally came down a bit hesitantly, and very reasonably, on the side of the California Gull.

* * *

He wasn't putting down the rest of nature either, but Albert Schweitzer said that there is nothing so valuable as a human being.

We think that way at LAAS, also. And many of our members are putting themselves to excellent use in helping us and have contributed their help for many years.

We could use a few more helpers—say, another fifty—from our wide membership of 3500 or so. This would give new strength and even better functioning to the bookstore, the field trips, and the various committees.

They would certainly also help the *Western Tanager* itself. I'm already talking with a very competent lady about the possibility of being associate editor. And what about a proofreader or two? An article or item for the *Tanager*? And how about some help for our earnest *Tanager* mailers? All will be welcome, and you really will be glad you're participating.

Larry Steinberg
10336 Cheviot Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

Publication intricacies and vacation schedules preclude a new "Conservation Conversation" this month. This is a reprint of Sandy Wohlgemuth's 8-year old article we think stands up very well. Some of it is dated: perhaps Tellico Dam and the Whitewater River marsh are struggles that have receded into the past. But there will *be urban development in Lake Sherwood, the Ballona Wetlands* will *be surrounded by the billion-dollar Summa development and Lake Powell is still capturing the wild Colorado River. The 1984 Olympics were not held in the Sepulveda basin because enough people were motivated to oppose the loss of free-form open space that permanent structures would have destroyed. "All is not lost."*

—Editor

Antaeus was the mighty son of Gaea, goddess of the earth. He was an invincible warrior whose strength was replenished when he was in contact with his mother, the earth. Then wily Hercules defeated him by holding him aloft so he no longer touched the ground and, thus weakened, he died.

Some of us climb Everest, backpack in the high Sierra, walk the Appalachian Trail, canoe the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. Some of us may not be so adventurous or so rugged. We take our recreational vehicles or our tents and settle down in conventional campgrounds. We have a variety of interests: birds, flowers, rocks, mammals, trees, insects, climbing, fishing. Choose one--or all of the above. Or none. We may simply want to stretch out under the clear sky and read and snooze all day or have a drink by a mellow fire at night. And some of us settle for even less. We go to the beach or the zoo, picnic in the backyard or toss a frisbee in a postage-stamp size city park.

But all of us deliberately or unconsciously, are saying much the same thing: I need a change from the routine of office and shop, machinery and city streets. There seems to be a deep ancestral need for a touch of nature: a patch of blue, sand between the toes or cool grass underfoot. Without it, we are cut off from the source of our energy and are the porrer for it.

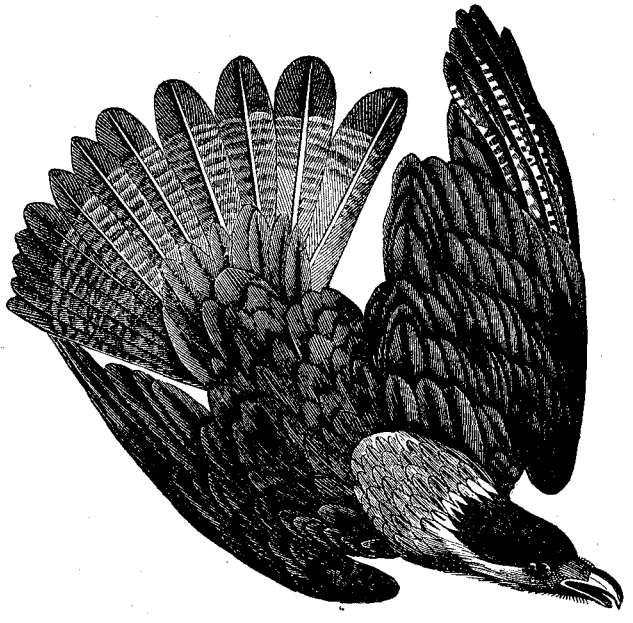
The other day, beside a busy freeway on the outskirts of the city, I was reading a book under a scarred live oak. Abruptly I was aware of the familiar scream of a Red-Shouldered Hawk. I watched it circle high on a thermal and then off to the north until it was a faint speck in the sky. Even as it vanished from view the wild call was still drifting down above the traffic noise. The cry of a raptor, to me is the very essence of wilderness. Yet here was this magnificent creature still present in the city.

At a recent hearing on Sepulveda basin, the 1984 Olympics testimony, representatives of organized equestrians, cyclists, golfers, property-owners and enviromentalists were in attendance. One young woman took the microphone and said, "I'm a dental hygienist and I don't represent anyone but me. I drive by Sepulveda every day going to work and it makes me feel good to see the green fields and the mountains in the distance. Why can't we just leave it alone?" It was a cry from the soul and it *did* represent many of us, many of us who wouldn't dream of going to such a meeting. Many of us who perhaps were unaware of our own feelings about open space. If the Santa Monica mountains were hijacked by the Wicked Witch of the West some dark Halloween there would be a unanimous scream of horror and pain. The mountains--all our mountains--give life and form and character to Los Angeles. On a clear day they sparkle crisply in the sun. The heart leaps up. Yet there are a few of us who are protesting loudly as the developers rush in greedily with their Monster Machines to cut and fill before the government can buy the land for the National Recreation Area.

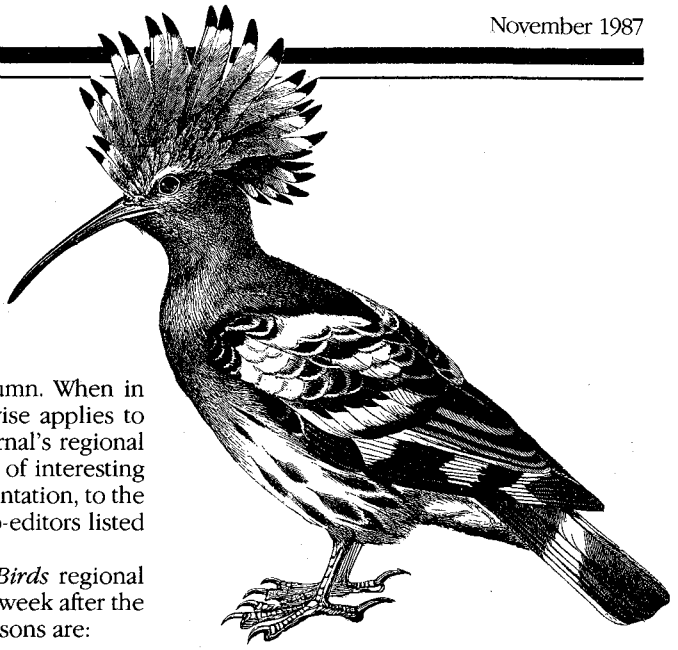
This is the force that drives the conservationist's motor: outraged reaction to the abomination of mindless growth. The list is long and without end: the unrelenting proliferation of condominiums everywhere: the spectre of hotels and shopping malls in Ballona Wetlands; destruction of the Whitewater River marsh; urban development of Lake Sherwood; baseball fields in Chatsworth reservoir; Tellico Dam; Lake Powell; Mono Lake... Appalled visitors report a disco at the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

All is not lost, however. Our labors have borne fruit. The original plans for Malibu Lagoon provided for a 300-car parking lot and a large picnic area. Hard work and tenacity helped the State Park department create a new plan that will restore the marsh and declare it a Natural Preserve. Pt. Mugu State Park was to be a recreation area modeled after Yosemite Valley with restaurants and shops and a hotel. There were plans for a rifle range and a motorcycle campground. Environmentalists *en masse* attended a hearing before the Park Commission, spoke out for minimum development, and won the day acquiring State Park status for Pt. Mugu. And the New Lakes victory at Whittier Narrows stands as a proud monument to the vision and courage of Los Angeles Audubon.

Open space in the city is a metaphor for wilderness. We must hold on to it selfishly or the spirit dies. In *Desert Solitaire*, Edward Abbey says, "A man could be a lover and defender of the wilderness without ever in his lifetime leaving the boundaries of asphalt, powerlines, and right-angled surfaces. We need a refuge even though we may never need to go there. I may never in my life get to Alaska... But I am grateful that it's there."



Turning a Bird Sighting Into a Bird Record



by Kimball Garrett

Your bird sightings from field excursions remain just that, sightings, until a simple procedure of documentation and communication is initiated. Such a procedure turns a sighting into a record, available to the ornithological community. We outline here the steps one should take once a sighting is made.

First, record and document the sighting in your field notes, using whatever system you are most comfortable with. Obviously, the more unusual the sighting, the more detailed the documentation should be. Garrett and Dunn's "Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution" should provide an indication of how unusual your sighting is. Apparent population trends, arrival and departure dates, migration waves, and interesting behavior constitute examples of other "sightings" which should be recorded and documented in your notes.

Second, communicate your sightings to others. The speed with which this should be done is, again, obviously proportional to the rarity of the observation. Some birds call for an immediate dash for the nearest pay phone; most demand less urgency. Some procedures follow:

For exceptional rarities (generally, those species on the California Bird Records Committee Review list, published on occasion in *Western Birds*):

(1) Make your dash to the phone, alerting other birders. When in doubt as to whom to contact, call Audubon House.

(2) Make sure your description is complete and accurate; write the description before consulting a field guide; take photos whenever possible.

(3) In the following order, communicate information on the sighting to:
Audubon House for the L.A.A.S. bird tape (or to other groups sponsoring tapes);
Kimball Garrett for the *Birds of the Season* column;
Guy McCaskie or your local county coordinator for *American Birds* (see listing in this article);
Secretary of the California Bird Records Committee (for review list species; address in this article).

For sightings which do not pertain to exceptional rarities (this would include virtually anything you feel is of interest), a perusal of the *Birds of the Season* column should give you an idea of what is appropriate to send in for that column. When in doubt, send it in. This likewise applies to *American Birds*. For that journal's regional reports, send a complete list of interesting sightings, along with documentation, to the regional editor or county sub-editors listed below.

Deadlines for *American Birds* regional reports are generally about a week after the close of each season. The seasons are:

Spring:	1 March to 31 May
Summer:	1 June to 31 July
Fall:	1 August to 30 November
Winter	1 December to 28(9) February

Observations should be sent to the Regional Editor (S. Pacific Coast Region):

Guy McCaskie
954 Grove Street
Imperial Beach, CA 92032

Or, preferably, to the sub-editor for each county:

San Luis Obispo Co.:
Tom Edell
46 8th St.
Cayucos, CA 93430

Santa Barbara Co.:
Paul Lehman
P.O. Box 1061
Goleta CA 93017

Ventura Co.:
Jim Royer
1137 Chalmette Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003

Los Angeles Co.:
Kimball Garrett
Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Orange Co.:
Doug Willick
838 W. South Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

Kern Co.:
Mark Chichester
8000 Kroll Way #72
Bakersfield, CA 93311

San Bernardino Co.:
Gene Cardiff
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane
Redlands, CA 92373

Riverside Co.:
Robert McKernan
40 Sherril Lane
Redlands, CA 92373

San Diego Co.:
Elizabeth Copper
P.O. Box 595
Coronado, CA 92118
(or directly to Guy McCaskie)

When in doubt, send observations directly to the Regional Editor.

Descriptions of rarities on th California Bird Records Committee review list should be sent to:

Don Roberson
Secretary, CBRC
282 Grove Acre
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

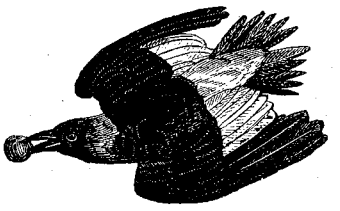
Regular reports of the California Bird Records Committee, detailing accepted and rejected records, are published in the journal *Western Birds*.

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

Birds of the Season



by Kimball L. Garrett

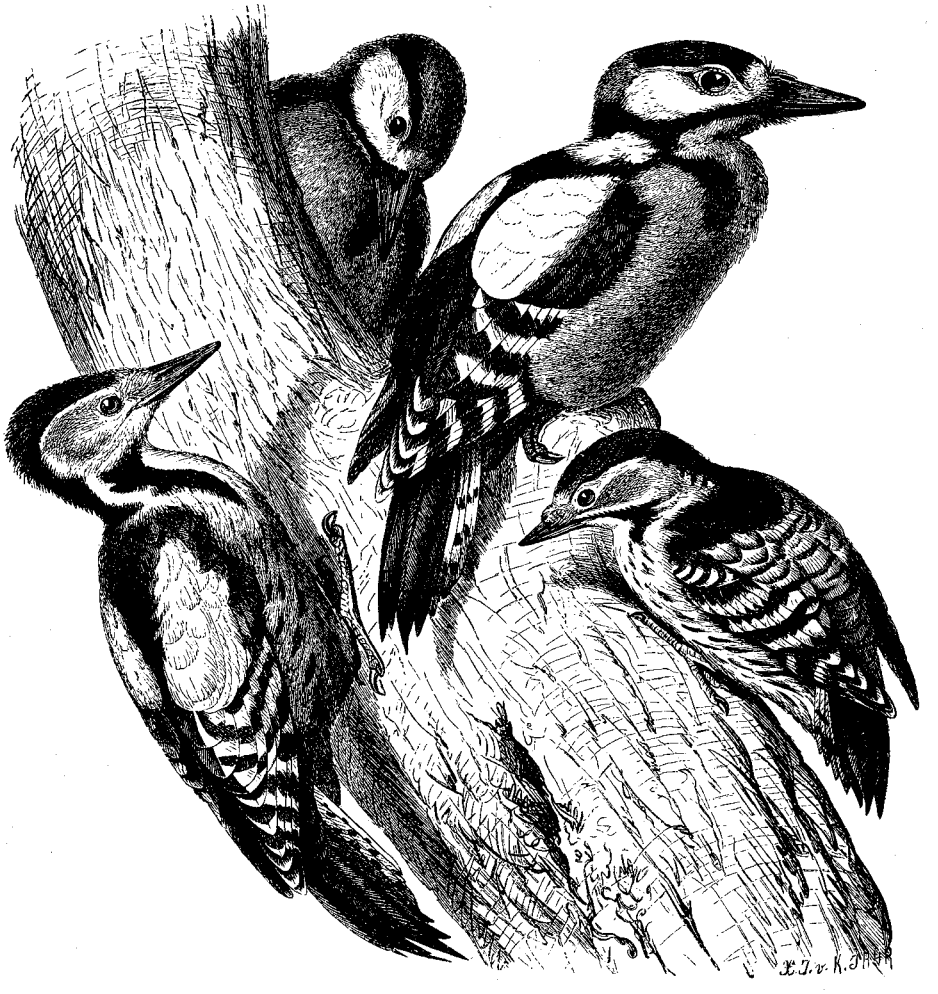
Bird sightings reported in the "Birds of the Season" column have generally not yet been reviewed by the American Birds *regional editors or by the California Bird Records Committee. All records of rarities should be considered tentative pending such review.*

The major event of the fall of 1987 in the region was without question the continued irruption of several montane species, notably **Pygmy** and **White-breasted Nuthatches** and **Mountain Chickadees**. These widely recorded movements constitute the largest such invasion since the fall of 1972-1973. Reports of Mountain Chickadees throughout the lowlands were far too numerous to list, and the species found its way onto many "yard lists" for the first time. Not only were chickadees widespread on the coastal slope, they were downright common along the western margins of the deserts (e.g., 25 at Lake Palmdale on 19 September). They were also common in foothill woodland associations below their normal breeding elevations, such as in the oak-digger pine associations west of Lake Hughes.

In addition to the Pygmy Nuthatches mentioned from the coastal slope in last month's column, several were recorded from the desert lowlands in September, e.g., four in Palmdale on 15 September (Kimball Garrett) and two on the Antelope Valley College campus in Lancaster on 16 September (Cal Yorke). With both Pygmy Nuthatches and Mountain Chickadees there is very little geographical variation in field characters, so we are left with no "markers" (short of branded birds, of course) to help us decipher the origins of these irrupting birds. Are they dropping down out of the San Grabriel Mountains? Or are they undergoing longer distance movements, perhaps even from as far as the interior northwest? In the case of the White-breasted Nuthatch we do, fortunately, have some clues relating to the geographical source of birds recorded in our region this fall. In western North America White-breasted Nuthatches fall into two distinct subspecies groups. The Pacific Coast birds of the race *aculeata* are characterized by slightly stouter bills and a high, descending "yank" or "eeehhr" call note. The more slender-billed birds of the races *tenuissima* and *nelsoni* breed on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada eastward through the Great Basin and the Rocky Mountains; they give a very different, stuttering "eh-eh-eh-eh-eh" call. Based on these call notes differences, we can be certain that the vast majority of the White-breasted Nuthatches recorded widely over the southern California lowlands this fall are of the coastal *aculeata* form. However, Brian Daniels did identify an interior *tenuissima*-type bird at Huntington Beach Central Park in September, indicating that a few of our birds are coming from the far interior. Observers should pay close attention to the call notes of the White-breasted Nuthatches they encounter.

Indications of a minor invasion of covids have also arisen through the early fall. Bob McKernan reports that **Scrub Jays** are widespread over the northern Colorado Desert, and **Pinyon Jays** have been noted well away from breeding habitat, e.g., at Mojave, Kern Co., in mid-September (Jon Dunn). Perhaps related to the movements of chickadees, nuthatches and corvids were lowland records of the conifer-seed eating **White-headed Woodpecker** (one in Malibu Canyon mentioned in last month's Tanager, plus one at Carpenteria Creek on 7 September).

The outstanding local rarities this September were certainly the **Yellow Wagtail** at Mailbu Lagoon and the **Yellow-green Vireo** at Big Sycamore Canyon. The Wagtail was found by Wanda Conway on 6 September, and though it obliged numerous observers that day, it was not seen again. This very active Siberian passerine spent its time running after insects along the mudflats on the lagoon shoreline. Its appearance conforms to an amazingly tight pattern of coastal California records from the first half of September. The Yellow-green Vireo was found on 21 September by Nan Moore and was seen by numerous observers through the end of the month. In un-vireo like fashion, this brightly marked bird fed openly on a weedy lawn and in young saplings at the mouth of the canyon. A spin-off of the popular Yellow-green Vireo show was the **Connecticut Warbler** found at Big Sycamore by Paul



Lehman on 27 September and photographed by Larry Sansone latter that day.

Two extraordinary birds on the northern deserts delighted a handful of lucky observers but raised the usual questions of origin. A **Crested Caracara** was found by Rich Stallcup near the northwest corner of Mono Lake on 15 September and seen in the general area at least twice during the remainder of the month. There are no currently accepted records of this species in California, and several sightlings on the coastal slope are strongly suspected to pertain to escapees. The remote locale of this year's bird perhaps suggests a greater chance of wild origin. A female **Ruddy Ground-Dove** spent several days at Jan Tarble's feeder near Tecopa, Inyo Co. There are now several records of this species on the eastern California deserts in fall (but from only two localities); whether such occurences are natural or of escaped/released birds remains open to speculation.

What follows is, of necessity, only a selective hodge-podge of the exciting finds of the period. A **Least Bittern** was reported from Malibu Lagoon on 26 September (Bill Dedon et al), a locality from which Kiff and Nakumura cite only one previous record. An **American Oystercatcher** at Point Loma, San Diego (11 September), is one of the very few recorded recently in California. Quite unexpected was a **Northern Saw-Whet Owl** which hit a church window in Northridge on 9 September (Dave Richardson; specimen to L.A. County Museum of Natural History). There are very few records of this species on the coastal slopes of southern California. An **Acorn Woodpecker** at Lake Palmdale (Cal Yorke and Jonathan Alderfer, 12 September) was at an unusual locality.

An **Eastern Kingbird** was at the mouth of Zuma Creek on 4 September (Jonathan Alderfer). Dan Guthrie found a **Tropical Kingbird** on the Signal Oil property at Bolsa Chica on 18 September. Rumors from the northern desert oases of Willow Flycatcher-like birds giving "peep" calls make one wonder whether Alder Flycatchers might not actually be passing through on occasion . . . . a mystery that will surely be solved in future years. Late flash!!! As I write this a call from Richard Webster informs us of a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** at Point Loma (found by Guy McCaskie today, 2 October); there are no currently accepted records of this species in southern California.

As expected, a variety of warblers occured during the period. I almost said a variety of "unusual" warblers, but it has become clear that virtually all warblers are "usual" (i.e., regular) in southern California, with some just occuring in extremely low numbers. Even the very rare **Yellow-throated Warbler** seems to be found every year (e.g., Isabel Ludlum's sighting of one on the Santa Rosa Plateau preserve in Riverside County on 8 September). As we always point out, any regularly and diligently birded area will eventually produce sightings of uncommon species. Even in Norwalk (where John Schmitt found an **American Redstart** and **Blackpoll Warbler** in September at Little Lake Park). A **Black-and-White Warbler** in Exposition Park (Kimball Garrett, 21 September) edged that locality's list closer to the 100-species level. A **Canada Warbler** was at Huntington Beach Central Park on 14 September. One or two **Clay-colored Sparrows** were at Big Sycamore Canyon at the end of September (Gayle Benton et al). Mickey Long's banding operation at Charmlee Park in the Santa Monica Mountains yielded a **Black-throated Sparrow** and a **Green-tailed Towhee** in mid-September.

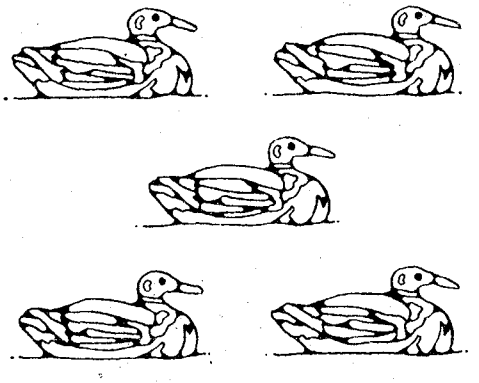
Reports of exotics in the Los Angeles area are, not surprisingly, quite frequent. Unglamorous though it may be, the compilation of such reports is a necessary step in the documentation of the establishment of exotic populations. Thus, we report **Hill Mynahs** (*Gracula religiosa*) in Beverly Hills, as independently reported to us by Peggy McCain and Bob Gustafson. Additionally, a probable **Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** was found in the Sepulveda Basin on 5 September (Jack Levine). Keep those reports of exotics coming in!

November birding will continue at the torrid pace set in September and October. Winter birds will largely be settled in, but a surprising number of birds will still be on the move. While waterfowl and raptors will be increasingly in evidence and shorebirds will occupy a diminishing role in the birding psyche, the small landbirds will continue to be diverse, abundant, and endlessly fascinating.

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



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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PRESIDENT Ellsworth Kendig
1st VICE PRESIDENT Bob Van Meter
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY Andrea Kaufman

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. Mambers 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.

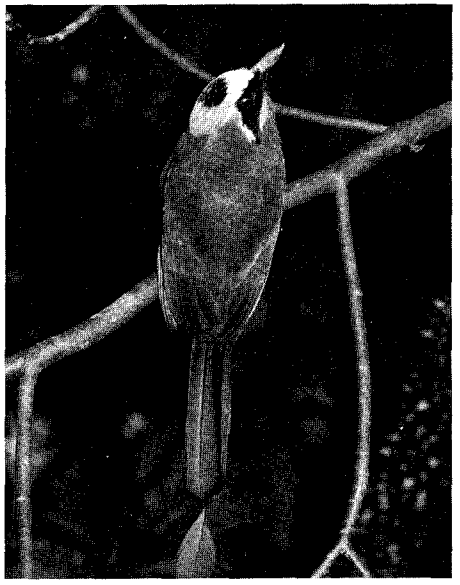
Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters, Library, Bookstore and Nature Museum are located at Audubon House, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046. Telephone: (213) 876-0202. Hours: 10-3 Tuesday through Saturday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 1987

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

Tuesday, November 10 - Olga Clarke will present a program entitled **Costa Rica: Jewel of Central America.** Olga, who has led a number of birding tours to Costa Rica, will talk about the birding opportunities and natural history of this fascinating country. The tiny country of Costa Rica has over 800 species of birds, a growing system of national parks and refuges and one of Central America's most stable governments (see Olga's article in the October *Tanager*). The program will be illustrated with photographs by Herb Clarke. Please join us for an evening of exciting birding and colorful birds.

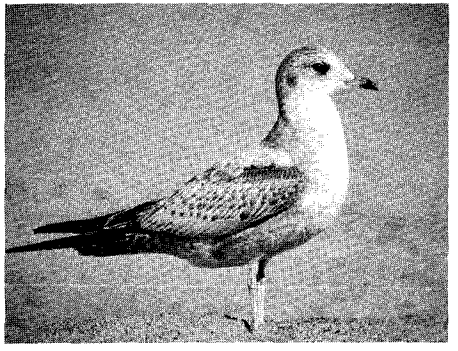


Blue-crowned Motmot *Photograph by Herb Cla*

Tuesday, December 8 - Harriet Kolfak will present **Southwestern "Fowles" and Who Identified Them**, including thumbnail sketches and anecdotes about some of the early naturalists who traveled and studied in the American Southwest.

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

Tuesday, November 10 - Jonathan Alderfer: First Winter Plumages of Mew, California and Ring-billed Gulls. Although these are some of our most abundant gull species, they're often mis-identified. By learning the common species well you'll be ready to track down the rarer ones. Who knows what might show up at Malibu Lagoon this year!



First Winter Mew Gull. *Photo by Jonathan Alderfer*

Tuesday, December 8 - to be announced. Any volunteers?

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, November 1 - 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.

Saturday, November 7 - Whittier Narrows: Dave 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.

Saturday, November 14 - 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.)

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 am. 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, 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.**

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

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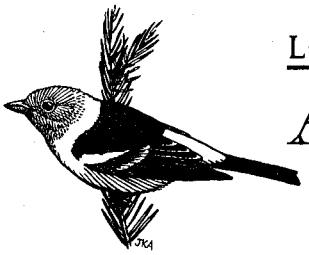

LOS ANGELES **NOVEMBER, 1987**

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