



# WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

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**F**our of us had driven up to Monterey, birding on the way, before embarking on two days of pelagic trips. We hadn't seen many species, but what we had were 'cherce'. In Ventura county on Laguna Road, one after the other, we saw a Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*), then a Black-throated Blue (*Dendroica caerulea*) and thirdly a Palm (*Dendroica palmarum*) - enough to start the trip in high spirits.

I expect there was a lot of bird talk in the car, but I couldn't be sure, as the air-conditioning (which had just been repaired) decided to give up working altogether. This necessitated a partially open window. A partially open window on the freeway to the person sitting next to it, successfully blocks out any sound other than the rushing wind, and no amount of pushing the levers back and forth made any difference, in spite of the optimistic wording on the panel 'Climate control'. So I chose deafness over meltdown. However, neither this nor the unsatisfactory dinner of cod dipped in a strange vivid orange batter, which we had in the one empty restaurant on the Monterey pier, (now I know why it was empty) could dull my anticipation for the pelagics. I stuck on a scopolamine patch behind my ear to ward off seasickness, and joined forty-nine others on the 'Point Sur Clipper'.

We sailed at 7:30 a.m. Debbie Shearwater, who runs these trips, always gives a pre-trip instruction speech. This includes information as to where to throw up, and which end of the boat is 12 o'clock (for bird-spotting purposes). There were then some details on the situation of the pelagic community.

A combination of El Nino and pollution is having a detrimental effect on all life in the sea. In Monterey Bay itself, scores of immature Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) sat on the breakwater waiting for food handouts, as fish is scarce. Some of the adults flew out to sea and were seen in the wake of our ship, looking for chum (fish scraps) but they were not as agile as the gulls, who could wheel and dive in a smaller space.

Soon after we set out in a south-westerly direction, we sighted Black-vented Shear-

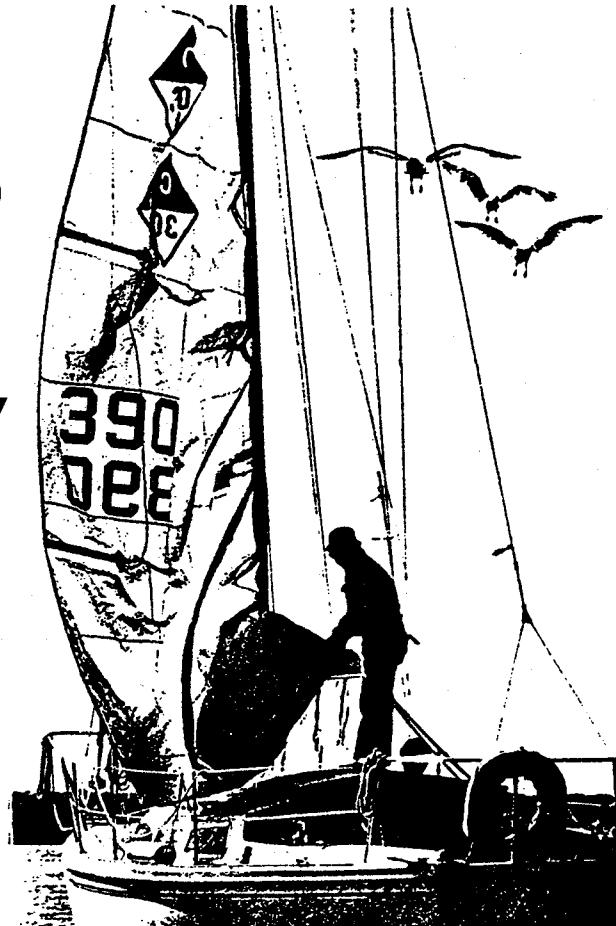
waters (*Puffinus opisthomelas*), a Northern Fulmar (*Fulmaris glacialis*), and two Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) which skimmed past the boat. In the wake were Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*), and California (*Larus californicus*) and Heerman's (*Larus heermanni*). We had seen a Mew Gull (*Larus canus*) as we left the harbor.

We had sailed by California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*) and Sea Otters (*Enhydra lutris*) and soon Dall's Porpoises (*Pocoenoides dalli*) were breaching the water and diving under the prow. How lovely they all are! If there wasn't a great number of birds, the mammals were wonderful to watch.

When we were quite a way from port and had seen a Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) a call came over the mike, 'Whale spouting!'. As we looked, an enormous whale surfaced, then another, and a third. Blue Whales!! (*Balaenoptera musculus*). Three of the largest mammals on earth were right there before us. Here, in our waters, they reach seventy-five feet in length. They surfaced, showing an unbelievably long body, together with enormous girth. Twice we saw the whole animal, not just the head and dorsal area. Large flat head first, then the gigantic length of its body with the small dorsal fin, then the fluke. It was a very special occasion, as there are only about one thousand of these

## October and The Deep Blue Sea Off Monterey

by Dorothy  
Dimsdale





animals left in the world and we were able to watch quite closely for at least twenty to thirty minutes.

Our next surprise was the appearance of a Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), which flew across the sea towards our boat. Unfortunately it didn't land, but continued out to sea - we all were hoping it would find its way back to the coast.

Pacific white-sided Dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*) were the next to appear, leaping from the water in fours and they accompanied us for some time. A microphone was lowered into the sea and we heard the dolphins communicating with each other. The loud series of squeaks came clearly through the mike.

This was some pelagic trip! I was eating a crumpled sandwich and wondering about the Short-eared Owl, when that rare and always longed for bird, the Laysan Albatross (*Diomedea immutabilis*), appeared from nowhere, flying above the wake of the ship. Chum was being thrown and it came up and challenged the gulls for the fish, very successfully. The boat engines were halted and we all watched entranced as the Albatross sat on the water, gulping pieces of fish thrown from the stern. In fact the bird was so close that one had to lean over the rail to see it. The photographers amongst us asked that the fish throwing be stopped, so that the bird would get far enough from the boat to be within proper range of their lenses. The bird was obviously hungry and photographers satisfied, fish was thrown again and the Albatross continued to feed. Finally we had to start the engines and leave. I guess no one on that boat ever thought they would turn their backs on a Laysan Albatross!

Shortly thereafter we turned to return to port. While still quite a way out we saw a Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica*

*coronata*) fly over the boat. Then a Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) landed in the stern and fluttered in a confused manner, settling first on someone's woolly hat (still on the owner's head) then onto another's shoulder. An Englishman put down a couple of grapes in the sheltered entrance to the cabin and the finch pecked at, then ate and drank from them. It seemed very tired and hungry. Luckily it remained with us until we reached the harbor when one of the men caught it and gently held it until it could be released on land into a tree. The end of a wonderful day!

The next day we were to head in a northwesterly direction. As we sallied out, Arnold Small, one of our leaders, gave us some very helpful hints on pelagic birding. He said that birds watch birds for food. When they see other birds following a ship and diving into the water at the stern, they know food is available and will join the flock. This probably accounts for the Laysan Albatross joining us the previous day. Arnold also told us how to estimate one's distance from the horizon, using the formula

$$\sqrt{\left(\frac{3H}{2}\right)}$$

H being the height of one's eyes from the sea. For example, if one's eyes were twenty feet above sea level, using the formula, the distance to the horizon would be almost five and a half miles (5.477). This is helpful in evaluating the distance of a bird or mammal from the boat.

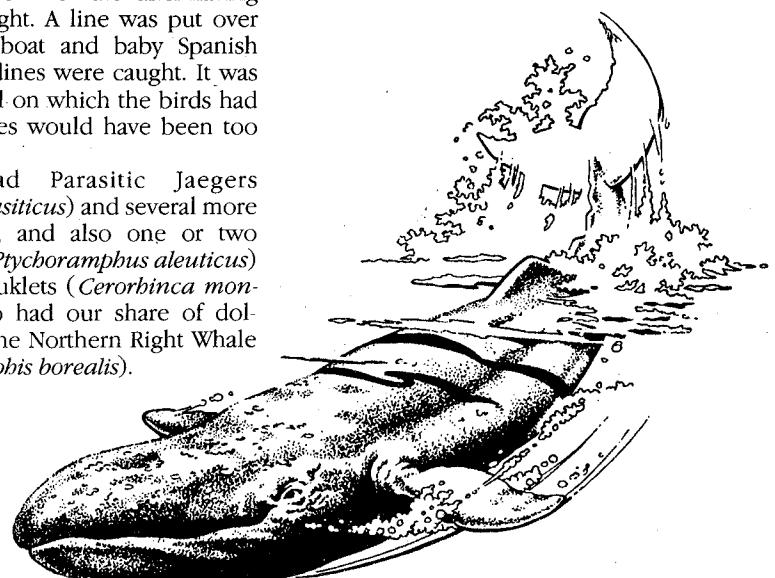
Not very far from Monterey Bay we came upon a large raft of Shearwaters. Herb Clarke, another of our leaders, estimated that there must have been over a thousand birds sitting on the water, a most unusual sight. They were mostly Black-vented Shearwaters, but there were also several Buller's (*Puffinus bulleri*) and Sooty (*Puffinus griseus*) Shearwaters there too. They were resting on the water after having fed during the night. A line was put over the side of the boat and baby Spanish mackerel and sardines were caught. It was probably mackerel on which the birds had fed, as the sardines would have been too large.

Next we had Parasitic Jaegers (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) and several more Pomarine Jaegers, and also one or two Cassin's Auklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) and Rhinoceros Auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*). We also had our share of dolphins, including the Northern Right Whale Dolphin (*Lissodelphis borealis*).

It is possible that I am regaling the unfortunate reader with more than he/she wanted to know about dolphins, but a pelagic out of Monterey encompasses both birds and mammals and it's impossible to ignore either. However . . .

Another rare sighting came up -- a Flesh-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*), and there, flying down the port side of the boat, was this all-dark Shearwater. It was very exciting and I gazed enraptured till it was out of sight, then realised that I had not noted the color of its bill. The diagnostic field mark. I ate two granola bars and struggled with myself as to whether I could count a bird whose most important field mark I had missed. Of course, I knew that the mere fact that I was debating the point made it certain that for me the bird was uncountable. I shuffled about the boat depressed and disgusted with myself. Then -- a miracle. The call went up again, 'Flesh-footed Shearwater'. Here was my chance, I focused on the bill -- pale with a black tip (horn color, the field guide calls it) and I knew I had my bird. Suddenly, in a matter of minutes, I was ten years younger and carefree as a June bug! When, finally, six little dots were spotted far out as Storm Petrels -- the only ones of the trip -- I was only vaguely aware. I was still thinking of the Flesh-footed Shearwater and the sheer luck I'd had in seeing it a second time. In fact it, or another, appeared yet again so my cup slurped over.

It was another stupendous trip. We had some periods with a complete absence of birds or mammals, but as I was talking with Olga Clarke, who regaled me with fabulous descriptions of the bird tours she leads to Costa Rica, I was happy and interested all the way back to port. Monterey has, so far, never disappointed me. There is always something, bird or mammal, which makes the trip well worth while; and of course Monterey itself is a lovely area. Go and enjoy!



# California Bird Records Committee Review List

as of 1 Feb 1987

**T**he CBRC requests details, including descriptions and photos, of all records of the following species or forms. The Committee likewise requests details on all species which are new to California. In a very few cases, enumerated

below, the CBRC reviews records only after some date, either because the status of the species has changed since that date, or the species has occurred in "invasions" from time to time, details of which are likely unattainable. Otherwise, the CBRC requests

details of all records, no matter how long ago they occurred. The CBRC no longer reviews records of extirpated resident species (Harris' Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse).

Yellow-billed Loon  
Least Grebe  
Wandering Albatross  
Short-tailed Albatross (1900 and later only)  
Mottled Petrel  
Cook's Petrel  
Stejneger's Petrel  
Streaked Shearwater  
Greater Shearwater  
Wilson's Storm-Petrel  
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel  
Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel  
White-tailed Tropicbird  
Red-tailed Tropicbird  
Masked Booby  
Blue-footed Booby (1972 and later only)  
Brown Booby  
Red-footed Booby  
Olivaceous Cormorant  
Anhinga  
Reddish Egret  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron  
White Ibis  
Roseate Spoonbill (1978 and later only)  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck  
Whooper Swan  
Trumpeter Swan  
Emperor Goose  
Baikal Teal  
American Black Duck  
Garganey  
Tufted Duck  
King Eider  
Steller's Eider  
Smew  
Mississippi Kite  
Common Black-Hawk  
Zone-tailed Hawk  
Gyrfalcon  
Yellow Rail  
Purple Gallinule  
Mongolian Plover  
Wilson's Plover  
Piping Plover  
Eurasian Dotterel  
American Oystercatcher  
Spotted Redshank  
Gray-tailed Tattler  
Upland Sandpiper  
Little Curlew  
Hudsonian Godwit  
Bar-tailed Godwit  
Rufous-necked Stint  
Little Stint  
White-rumped Sandpiper

Curlew Sandpiper  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper  
Jack Snipe  
Little Gull  
Common Black-headed Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Sandwich Tern  
Sooty Tern  
Thick-billed Murre  
Kittlitz's Murrelet  
Parakeet Auklet  
Least Auklet  
Crested Auklet  
Black-billed Cuckoo  
Groove-Billed Ani  
Snowy Owl (1900 and later only)  
Barred Owl  
White-collared Swift  
Broad-billed Hummingbird  
Violet-crowned Hummingbird  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Greater Pewee  
Eastern Wood-Pewee  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher  
Great Crested Flycatcher  
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher  
Thick-billed Kingbird  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Eurasian Skylark  
Blue Jay  
Sedge Wren  
Dusky Warbler  
Northern Wheatear Veery  
Gray-cheeked Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
Rufous-backed Robin  
Gray Catbird  
Curve-billed Thrasher  
Yellow Wagtail  
White Wagtail  
Black-backed Wagtail  
White/Black-backed Wagtail  
Red-throated Pipit  
Sprague's Pipit  
Brown Shrike  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Philadelphia Vireo  
"Yellow-green" Vireo  
Blue-winged Warbler  
Golden-voiced Warbler  
Blue-Winged X Golden-winged W.  
Golden-cheeked Warbler

Yellow-throated Warbler  
Grace's Warbler  
Pine Warbler  
Cerulean Warbler  
Prothonotary Warbler  
Worm-eating Warbler  
Louisiana Waterthrush  
Kentucky Warbler  
Connecticut Warbler  
Mourning Warbler  
Red-faced Warbler  
Scarlet Tanager  
Pyrrhuloxia  
Varied Bunting  
Painted Bunting  
Cassin's Sparrow  
Field Sparrow  
Baird's Sparrow  
LeConte's Sparrow  
Rustic Bunting  
Snow Bunting  
Common Grackle  
Streak-backed Oriole  
Brambling  
White-winged Crossbill  
Common Redpoll

Send records to Don Roberson  
Secretary CBRC  
282 Grove Acre Ave  
Pacific Grove CA  
93950



# Schedule of the 1987 Christmas Bird Counts in Southern & Central California

**Official Period: Thursday, 17th December, 1987, thru Sunday, 3rd January, 1988**

Count Area	Compiler	Address	Phone **	Associated Organization(s)
<b>Thursday, December 17</b>				
San Jacinto Lake	Robert McKernan	40 Sherril Lane, Redlands 92373	714-793-7897	San Bernardino Valley Audubon
<b>Saturday, December 19</b>				
Big Bear Lake	Leo Best	402 So. Virginia, Azusa 91702	818-334-2528	Whittier Audubon
Claremont	Dan Guthrie	264 Blaisdell, Claremont 91711	714-621-8000	Pomona Valley Audubon
Lancaster	Fred Heath	13314 Entreken Ave., San Diego 92129	619-484-8709h	Los Angeles Audubon
Lone Pine	Mike Prather	Box 406, Lone Pine 93545	619-876-5807	Eastern Sierra Audubon
Morro Bay	John McDonald	2265 Fresno St., Los Osos 93402	805-528-4855	Morro Coast Audubon
Point Reyes	David Wimpfheimer	4990 Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach 94970	415-868-1220	Point Reyes Bird Observatory
Redlands-Mill Creek	Douglas Williams	P.O. Box 21, Running Springs 92382	714-867-2391	San Bernardino Valley Audubon
San Diego	Jerry Oldenettel	4368 37th St., San Diego 92105	619-281-7039	San Diego Field Ornithologists & San Diego Audubon
Springville	Bob Barnes	P.O. Box 269, Porterville 93258	209-784-4477	Tulare County Audubon
Stockton	David Yee		209-951-1526	Stockton Audubon
			209-466-3337	
<b>Sunday, December 20</b>				
Anza Borrego	Art Morley	P.O. Box 15346, San Diego 92115	619-583-8295	Anza Borrego Desert Naturalists
Bakersfield	John Wilson	104 Pacific, Bakersfield 93305	619-767-4298	Bakersfield Audubon
China Lake	Donald Moore	P.O. Box 984, Ridgecrest 93555	805-325-6329	Kerncrest Audubon
Malibu	Liga Auzins	1246 26th St. A, Santa Monica 90404	619-446-6137	Los Angeles Audubon
Malibu	Roger Cobb	1732 Bryn Mawr Ave., Santa Monica 90405	213-828-2936	
Oakland	Helen Green		213-396-4160	
Orange County-Northeastern	Gerald Tolman	12301 Gilbert St., Garden Grove 92641	415-843-2222	Golden Gate Audubon
Ranch Santa Fe	Luis Santalla	P.O. Box 50, Rancho Santa Fe 92067	714-539-8040	Sea and Sage Audubon
Salton Sea-North	Andy Sanders		619-756-2082	
			714-684-0448h	San Bernardino Valley Audubon
Salton Sea-North	Chet McGaugh		714-787-3601w	
Santa Maria-Guadalupe	Alex Abela	1001 Hackberry, Vandenberg AFB 93437	714-781-3699	San Bernardino Valley Audubon
Yosemite	Leonard McKenzie		805-734-4008	Los Padres Audubon
			209-372-4738h	
			209-372-0290w	
<b>Monday, December 21</b>				
Lake Hershaw	Claude Edwards	P.O. Box 231496, San Diego 92123	619-464-7342h	San Diego Field Ornithologist & San Diego Audubon
Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley	Michael Long	Eaton Canyon Nat. Ctr., 1750 Alta Dena Dr., Pasadena 91107	818-285-8878h	Pasadena Audubon
			818-794-1866w	
<b>Tuesday, December 22</b>				
Cordell Banks (New) (Pelagic)	Debra L. Shearnater	P.O. Box 1445, Soquel 95073	408-688-1990	Shearwater Journeys
Salton Sea-South*	Jon Dunn	4710 Dexter, Apt. 7, Santa Barbara 93110		
<b>Saturday, December 26</b>				
Bishop	Earl Gann	120 Pine Road Rt. 132, Big Pine 93513	619-938-2916	Eastern Sierra Audubon
Butterbreyt Springs	Keith Axelson	3262 Midvale Ave., Los Angeles 90034	213-474-6205	Santa Monica Audubon
Lost Lake, Fresno	Garth Spitler	4105 E. Farrin Way, Fresno 93726	209-229-6367	Fresno Audubon
Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad	Jerry Oldenettel	4368 37th St., San Diego 92105	619-281-7039	San Diego Field Ornithologist & Buena Vista Audubon
San Fernando Valley	Arthur Langton, Jr.	7435 Lena Ave., Canoga Park 91307	818-887-0973	San Fernando Valley Audubon
<b>Sunday, December 27</b>				
Grass Mountain	Tom Martin	1108 West Ave. H-4, Lancaster 93534	805-948-0596	
Kaweah	Rob Hansen	P.O. Box 3840, Visalia 93278	209-627-4328w	
Morongo-Whitewater	Stephen Myers	15779 Dalscote, Hesperia 92345	619-949-3567h	
			714-684-7081w	
Palos Verdes Peninsula	Ross Landry	12716 Muroc St., Norwalk 90650	213-863-9078	Palos Verdes Peninsula Audubon
Thousand Oaks	Elliott McClure	69 E. Loop, Camarillo 93010	805-482-0411	Conejo Valley Audubon
Ventura	Jim Royer	1137 Chalmette, Ventura 93003	805-658-6094h	Ventura Audubon
			805-648-5111w	
<b>Monday, December 28</b>				
Monterey (Land)*	Bob Tintle		408-373-7669	Monterey Peninsula Audubon
San Francisco	Dan Murphy		415-843-2222	Golden Gate Audubon
<b>Wednesday, December 30</b>				
Monterey Bay Pelagic	Debra Love Shearwater	P.O. Box 1445, Soquel 95073	408-688-1990	Shearwater Journeys
<b>Thursday, December 31</b>				
Mono Lake	David Gaines	P.O. Box 119, Lee Vining	619-647-6496	Eastern Sierra Audubon
<b>Friday, January 1</b>				
Moss Landing	John Warriner	79 Puffin La., Pajaro Dunes, Watsonville 95076	408-722-5589	Santa Cruz Bird Club

Count Area	Compiler	Address	Phone * *	Associated Organization(s)
<b>Saturday, January 2</b>				
Carizzo Plains El Dorado	Roger Zachary Peter Tackney	1800 Traffic Way, Atascadero 93422 3042 Nipomo, Long Beach 90808	805-466-6222 213-425-3948h 818-354-4112w	North Cuesta Audubon El Dorado Audubon & Nature Center
Escondido Granite Woody Mammoth Lakes Santa Ana River Valley	Ken Weaver Rick Saval Margaret Gorski Lawrence LaPre	1339 Taylor Place, Escondido 92027 P.O. Box 40793, Bakersfield 93384 P.O. Box 148, Mammoth Lakes 93546 P.O. Box 5051, Riverside 92517	619-723-2448 805-831-5904 619-934-2505w 714-369-3508h 714-684-7081w	Kern Audubon Mammoth Lakes Ranger District San Bernardino Valley Audubon
Santa Barbara	Joan Lenz Paul Lehman	433 Pimiento La., Santa Barbara 93108	805-969-4397	Santa Barbara Audubon
Santa Barbara South Marin South Marin Wallace-Bellota	Pat Kelly Diane Sierra Ken Howard Dick Filson	5908 Harbboro, Oakland 1857 Romona Ave., Stockton 95207	805-962-9916 415-654-8124 415-332-4117 209-466-8414h	Marin Audubon Stockton Audubon
Creighton Ranch-Corcoran Idylwild Idylwild Joshua Tree Nat'l. Monument	Rob Hansen Norm Mellor Norwood Hazard Brian Prescott	P.O. Box 3840, Visalia 93278 2173 Colton Ave., Mentone 923359 6737 Rycroft Dr., Riverside 92506	209-627-4328w 714-737-2253h 714-794-2251h 714-780-3146h 714-369-2164w	The Nature Conservatory San Bernardino Valley Audubon San Bernardino Valley Audubon
Kern River Valley Los Angeles La Purisima (New) Orange County-Coastal San Bernardino Valley	Rick Hewitt Robert Shanman Alex Abela Gerald Tolman Don Hoechun	P.O. Box 1662, Weldon 93283 712 36th St., Manhattan Beach 90266 1001 Hackberry, Vandenberg AFB 93437 12301 Gilbert St., Garden Grove 92641 2340 Vista Ridge, Norco 91760	619-378-2531 213-545-2867 805-734-4008 714-539-8040 714-371-7001	Kerncrest Audubon Los Angeles Audubon La Purisima Audubon Sea and Sage Audubon San Bernardino Valley Audubon
<b>Monday, January 4</b>				
La Jolla	Diane Herron	4460 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 92107	619-224-0374	Tweet' n' Eat Birding Club
<b>Sunday, January 10</b>				
Santa Rosa Plateau	Gary Bell		714-677-6951	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Saturday, January 23</b>				
Cuyamaca	David King	836 Stevens Ave., Solana Beach 92075	619-359-8649	San Diego Field Ornithologist
<b>Dates not determined by 11/6/87</b>				
Arroyo Cheap Thrills (NE Marin Co.)	Dave Shuford		415-868-1220	Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory
Death Valley Los Banos	Mike Prather Kurt Campbell	Box 406, Lone Pine 93545	619-876-5807 707-664-0104h 707-584-4240w	Eastern Sierra Audubon
Santa Cruz Sespe Wildlife Area (Fillmore-Lake Area)	Bruce Labar Paul Lehman	4740 Clares St., #C, Capitol 95010 P.O. Box 1061, Goleta 93116	408-476-7583 805-967-2450	Santa Barbara Audubon

Many thanks to Wanda Conway for setting up the directory last year and all those compilers for their cooperation. Phone numbers given are evening homes unless otherwise noted. There are 66 counts listed.

Breakdown by area (very rough):

**GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA:** Claremont, El Dorado, Grass Mountain, Lancaster, Los Angeles, Malibu, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley, San Fernando Valley

**NORTH OF LA - COASTAL & INLAND:** Carizzo Plains, La Purisima, Morro Bay, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria-Guadalupe, Sespe Wildlife Area, (Fillmore/Lake Piru Area), Thousand Oaks, Ventura

**ORANGE COUNTY & SAN DIEGO AREAS:** Anza-Borrego, Cuyamaca, Escondido, La Jolla, Lake Henshaw, Oceanside-Vista-Carlsbad, Orange County-Coastal, Orange County-Northeastern, Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego

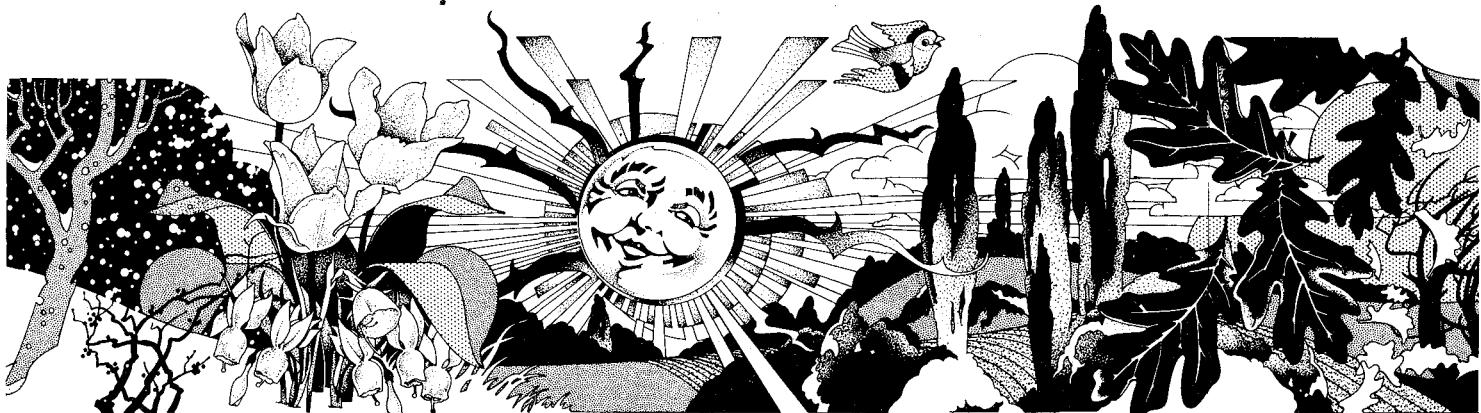
**SAN BERNARDINO, RIVERSIDE & IMPERIAL COUNTIES:** Big Bear Lake, Idylwild, Joshua Tree National Monument, Morongo-Whitewater, Redlands, Salton Sea-North, Salton Sea-South, San Bernardino Valley, San Jacinto Lake, Santa Ana River Valley, Santa Rosa Plateau Preserve

**LOWER SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AREA:** Bakersfield, Butterbreyt Springs, China Lake, Creighton Ranch-Corcoran, Granite-Woody, Kaweah, Kern River Valley, Lost Lake Fresno, Springville

**EASTERN SIERRA AREA:** Bishop, Death Valley, Lone Pine, Mammoth Lakes, Mono Lake

**CENTRAL CALIF AREA:** Los Banos, Monterey, Monterey Bay Pelagic, Moss Landing, Oakland, Point Reyes, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, South Marin, Stockton, Wallace-Bellota, Yosemite

*Compiled by Liga Auzins*



# Zen and the Malibu Christmas Count:

(or The Annual Appeal to Attract Avian Admirers for the Active Advocacy of Avifauna)

by Liga Auzins

It's that time of year again, the Malibu Christmas Bird Count, on December 20, a time to celebrate in your own backyard (relatively speaking). Most (sub)urbanites strive to find a balance in their lives. To that end I'd like to quote two verses of 1975 Pulitzer Prize poet Gary Snyder's poem "Marin-an", as published in the *The Back Country*.

distant dogs bark, a pair of  
cawing crows; the twang  
of a pygmy nuthatch high on a pine  
from behind the cypress window  
the mare moves up, grazing

a soft continuous roar  
comes out of the far valley  
of the six lane highway—thousands  
and thousands of cars  
driving men to work

So here's an invitation to the first part of the poem. We all need it.

Remember the tree (bird) falling (singing) in the woods? If you are not there to hear it -- does it make a sound? -- Okay, one more -- Henry Thoreau could have been referring to bird counts when he wrote

"If by watching all day and all night I  
may detect some trace of the Ineffable,  
then will it not be worth the while to  
watch?"

The count is a great framework for seeing and making real one's environment and its importance while helping to keep our lives in balance.

Incidentally, Los Angeles Audubon will be partially subsidizing the three counts it sponsors, so that the fee payable by each participant will not increase from last year's fee of \$3.00 per person. For the Malibu Count contact:

Liga Auzins  
1246 26th Street A  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
(213) 828-2936

Roger Cobb  
1732 Bryn Mawr  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(213) 396-4160

Good Birding, and See You on December 20!



## Lancaster Christmas Bird Count

Even though Fred Heath has departed to San Diego, he has consented to compile the Lancaster count one last time. This will be your last opportunity to take part in this count with the infamous founder. Rumor has it that he may even participate in the San Diego count next year. The count day for Lancaster is **Saturday, December 19th**. If you have a yen for cold weather, gale force winds and nothing but Horned Larks and Ravens to count, then this is the count for you. If not, the San Diego count is the same day.

If you are into self-torture, call Fred quick at (619) 458-1471 (work) or (619) 484-8709 (home). There may still be room with the sewage pond party (bring real high boots).

## Let's Have a Big L.A. Count

LAAS runs three Christmas counts each year, and the oldest of these is the Los Angeles count. Malibu and Lancaster came later.

Bob Shanman and Ian Austen, co-coordinators of the Los Angeles count this year are expecting big things of the count. There have been excellent sightings this fall. We are optimistically seeking increased numbers and some oddities; and a significant improvement over last year's 120-plus species observed.

All we need for this is lots of our birders to do the job. Register early; call (213) 545-2867. For administrative reasons, sign-ups for this one need to be done by December 20.

# From the Editor

by Larry Steinberg

**T**is (almost) the season to be jolly. Of course, one of the very jolliest things for a birder to do at this Christmas count season is to sign up for and go on a count; or two or three or even four. There are over sixty of them in Southern and Central California, and just about all of them are listed in this issue, complete with dates, phone numbers, and locations.

Elsewhere in this issue Liga Auzins waxes poetic on the values of the Malibu count especially and all counts in general. She is so right. Exhilaration and anticipation prevail when, as Sherlock Holmes remarks, the game's afoot.

The count is many things. Importantly, it is a chance to be outdoors and in the midst of some beautiful country. It is also a chance to exercise one's ingenuity; to be fortunate (or at least honest); to feel all the pleasures of the hunt and yet to harm nothing; and to test oneself moderately against the elements. It even has a modest competitive aspect.

At the same time, it is a way to cooperate with a large number of like-minded people in an amiable manner, and toward a scientific goal. You will be helping to clarify the status and distribution of the local species.

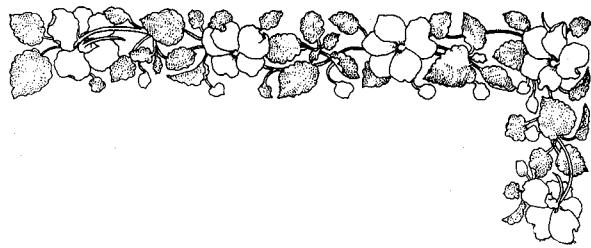
The count also gives the certainty of meeting many old friends, and the possibility of meeting a few new ones: the birds themselves.

So look over the extensive list of counts in this issue. They run for a good many days before Christmas, and even a few days after the holidays are over. Just looking at the names and places will provide a gust of fresh air blowing any possible cobwebs out of a brain that may be a little tired of the city.

Then pick out and make arrangements as to one or as many as you wish of the counts. (We do hope of course that you will include one of our very own Los Angeles, Malibu, or Lancaster counts; but we have warm and cooperative feelings toward all the other counts too.)

You may want to tell the person you speak with how you rate yourself as a birder. Don't be hesitant because your qualifications are moderate. Mine are too; and I've had a great time learning from excellent birders I was paired with. They ranged all the way from locals to one from Colorado, and a great and meticulous birder from Israel.

\* \* \* \* \*



Real gratitude and common decency require a few words about how we got the very fine Christmas count list this time.

It started by my forgetting that something needed to be done about it. I'm new on the job, and did not think about this significant matter until it was almost too late.

I then fortunately recruited the diffident Liga Auzins for the job; and she has been an efficient and pleasant angel of mercy in getting it done in one big hurry.

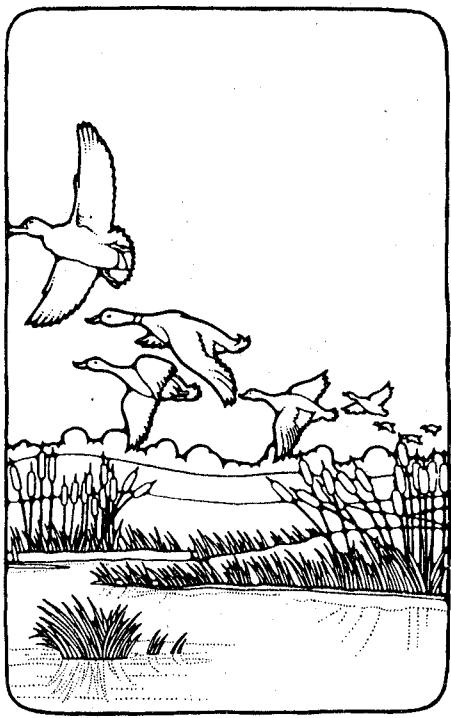
She has been cheerful, uncomplaining, and quick as the dickens. Because of her we have this excellent list, broadening our perspectives and beckoning us toward a whole panorama of exciting counts.

Liga Auzins -- LAAS thanks you; all the local counts thank you; all the individual birders thank you; and I sure add my name to that list.

And let's not forget a real expression of appreciation to Wanda Conway, who did a wonderful and most helpful job on last year's list of counts.

  
Larry Steinberg

10336 Cheviot Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90064



## RESERVATION TRIPS: (Limited Participation)

### RESERVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

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

- (1) Trip desired
- (2) Names of people in your party
- (3) Phone numbers (a) usual and  
(b) evening before event, in case of emergency cancellation
- (4) **Separate check** (no cash please) to LAAS for exact amount for each trip
- (5) **Self-addressed stamped envelope** for confirmation and associated trip information

Send to: Reservations Chairman, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

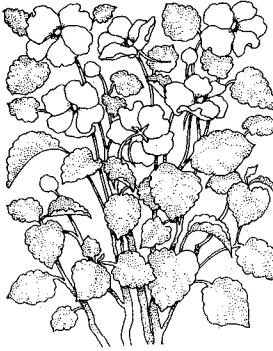
All refundable reservations contracted and then cancelled (except by LAAS) will be charged a \$5 handling fee.

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

If you desire to carpool to an event, Audubon House can provide information for you to make contact and possible arrangements.

**Saturday, January 23** - Spend a morning birding **Pt. Mugu Naval Base**. Shorebirds and other waterfowl will be the highlight with White-faced Ibis a possibility and a chance for rarities in this coastal location. Carpooling on the base required. As the base desires ensured participation, a \$5.00 reservation fee is being charged and will be refunded at the beginning of the trip. (Please . . . no children or cameras. If not a U.S. citizen, give date and place of birth with your reservation.) More info to come . . . call the tape!

**Saturday, February 6 - Salton Sea.** Join **Norm Hogg** of Santa Monica College for a full day of birding on this most popular of annual trips. The enormous variety of waterfowl is the highlight but other possibilities include Sandhill Crane, Mountain Plover, Abert's Towhee and Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Mr. Hogg has done extensive ornithological research at the Salton Sea and has had many birding trips to this area. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Wister Unit turnoff from Hwy 111. Camping is available at Finney-Ramer Lakes for those who wish to spend the night in order to bird on Sunday. Participation is limited to the first 30. Send names and number in part, along with SASE to Reservations Chairperson, c/o Audubon House.



# Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Woblgemuth



**A**t a recent board of directors' meeting of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, one of us, in a plaintive, almost despairing tone, asked, "Maybe I'm being naive, but is there *anything* we can do to stop development?" He went on to express what we all have been keenly aware of: the devastating effect of unimpeded destruction of the natural areas of southern California. We have seen thousands of acres of wetlands disappear before our eyes, replaced by sterile marinas. The magnificent mountains, the unique prize of Los Angeles, are invaded piecemeal or in large chunks by the bulldozers and earthmovers. Idyllic valleys are ruthlessly transformed in months from rolling meadows and gentle hills that made the heart leap with pleasure, into condominiums and commerce. Your escape to Mt. Pinos along Interstate 5 loses some of its pleasant anticipation as you pass the frenzied development at Castaic. When you turn off Mil Potrero Road toward the late, lamented "Condor Sign" you are confronted with miles and miles of Pine Mountain, an exclusive, expensive community carved out of the forest. Traveling north on the Ventura Freeway, you are already faced with the beginning of one continuous city stretching from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara.

Of course our board member's anguished cry encompassed more than a loss of his favorite birding areas. The overdevelopment that has made a vacant lot into a curiosity is not only wiping out open space. It is crowding us in all aspects of our lives. Our sewage system is antiquated and overloaded, and periodically raw waste is discharged into coastal waters. We are

running out of landfills and we either fill up more unspoiled canyons or burn the trash in giant incinerators that release more poisons into our already polluted air. Schools are overcrowded and a great brouhaha is growing about keeping them all open around the calendar. Water becomes more precious as every new home and office building takes its share.

Even the uncommitted citizen who does not bird or hike or ride a bike is becoming aware that he is being hemmed in, that his horizon is narrowing. Proposition U was passed overwhelmingly this year because, in demanding height restrictions on buildings, it promised some relief from the intimidating presence of the tall glass boxes that seem to be springing up like mushrooms close to home. Letters to the editor reflect the unanimous distaste for the mini-malls that have replaced so many of our neighborhood corner gas stations. People complain of the lack of parking, the trash, the unappetizing look of these clusters of shops. In short, there is a frequently unarticulated feeling that the quality of life is deteriorating.

Perhaps the most frustrating, maddening phenomenon that affects us all is traffic. Every new "business park," every new explosion of homes and apartments, brings another swarm of automobiles to clog the freeways and the main surface streets. The enormously expensive subway that is trying to come alive like some somnolent dragon is supposed to solve our traffic problems. So-called light rail lines at street level will reach into the outer suburbs and connect up with the underground, invading quiet residential neighborhoods. No one can predict if this investment of energy and megabucks will wean more than a handful of citizens from their personal freelance wheels.

So how do we answer the cry for solutions? Are there any answers? In an open society can we post guards on the

California border (like the vigilantes during the dust-bowl days of "The Grapes of Wrath" and keep out the present-day affluent "Okies?") In a capitalist society can we tell a landowner that he can't build on his own property? Who makes the zoning laws and how can the average citizen affect them?

The first priority, it seems to me, is to protect what we have. A defensive posture, it is true, but if we fail in this the future is hopeless. Today it seems almost miraculous that the state parks, Topanga, Malibu Creek and Point Mugu, were ever created. These are wonderful natural areas that the State, in an enlightened era, set aside for people to enjoy a genuine outdoor experience: trees and birds and deer and creeks and, above all, real mountains. Environmentalists worked hard to defeat promotions that would have included hotels, motorcycle campgrounds, rifle ranges, motion picture museums, restaurants and all the clutter that characterizes the worst aspects of Yosemite valley. When Malibu Lagoon was threatened with campfire rings and a 400-car parking lot, citizen pressure changed the project to a preserved wetland. Today the struggle continues to create an unencumbered wildlife area in the Sepulveda Basin to provide habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and small mammals.

A determined group, spearheaded by the Oceanic Society, is close to defeating a drive to build a 450-boat marina at 16-acre Ballona Lagoon, a tiny refuge for herons, ducks and shorebirds near Marina del Rey. The importance of an alert electorate is dramatically illustrated in this instance, where Ruth Galanter defeated Pat Russell as councilwoman for the district. Russell was widely perceived as pro-development and her recent loss to Galanter, a dedicated conservationist, was a surprising victory for the environment. (Galanter is now helping with the plan to enhance the lagoon.) On the same note, Nate Holden (another newly elected councilman) opposed the long-fought attempt of Occidental Petroleum to drill for oil in Pacific Palisades. As Rob Glushon pointed out in a recent Op/Ed column in the LA Times, he was elected not as a candidate of elitist residents of the Westside but by "ethnic minorities, middle-class and lower-income residents who were fed up with development and zoning decisions that adversely affected their neighborhoods and quality of life...Holden emphasized that poor people are also entitled to clean beaches."

An important attempt to control runaway development is the movement in many towns and cities to put limits on inordinate growth. In July, San Diego became the largest city in the nation to attempt to control its own growth. The City Council passed the Interim Development Ordinance which gave the city the power to set an annual limit on the number of residen-



tial building permits issued. This is a significant effort to counteract the worship of Progress, the sacred litany that Bigger Is Better. In California, for the last forty years we have been the beneficiaries (or is it victims?) of an unbroken wave of immigrants from other parts of the country. This has been a windfall for the economy, bringing new business, new jobs, bigger payrolls and bank accounts. But the elements that have been the lure for all those millions -- the climate, good schools and colleges, the beaches and the mountains, the casual lifestyle -- are fast disappearing. Some of us may be wondering if we shouldn't have stayed in West Podunk. (You're right: the climate hasn't changed much but air pollution has more than compensated for it.) Opponents of limits to growth argue that stopping development will slow the economy, increase labor costs and send housing prices into the stratosphere. Housing already seems to be close to that ceiling which is one reason many people who work in Los Angeles are moving to Oxnard and Palmdale and commuting. It has been noted that Eastern communities that have not experienced our extraordinary growth are surviving well without the crushing burden of enormous housing costs.

Do we lay our problems at the door of that old bugaboo of the twentieth century -- population? There's no question that it's a great factor. This is a vast country but the people aren't spread out very evenly. Of necessity we congregate where the jobs and the amenities are. Overpopulation is a global dilemma which sooner or later must be resolved. Do we wait for the Chinese solution (2, or is it 1 1/2, children?) or do we wake up and handle it without compulsion?

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to limiting growth is money. Limitless growth is the credo of the disciples of progress. Our system of private property guarantees a wrenching conflict between the powerful drive for profit and the public welfare. The developers have clear goals and the resources and the motivation to press strongly to achieve them. The public is large and diffused and may not always know what it wants or what to do about it. It depends on a few dedicated, active groups that seem always to be fighting a rear-guard action to prevent something: the destruction of a canyon, a marsh, a grove of ancient oaks. The developers are firm believers in Jesse Unruh's axiom, "Money is the mother's milk of politics." And politics is where the action is. Somehow it is not considered poor taste or even unethical for a commercial interest to contribute to the campaign fund of an elected official. We are not surprised then when a vote here or a zone change there enhances the fortunes of the donor who (like you) is only exercising his right to support the candidate of his choice.

So what is the answer to our board member's question? It's a tough world and the cards are stacked against us. So is history. The environmental movement only goes back to "The Silent Spring," a mere generation ago; the Biblical mandate that man was created to have dominion over the earth and all the creatures in it is somewhat older and by now may be lodged in the very marrow of our bones. The creation of Marina del Rey in the 50s destroyed 2000 acres of magnificent wetlands with hardly a whimper from the public. Would that be possible today? There would be a big fight and a lawsuit and editorials and maybe picket lines, but who would prevail? It might be a toss-up.

Oh for a magic wand or an IQ of 198!! I have no neat answers, only suggestions:

1. Do everything possible to save what is left of our mountains, wetlands, open space. Write letters. Contribute money if you can. Get involved; don't expect George to do it all.
2. Find out how your senator, representative, supervisor, councilman feels out your priorities and let him know how *you* feel. For those of us to whom letters are an intimidating chore, grab your phone and call. They all have local offices and they live and die by your opinion. It's hard to believe, but they truly want to know what you think. How else *can* they know? How can they know how many environmentally sensitive voters are in their bailiwicks if they aren't told?
3. There are other ways to use your vote. The state parks we admired were not free public land, they were bought from private owners. Vote for the bond issues that provide the money. If there is a petition to put an initiative on the ballot for park land, sign it and get others to sign it. And finally, in primaries and elections for the presidency the promises and environmental track records of candidates are fair game for the voter. The outcome of the election will determine the overall state of *your* environment for the next four years.

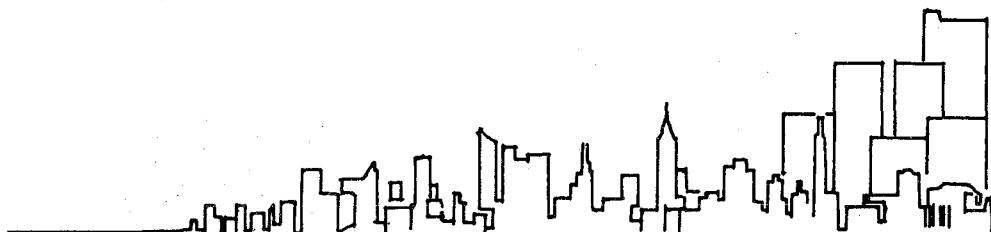
In a tough world it's easy to despair. Don't do it. Every opinion poll demonstrates that the American people want a better quality of life. Clean air and water, elbow room and the preservation of nature makes up a large portion of that good life. The victory of Ruth Galanter and the passage of Proposition U tell us that there is hope and that we are not alone. Those who are most aware must lead the way.

#### Nota Bene

Readers may recall the adventurous hike down the Santa Clara River described on this page in the September 1987 Tanager. A recent letter from Dan Guthrie, president and moving spirit of the Pomona Valley Audubon Society, reveals some exciting news. Dan is a biologist, teaching at the Claremont Colleges, and has been doing an environmental analysis for the Newhall Land Company which owns most of the land along the river and is developing much of the surrounding land. He reports that last summer he found a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and four (count 'em - four) singing Least Bell's Vireos!

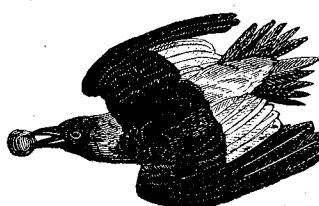
Possibly the intrepid voyagers involved in the Tanager article were too busy keeping their balance in the rushing waters to notice the birds they really hadn't expected to find. There was nothing wrong with their sense of smell, however, as he points out that the septic tank odor we noticed "may have been because a water treatment plant near Magic Mountain dumps its effluent into the river." (Alas!)

He ends on a upbeat note. "We are hoping that the river can be saved from the usual concrete channelization, which has already started in some upstream sections, and be instead preserved in its natural state as a wildlife area. The presence of the vireo and the resultant laws makes this a possibility. At any rate, I thought you would like to know that a few rare and endangered species do live there and that the area has a great potential for a riparian park."



# Birds of the Season

by Kimball L. Garrett



**A**lthough few observers appeared to be impressed with the magnitude of migration through the region, this was one of the busiest autumns in recent memory for rarities. October is traditionally the month in which the whirlwind of fall rare bird sightings reaches peak proportions, and this year was no exception. As usual, this report can only touch on a few selected highlights, and the reader is referred to the fall season report in *American Birds* for a more complete picture.

The status of two species in California must be reassessed after the events of this fall. The occurrence of at least three **Red-footed Boobies** on the central coast suggests that this abundant and widespread tropical seabird might occasionally reach the region in numbers as a result of certain oceanographic/ecological conditions (the exact nature of which remain unclear to us). After last August's bird just down the coast from San Francisco, additional birds occurred in October in Monterey Bay and San Francisco Bay. And then, a rather routine L.A.A.S. pelagic trip on 11 October picked up dramatically with the appearance of southern California's second (and first well-documented) Red-footed Booby a couple of miles off Santa Barbara (Kimball Garrett, Dan Guthrie, Arnold Small, *et al.*). The bird, an immature, was seen again as the Vantuna left the vicinity of Santa Barbara Island, and was quite likely roosting on the island.

The second species whose status in California might require rethinking is the **Ruddy Ground-Dove**. The first record, a November bird in Fillmore years ago, was dismissed rather readily as an escapee. But subsequent sightings on the eastern deserts at Iron Mountain Pump Station (different individuals in two consecutive years) and Tecopa, along with several recent fall records elsewhere in the southwest, set the stage for two widely seen birds this fall. The first, a female at Tecopa, (mentioned in last month's *Tanager*), was followed by a male present at Furnace Creek Ranch from 16 October to at least 8 November (Jon Dunn *et al.*). There is now a clear pattern of fall records in the southwestern United States, and it now seems likely that this Neotropical species might be reaching the region on its own.

Little beyond what has been described on the last two *Tanagers* has developed regarding this fall's "invasion" of montane species. **Pygmy Nuthatches** finally made it to Orange County (with a sighting in the Tustin area in early November), but sightings elsewhere leveled off. Scattered new reports of **Mountain Chickadees**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and **Pinyon Jays** were received; perhaps most interesting was Rob Hofberg's report of a White-breasted Nuthatch working the trunks of palm trees in Santa Monica on 4 October.

Three **Greater White-fronted Geese** stopped by Malibu Lagoon on 6 October (Liga Auzins). The only local **Broad-winged Hawk** report was an immature sitting on wires in Monte Nido, just east of Tapia Park, on 7 November (Kimball Garrett). Among the **American Coots** wintering at Malibu Lagoon after early October has been an odd leucistic individual which is largely white on the underparts and sides (Don Galli). Shorebird reports diminished in predictable fashion after September, but a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was seen by many at the Santa Clara River Estuary 4-7 October (Herb and Olga Clarke). A count of 39 **Snowy Plovers** at Malibu Lagoon on 12 October (Kimball Garrett) was one of the highest in recent years. Jonathan Alderfer found a **Short-eared Owl** in the Ballona Wetlands on 5 October; this species now occurs only rarely at this locality. The oddest owl report was of a bird judged to be a **Spotted Owl** roosting outside the Los Angeles County

Courthouse in downtown on 27 October (Ron Smith); this is completely outside breeding habitat, but judicious searching might certainly reveal further extralimital records of this species. An out-of-range **Acorn Woodpecker** was flycatching around Long Beach Harbor on 16 October (Stu Warter).

The only **Tropical Kingbird** found within L.A. County this fall was one around the ponds on the Pepperdine Campus in Malibu for several days after 15 October (Kimball Garrett). One of the few **Gray Catbirds** ever recorded within the county was in a patch of shrubs in a quarry off Forestall Road, Palos Verdes Peninsula, after 16 October (Richard Hubacek). Another catbird was at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley 7-8 November. A **Red-throated Pipit** was in the sod fields along Las Posas Road after 11 October (Jim Royer). **Phainopepla** distribution remains imperfectly known, and the species is rather erratic in number and locality through the fall and winter months; we add to the record, therefore, the sighting of ten birds in Highland Park, north of downtown Los Angeles, on 14 October (Robert Fischer).

Warblers were far too numerous to allow us to cite all of the records of the rarer species during October. From the following the reader might at least get a taste of the activity recorded through the fall. Among the **Tennessee Warblers** found locally were birds in Exposition Park 9-23 October (Kimball Garrett), and in La Canada on 12 October (Gayle Benton). Two **Northern Parulas** were in Tapia Park on 4 October (Abigail King), with at least one present on

Red-throated Pipit — Illustration by Lee Jones  
from *Birds of Southern California*



Blackpoll Warbler — Illustration by Lee Jones  
from *Birds of Southern California*



the next day. This was a bumper year for **Black-throated Blue Warblers** (but, typically, no reports were received from Los Angeles County); perhaps the most widely seen individual was the male at Big Sycamore Canyon 2-5 October. A **Magnolia Warbler** was found in a group of silver maples on the Pierce College Campus 4-8 October (Ted Kinchloe). Several **Black-throated Green Warblers** were reported, including a tailless bird at Mesquite Spring, Death Valley, 16 October to 1 November (Jon Dunn, Robert Potvliege). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was at Harbor Lake on 25 October (Don Sterba). A **Prairie Warbler** was in Carr Park, Orange County, 8-11 October (Doug Willick). Nearby, a **Worm-eating Warbler** was present at Huntington Beach Central Park for an extended period in late October. An **Ovenbird** was at Big Sycamore Canyon 6-7 October.

**Vesper Sparrows** are scarce near the coast; one was at Harbor Lake on 18 October (Don Sterba), and another was at Malibu Creek State Park on 7 November (Kimball Garrett). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** in the Rose Garden at Exposition Park on 5 November was a first for the park, and obligingly remained for the Second Annual Dick Davenport Memorial Bird Walk the next day (Kimball Garrett). **Bobolinks** were seen in small numbers along the coast, such as near the Ventura harbor, but there were typically few records from the interior. Of interest, therefore, was Leo Best's sighting of one at the Santa Fe Dam on 12 October. Leo also saw a **Great-tailed Grackle** there on 24 October. Joanne Getze hit the jackpot with **Orioles** at the

Huntington Library gardens in San Marino on 29 September; a male **Scott's** and a male **"Baltimore."**

I won't mince words. Everybody who reads this should be prepared to add to the body of ornithological knowledge by participating in this month's Christmas Bird Counts. These massive undertakings require mass participation, and the data they generate are most useful when coverage is thorough. And, as we have often pointed out in the December "Birds of the Season," be prepared to help count compilers by scouting out portions of the Christmas Count circles, working out access and coverage strategies and pinning down concentrations of birds. I'm looking forward to reporting some results of these counts in upcoming issues of the *Tanager*.

Send any interesting bird observations 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.

## Last Call for LAAS Shirts

The Los Angeles Audubon Society sweatshirts and T-shirts are almost gone.

The price of sweatshirts is being reduced to \$10.00, and the T-shirts are being reduced to \$5.00. Buy them now at our bookstore. There are only a few left.

**EDITOR** Larry Steinberg

**TYPESETTING** Etcetera Graphics

**PRINTING** Beacon Litho

**CONSERVATION EDITOR** Sandy Wohlgemuth

**ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT** Kimball Garrett

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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. 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

December 1987

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

**Tuesday, December 8 - Harriet Kolfak** will present **Southwestern "Fowles" and Who Identified Them**, a program of historical sketches and anecdotes about some of the early naturalists who traveled and studied in the American Southwest. Ever since birds were first identified in this country in 1540 by the Coronado Expedition to New Mexico, the uniqueness of the Southwest has attracted naturalists. Harriett has just completed a biography of one of them, Florence Merriam Bailey, titled *Let Us Raise Our Eyes*, which Texas A&M University Press will publish next year. Mrs. Bailey wrote the monumental *The Birds of New Mexico*, the first state book of birds in the Western U.S., and her *Handbook of Birds of the Western U.S.* influenced Roger Tory Peterson to develop his field guides. Men like Charles Bendire (Bendire's Thrasher) and Elliot Coues (Coues' Flycatcher, now Greater Pewee) roamed the Southwest in search of birds when it was still disputed Indian territory. Please join us for an evening of entertaining history about the men and women naturalists of the early Southwest.



Florence Merriam Bailey, popular writer of bird books early in this century, "on location" in the wintry Arizona mountains, 1920's.

**Tuesday, January 12, - Annual Members' Photo Contest.** Bring your three best bird slides to be judged by the experts(??). The three winners will receive bookstore prizes. Bring your slides by 7:30 p.m. You must be present to enter. This annual event has proven to be one of the most popular programs of the year. Cheer your favorites, boo the judges.

**Tuesday, February 9 - Annual Banquet**, to be held again this year at the Fish Shanty on La Cienega, cost approximately \$20.00. Speaker and details to be announced in the next issue of the *Tanager*. Mark your calendar.

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

**Thursday, December 8 - Christmas Count Bird Quiz.** This quiz will consist of twenty mystery birds (from easy to not-so-easy) that have been recorded on Southern California Christmas Counts sponsored by the Los Angeles Audubon Society (Los Angeles, Malibu and Antelope Valley Counts). The winner will receive an early Christmas present from the bookstore; losers can sign up for any of the above Christmas Counts.



Photo by Jonathan Alderfer

Christmas Count Mystery Bird

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

## 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, December 6** - 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.

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**Saturday, December 12** - Join **Bob Shanman** for a morning at the unique **Ballona Wetland**. 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, December 12** - 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 a.m.

**Sunday, December 13 - 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.

**Saturday, January 9 - Ballona Wetlands** with **Bob Shanman**. See December 11 for details.

**Sunday, January 10 - Topanga State Park** with **Gerry Haigh**. See December 6 for details.

**Saturday, January 16 - David White at Whittier Narrows Regional Park.** See December 13 for details.

**Saturday, March 12 - Bolsa Chica.** "Expect the unexpected" while viewing shorebirds, ducks, gulls, terns, raptors during a morning walk. Leader **Loren Hays** says even Peregrine Falcon and No. Fulmar have been seen there. Take the Seal Beach Blvd. exit from the Hwy 405 to Coast Hwy, then South to marked parking lot across from State Beach, between Golden West and Warner. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Bring scopes and lunch.

Announcements continued on page 7.