



# WESTERN TANAGER

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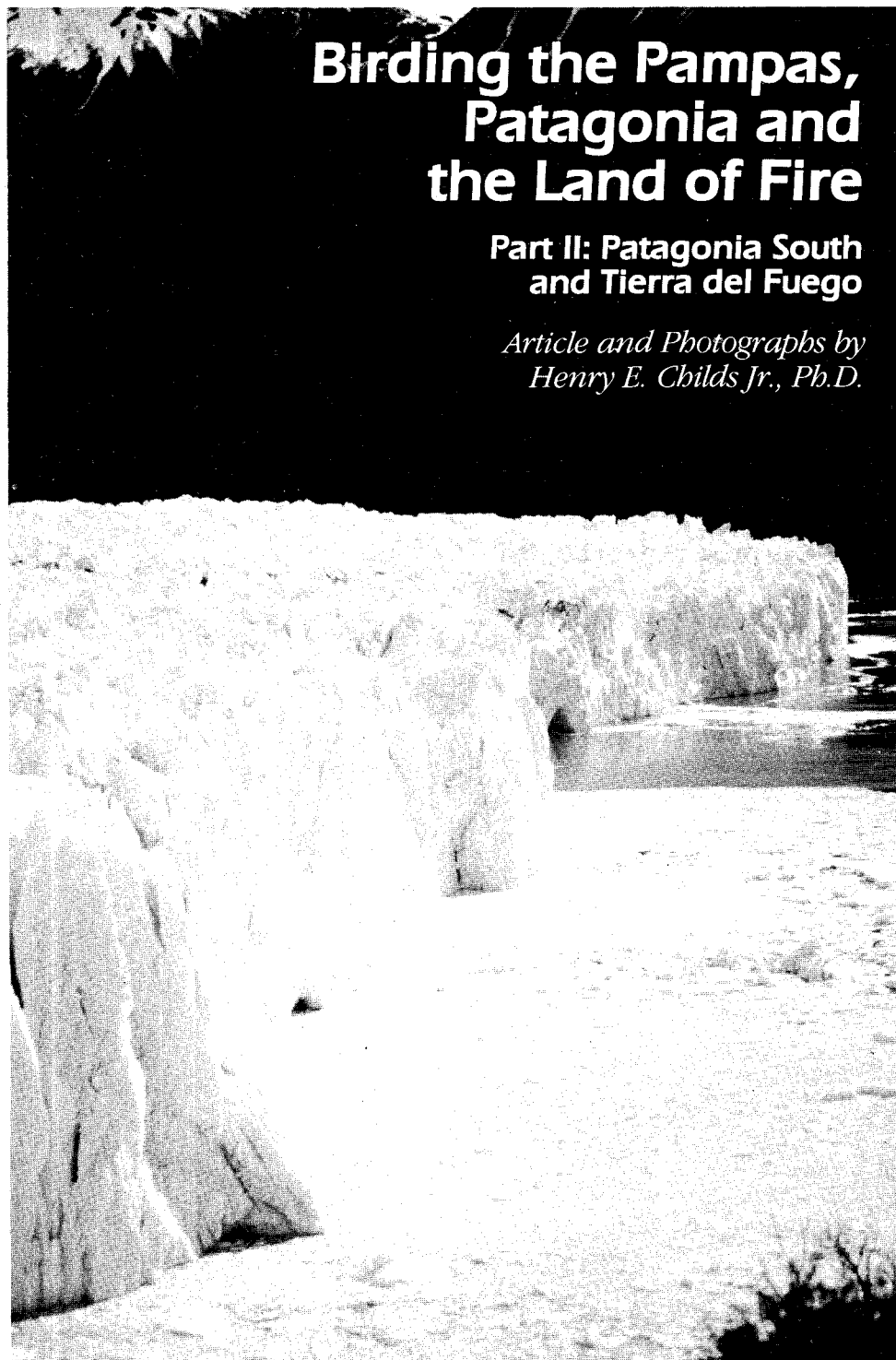
May 1988

The Glacier

## Birding the Pampas, Patagonia and the Land of Fire

### Part II: Patagonia South and Tierra del Fuego

*Article and Photographs by  
Henry E. Childs Jr., Ph.D.*



#### Calafate and the Glaciers

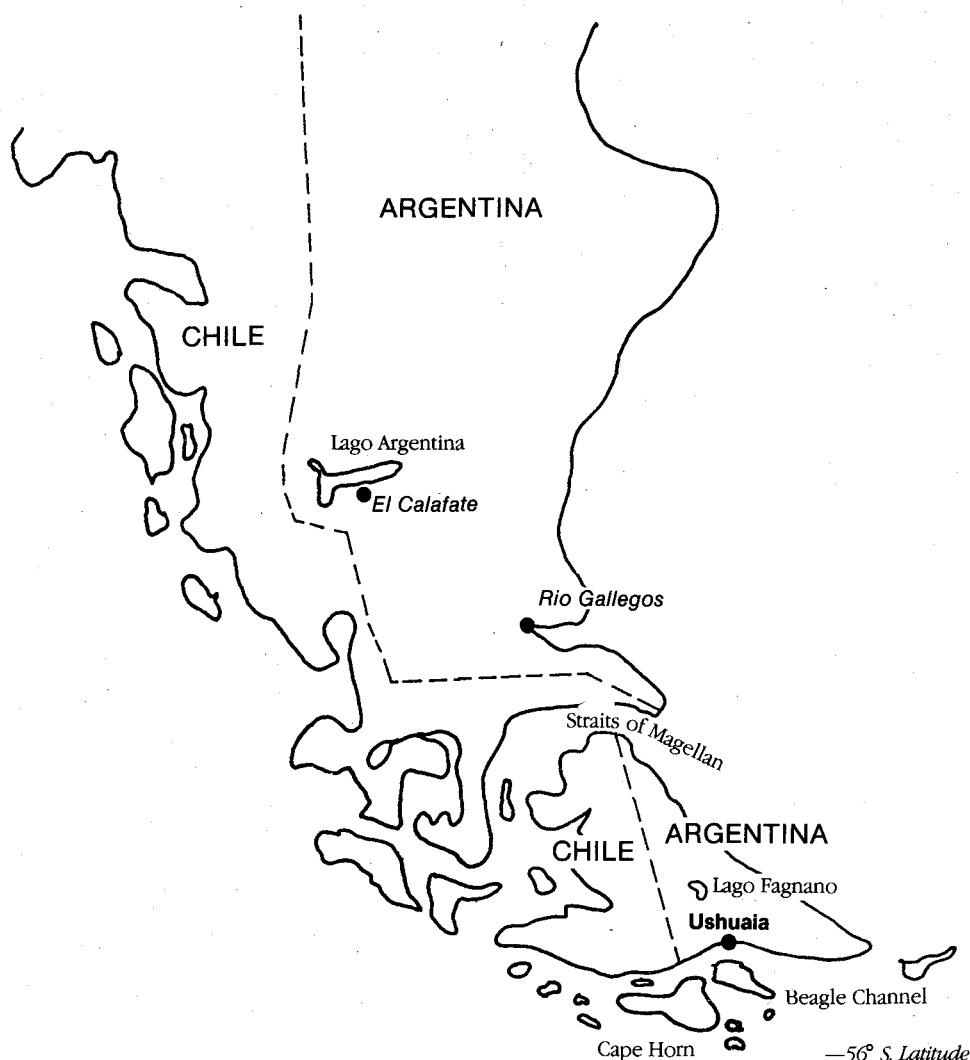
**F**rom Rio Gallegos (pronounced ga jay gos) in Santa Cruz Province, it was a long 210 miles of all weather gravel road to Calafate to the west in the foothills of the Andes. We are now at 52 degrees south. Spring has not sprung much yet. It is a cold and windy place. Vegetation is limited to short grasses and some herbs. Small shrubs are infrequent. We progressed from sea level slowly over brown, rolling hills to 3000ft. before dropping down to 600ft. around Lago Argentina, a lake over 100 miles in length, and into Calafate.

Along the road we picked up the Chocolate-vented Ground Tyrant, Tawny-breasted Dotterel, and Least Seedsnipe. At Laguna Escarchados, which, I believe, is the type locality for the Hooded Grebe (BVD = better view desired), Flying Steamer Duck, Red-gartered Coot, Two-banded and Magellanic Plovers and Baird's Sandpiper, but not the exquisite bird we desired. However, on our return trip three days later, there were 5 pairs of them, the wind was down and the world was a beautiful place. Incidentally, this grebe feeds on small snails which occur in these barren, rocky lakes. Only 1000 individuals make up its total population.

The next day we proceeded to the Parque Nacional Los Glaciares. Enroute we observed Gray-hooded Sierra Finch, Austral Blackbird, Fire-eyed Diucon (a tyrannid), Rufous-tailed Plantcutter (one of 3 species in the family Phytotomidae), and Chilean Flicker. One field had hundreds of Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrants feeding like a flock of robins in migration, on the ground. Overhead were a dozen Andean Condors.

My seat in the back of the bus was no mistake. It's higher. I get the best view and I can usually get out the front door first if there is a good bird to see. Yet, I was surprised when my screams brought the bus to a stop as TWO Andean Condors flew off from a carcass 100 ft. from the road! One dropped down again close enough so it looks like more than a spot on the slide. Steve Hilty said it was the best view of this condor he had had in 20 years of birding in South America. Wow!

In the Parque and at the point where the Andes really starts to ascend, we found the



**Fig. 2** Southern Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego

glacier's foot at 600 feet and dividing the lake into two parts. The montane scenery is as spectacular as any I've seen in Alaska and other parts of North America. We could see snow covered mountains in Chile. Great views of Austral Parakeets and of an Austral Pigmy Owl made our day as we returned to Calafate.

#### **TIERRA DEL FUEGO-Land of Fire.**

Just for the record the "land of fire" does not refer to volcanoes, a popular misconception. It apparently refers to the fires which the native Indians used, and rightly so, to keep warm. Tierra del Fuego is Isla Grande is a land of snow-covered peaks and glaciers.

Tierra del Fuego enjoys territorial status and consists of a group of islands separated from mainland Argentina and Chile by the Straits of Magellan. The largest and most populated of them is Isla Grande, more than half of which belongs to Chile.

Ecologically, it is divided into three vegetational zones. The northern, and lowest in elevation, is the steppe type of grassland which is extensively used for sheep grazing. At slightly higher elevations

is found a deciduous beech zone. Above that, a thick evergreen beech forest exists. Our trip south to Ushuaia of 120 miles took us through all three of these distinctive habitats.

#### **Rio Grande-South.**

Shortly after departure from Rio Gallegos we passed over the entrance to the Straits of Magellan. The wide bay narrowed down considerably as the eastern entrance was approached and one could easily see the problems that sailing vessels had in the bad old days getting through the narrows. The alternative was to go around the "horn," a trip that resulted in the death of five million people in the 1800's.

Scattered throughout the bay were oil platforms like those that have made the seascape of Santa Barbara so beautiful. We also saw the reason for the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands war.

All Argentine maps show the Falklands as property of Argentina! The islands are located 450 miles, almost directly east on the continental shelf, apparently rich in oil. Natural gas is piped all the way to Buenos Aires from this area. Observation on the plane: a baby bottle filled with Coca Cola!

An overnight in Rio Grande (population estimated at over 20,000) on Isla Grande provided us with the opportunity to bird that area before driving south. Enroute to the hotel from the airport we had seen Upland (Magellan) Geese, the first of 4 species of sheldgeese for the trip. Just north of town many of them were found, along with Ashy-headed Geese, all recently arrived from the north. Diligent search finally located the rarest, and practically

Ushuaia



extinct, Ruddy-headed Goose. The story behind the decline of this Ruddy-headed Goose is one that could be repeated for many species in many places - the stupidity of Man.

First, they needed hares for hunting. So import some European Hares. They breed like rabbits! and start competing with the sheep. So import the Patagonian Fox. It does a great job and gets rid of the hares. It has to eat, so what's next? Ruddy-headed Geese; they nest in the grasslands. Twenty years ago, there were over 20,000 Ruddy-headed Geese. There are now less than 100.

The foxes have no effect on the Upland Geese as they nest in the uplands where no self-respecting fox would ever go. Nothing is being done to exterminate foxes. So, the Ruddy-headed Goose is doomed to extinction.

Driving through the coastal steppe country we found the Magellanic and Two-banded Plovers and the Rufous-chested Dotterel. Certainly, a blessing of plovers. Magellanic Oystercatchers were regular and a very nice bird to add to the lifelist. A few Cinnamon-bellied Ground Tyrants and Least Seedsnipes were seen. Our old friends, the Rufous-backed Negrito, was always with us in the lowlands. Chilean Swallows were seen feeding over the ponds very close to the surface. It was reported by Maurice that they actually feed on insects at a head's length under water!

Our lunch at Kaiken, an Argentine Auto Club restaurant and fueling stop, (there were no others), on the large Lago Fagnano. Soon, we had found the Andean Tapaculo, the Austral Thrush and the Patagonian Sierra-Finch. The snow-covered pass was about 2000ft. with the peaks



Andean Pigmy Owl

another 2500ft. above us. This east-west range was the southern end of the Andes. We were above the evergreen forest. Ushuaia and the Beagle Channel appeared ahead. We really were in Darwin country.

#### **Ushuaia. The End of The Hemisphere.**

Ushuaia, pronounced "u shwhy a," is a city of 15,000 inhabitants with several hotels of good size, restaurants and shops. Our hotel, the Albatross (isn't that great?) was five floors high and on the waterfront. A sign said we were 3000 miles, actually 5200 km., south of Bolivia. We were at the end of civilization in the western hemisphere but not without the amenities. As it

is a free port, Heineken was as cheap as local cerveza. Film, and more importantly camera batteries, were available.

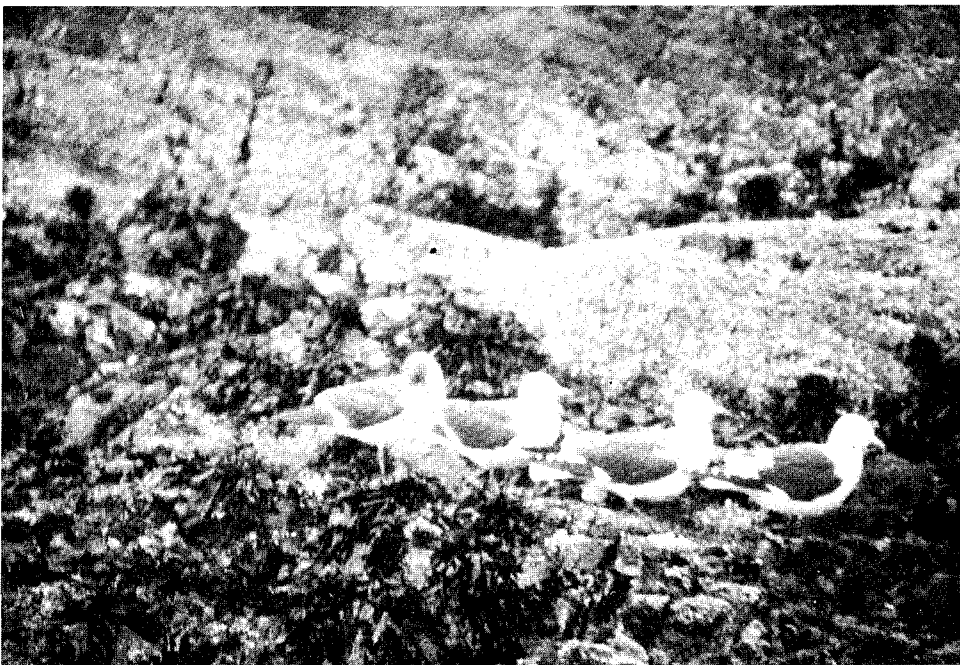
While waiting for the boat for our trip out on the Beagle Channel, Dolphin Gulls, Flightless Steamer Ducks and King Cormorants amused us at close range. Alongshore from the boat were seen the pure white male Kelp Sheldgoose, the forth species in this group. Magellanic Diving Petrels, Chilean Skuas, and Black-browed Albatross were seen over the channel. On the islands were colonies of Southern Fur Seals, Blue-eyes and Imperial races of the King Cormorant, Snowy Sheathbills and even a Dark-bellied Chinclodes. The surrounding snow-covered mountains made this a scene long to be remembered.

After lunch, a visit to the Parque Nacional located in dense evergreen beech forest provided few birds but the species were terrific: Thorn-tailed Rayadito that looked and acted like a Kinglet; the White-throated Treerunner, both furniids, that has creeper habits and the magnificent Magellanic Woodpecker, a hard bird to find. Mingo, our local guide, had a hardwood woodpecker caller that he banged periodically on a tree trunk. I could hardly believe it when the woodpecker finally responded to the thunks.

As grazing was allowed in this national park, Mingo pointed out to us the "cow bonzais", a miniature result of cattle grazing shrubs normally reaching 15 ft. but kept at less than two feet by their activities.

We had come to, experienced, and enjoyed the land so graphically described by Charles Darwin in "The Voyage of the Beagle" published first in 1845 and upon which much of the observations on the flora and fauna, which led to the present understanding of an evolving world, were

Dolphin Gulls



made. For me, the trip filled in, at long last, the exploration of the western hemisphere that started in 1951 with research on Arctic birds at Point Barrow, Alaska.

### Discussion.

The trip list for the Iguacu and the main portion of the trip was 349. The total trip cost was approximately \$4500. That calculates at \$12.89 per species seen. That is pretty expensive for a House Sparrow but how much is a crippling view of a Magellanic Penguin worth? A Many-colored Rush Tyrant? A Hooded Grebe? A par five at Mauna Kea on the Big Island? I'll take birding and its relative small costs for hobby anyway!

Another way of analyzing the birds seen is by family. 67 families of birds were recorded of which 44 were non-passerines and 23 were passerines. Three families were new to me: the seedsnipes in the family *Thinocoridae* and the sheathbills in the family *Chionidae*, both in the order *Charadriiformes*, and the plantcutters in the family *Phytotomidae*, a *Passeriforme* family. None of these three families occur north of Ecuador. 17 of the families seen do not occur north of the Mexican border.

The non-passerine families with the largest number of species seen were the *Anatidae* with 27, the *Scolopacidae* with 13, almost all North American migrants, and the *Picidae* with 11.

The largest passerine families seen were the *Tyrannidae* with 48 species, the *Furnariidae* with 27, the *Fringillidae* with 23, the *Icteridae* with 14 and the *Thraupidae* with 13, the latter two now considered sub-families in the *Emberizidae*.

Most impressive was the number and variety of tyrant flycatchers. The evolution of behaviors seen in other groups in the United States by these flycatchers was most interesting. The adoption of ground feeding habits by the ground tyrants and the Rufous-backed Negrito as a result of high winds, and apparently few flying insects in Patagonia; the warbler-like behavior of the tiny tyrannulets; and the yellowthroat-like behavior of the Many-colored Rush Tyrant, all gave credence to the evolutionary principle of adaptive radiation.

In the *Furnariidae* the creeper habits of the White-throated Treerunner produced a bird comparable to the other "creepers;" the woodcreepers of the *Dendrocolaptidae* and the familiar Brown Creeper of *Phinocryptidae*, looked like the spectacular fairy wrens, family *Musciapidae*, of Australia. Darwin, by the way, named this group and the name has an interesting derivation. Look it up.

Finally, the beautiful, snail-eating Hooded Grebes living in those bare, wretched ponds in the Andean foothills will make this trip last in memory for a life time.

Please feel free to contact me at 1875 N. First Ave. Upland, Ca 91786 if I can assist you in a similar experience. Good birding.



Ashy-headed Geese



Black-chested Hawk-eagle



Red-gartered Coot



King Cormorants



# Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Woblgemuth



**H**ow often has the average Audubon member picked up the *Tanager* or Audubon magazine or some other environmental publication, read a thoroughly depressing item, and asked himself, "What good will this article do, anyhow?" It may be well-written and give all the facts about a serious assault on nature by man's ignorance, stupidity or greed. It may make him mad: some idiot has cut off the beaks of pelicans that were eating his bait. It may horrify him: Chernobyl irradiated most of eastern Europe and destroyed crops for hundreds of square miles; Bhopal killed over 2000 people. It may even arouse him to write a letter to the authorities or the newspapers: a way to work off steam in the faint hope that "somebody will do something about it."

Reading the environmental press, many of us have wondered if anyone else was listening. Have we just been preaching to the converted? But a change seems to have been taking place in recent times. The press has discovered the environment! The *daily* press, the newspaper that covers the latest thing in gangs and politics and ladies' underwear, that has a sport section, a theater section, comic section, an astrology column, a sob-sister column. Almost overnight the environment has become newsworthy.

I read the Los Angeles Times so I'm not aware of the coverage of other competing papers; there simply isn't enough time in 24 hours to read even one. There are days when I'm lucky to read "Calvin and Hobbs," much less Jack Smith. But I have been astonished at some of the terrific special articles and even series on problems of the environment. Some of these have dealt with toxics, acid rain, earthquakes and the ozone layer. The recent (April 11th) article on tropical forests was a humdinger. It was written from Thailand where an international conference on tropical rain forests was being held under the auspices of the World Health Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund. Top-drawerr stuff, with the world's finest botanists and conservationists trying to decide how to save the world.

The piece was mainly involved with useful drugs obtained from natural sources in the tropical forests and the concern that destruction of this habitat would not only eliminate plants already known but lose for all time those yet to be discovered. Environmentalists have mentioned the potential loss of life-saving drugs for years,

but never with the depth of this article. The emphasis has more frequently been on the wildlife values (the effect on "our" migrant birds), the loss of a unique habitat, the possible climatic changes, the decrease in the amount of oxygen given off by this enormous biomass. There has been discussion of the population pressure that forces hungry farmers to slash and burn the forests so they may plant corn and beans that will last only a year or two before the thin topsoil runs out of nutrients.

The article raises a point I had never encountered before: the shamans, the native medicine men who have a vast acquaintance with the properties of the local plants, are dying out. Mark Plotkin, an ethnobotanist with the Harvard Botanical Museum, says he has never seen a shaman with an apprentice. "The oral traditions of these medicine men are not being passed on. When a shaman dies it's like a library being burned." One scientific researcher is quoted as saying, "Although some skeptics regard such uses as mere 'old wives' tales,' the fact remains that many important modern plant drugs have been discovered by following leads from folk uses." Illustrating the impact of modern pressures on tribal cultures is the story of the scientist in the Amazon who asked a medicine man what he would



prescribe for a headache. "Take an aspirin," was the answer. (We aren't told whether the shaman finished the cliché with "Call me in the morning.")

The Times article was only half a page long yet it gave some solid information. Between 1940 and 1980 it is estimated that 40% of rain forests disappeared, Tropical rain forests contain 120,000 plant species and make up 7% of the land surface of the earth. "According to the World Health Organization at least 75% of the world's population relies on plant-based traditional medicine for primary health care." And so on.

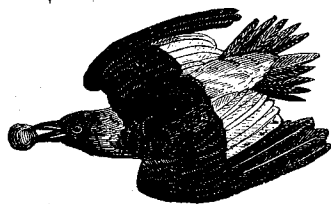
This is great stuff — up-to-the-minute, accurate, and dramatically told. The best part of it all is that it was not in the *Wilderness Society* quarterly or the *Scientific American* but in a daily newspaper with a big circulation. I have no data but I'm willing to bet that many of the best papers around the country are doing pretty much the same thing. I do know (thanks to Jim Halferty) that the prestigious *Christian Science Monitor* runs impressive environmental features regularly.

The point is, the word is getting out. And getting out to a new audience that may not have heard the message before. How come? Have we reached a new level of media responsibility? Are newspaper editors taking our anguished cries seriously at last? Are they themselves a little scared? Is it suddenly fashionable to be concerned? Perhaps it's *news*! Perhaps the powers that be have discovered that the great, amorphous public is not so dumb after all. Only a small porportion of readers of the April 11th Times probably read the story about tropical rain forests. But in a general way, most of us feel that all is not well. Even if we only read the headlines we know about Chernobyl, and Three-Mile Island, sewage in Santa Monica Bay, freeway gridlock and smog, maybe even asbestos. After all, the voters in California passed Proposition 65 overwhelmingly, telling the government they'd had it with toxic substances. And there's powerful opposition to the Governor's attempt to limit the number of poisons examined. Several thousand people demonstrated recently against opening the Rancho Seco nuclear plant, built on an earthquake fault and conceivable lethal to millions of citizens. Cartoonists had a field day when Secretary of the Interior Hodel belittled the ozone layer fears by saying that dark glasses and a little suntan lotion would solve everything.

So perhaps the newspapers have discovered that the man-in-the-street *does* give a damn. That he is a force to be reckoned with. That the environment really *is* news. And the slumbering giant of the public may be waking with a force that will move the reluctant political system to a new awareness that something better be done — and soon — to restore the health of Planet Earth.

# Birds of the Season

by Kimball Garrett



**W**indy, warm and dry Santa Ana conditions prevailed in southern California through March; hot winds whipping down canyons, past coastlines and offshore made for difficult coastal birding, but day after beautiful, mild day, dawned on the deserts. A spectacular profusion of poppies, owl's-clover, lupine, goldfields, coreopsis and other flowers cloaked the western Antelope Valley and Gorman areas. Only slightly less abundant were the tract homes and condominiums which sprouted not unlike annual weeds in Palmdale, Lancaster, and points east in the Antelope Valley. Virtually no **Le Conte's Thrashers** could be found this spring, and Joshua-tree woodlands harboring **Scott's Orioles**, **Ladder-backed Woodpeckers** and other desert woodland species shrank perceptibly each week. Lush croplands and ranchyards are virtually gone from the eastern Antelope Valley, subtracting what was until the very recent past a very exciting element in the search for spring landbird migrants, Linda Mia Ranch, along 170th St. East, is now off limits to birders — and completely dried up at that.

March was a month for albatrosses in Los Angeles County. An American Cetacean Society pelagic trip to the northwest tip of Santa Catalina Island on 6 March yielded a **Black-footed Albatross** which was attracted to the popcorn-induced frenzy of gulls behind the boat (Linda Lewis, *et al*). Nine species of marine mammals on the same trip included Dall's Porpoise, Northern Right-Whale Dolphin, Risso's Dolphin, and Northern Elephant Seal. And then, March was the month that brought us Clyde, a very oiled **Laysan Albatross** found aboard a freighter in Los Angeles Harbor on 15 March. Clyde stowed away on the ship about three days out from L.A. Harbor; the ship was bound for L.A. from Guam. The most likely scenario is that the bird landed accidentally on the ship (perhaps by clipping a line or antenna), was unable to take flight again, and then stowed away in an oily recess of the ship. Taken under the wings of John Heyning and Judy Chovan of the Natural History museum, Clyde was cleaned up and fed, and now awaits rehabilitation and release. One is left to wonder why it is that all inland records of albatross in California (there are now about 5) and essentially all

records of albatrosses riding ships into our ports involve the Layan, when in fact it is the Black-footed which is numerically far more abundant in our offshore waters.

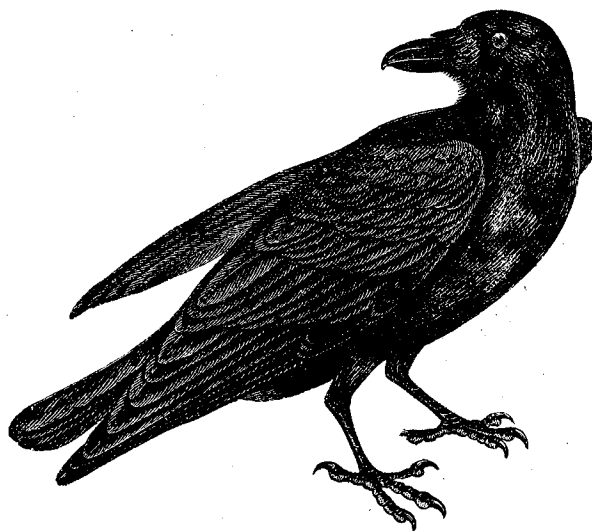
The "Rumor of The Year" award must go the possible **Imperial Woodpecker** sighted near Boot Spring in the Chisos Mountains of Big Bend National Park, Texas, in mid-March. This species, the world's largest woodpecker, has not been reliably reported in its northern Mexico mountain forest habitat for some thirty to forty years, and is widely feared to be extinct. While the report is tempting (it would establish the first U.S. record) most were left grasping at alternative explanations for the record — in fairness to the observer none of these explanations involved hallucinogenic drugs or the effects of the gruelling hike up into the Chisos, but rather black and white things like Acorn Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Pale-billed Woodpecker, or Striped Skunk.

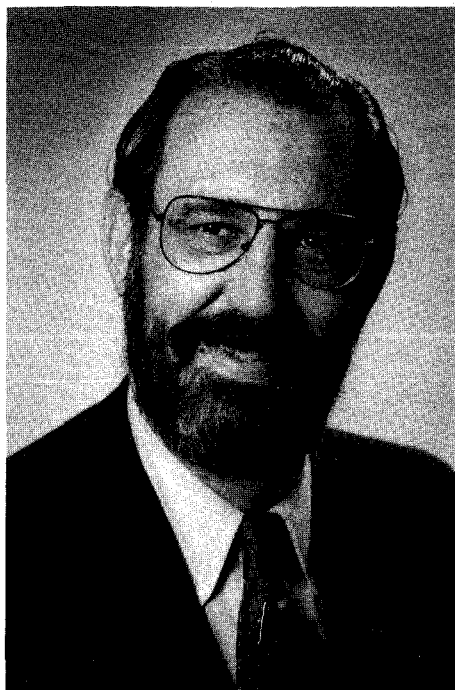
Back the the homefront. Hank Childs reports a **Zone-tailed Hawk** at Lake Serranos on 22 March. This species, formerly considered accidental in California, is now present in the southern part of the state in three seasonal roles: summer resident, migrant, and winter visitant (albeit in tiny numbers). Another southerner, the now famous **Xantus' Hummingbird** of Ventura, was incubating her second clutch of eggs at last report; the first clutch of two eggs proved infertile (*fide* Lloyd Kiff).

Two **White-faced Ibis** put in a brief appearance at Malibu Lagoon on 13 March (Don Galli). A single **Brant** was on the small pond at Nicolas Flat, off Decker School Rd. in the Santa Monica Mountains for several days after 3 March (Mickey Long). An **Oldsquaw** present during the first half of March on Quail Lake was joined by a young male **White-winged Scoter** on 19 March (Jonathan Alderfer, Kimball Garrett, Chris Floyd, and Sherman Suter).

Our first report of an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** came from Sepulveda Basin, where Chris Floyd sighted one on 18 March. Four **Cassin's Kingbirds** were above Malibu Lagoon on 1 March (Don Galli); this species nests in small numbers in the Santa Monica Mountains. Quite fascinating was Barbara Elliott's report of two **Red-breasted Nuthatches** excavating a nest cavity near her Malibu yard on 27 March. The nuthatch nests only rarely and sporadically on the coastal slope of southern California. A male **Red Crossbill** was in Palmdale on 19 March (Kimball Garrett), and two crossbills were found by Rich Bradely in El Dorado Park, Long Beach, on 20 March.

May will mix slow days with very exciting days filled with migrants. It will combine rarities with the equally exciting (and more "statistically significant") "routine," regularly occurring breeding and transient species. The latter half of the month will mark the beginning of the annual altitudinal migration of birders to montane habitats. There is still a great deal to be learned about the fine points of status and distribution of breeding birds in southern California's mountains, even here in Los Angeles County. Some suggestions of relatively unexplored local areas: The west fork of the San Gabriel River (north of Mt. Wilson), The Liebre Mountain/Sawmill Mtn. area north of Castaic, and the dry coniferous woodland and canyons on the north slope of the San Gabriels. Try exploring a little. And remember, your observations mean next to nothing if you don't document and report them!





## Ralph Schreiber

Dr. Ralph W. Schreiber, Curator of Ornithology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, died of cancer in his Culver City home on March 29th, 1988. Ralph's involvement with the Los Angeles

Audubon Society dates back to 1976 when he joined the staff of the Natural History Museum, coming here from Florida where he received his Ph.D. at the University of South Florida and had continued his research on the Brown Pelican. Ralph was very much aware of the common goals and interests of the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the museum, and helped cement a very productive relationship between the two organizations. His many evening programs given to local Audubon chapters were delightful and educational, underscoring his and his wife Elizabeth Anne's dedication to — and unique success at — conducting long term studies of seabirds. Ralph was a distinguished ornithologist, having served, for example, as President of the Cooper Ornithological Society. But he was also a gifted bird-watcher, conservationist, and educator, as well as a wonderful friend to so many of us. At the time of his sadly premature passing he and Betty Anne were actively finalizing plans for the Natural History Museum's new public Bird Hall and a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society in Los Angeles in June of 1990. Both of these endeavors will continue.

To Betty Anne we extend our heartfelt condolences and best wishes. As a Society, and as individuals, we will strive to help her as she continues to work for the goals to which she and Ralph have been so devoted.

## Revolution

*Fire burned through here*

*Five or six years ago*

*Clearing brush and cracking seeds.*

*This Spring, in early April*

*The burned over ceanothus and toyon*

*Were a foot higher.*

*And the trail*

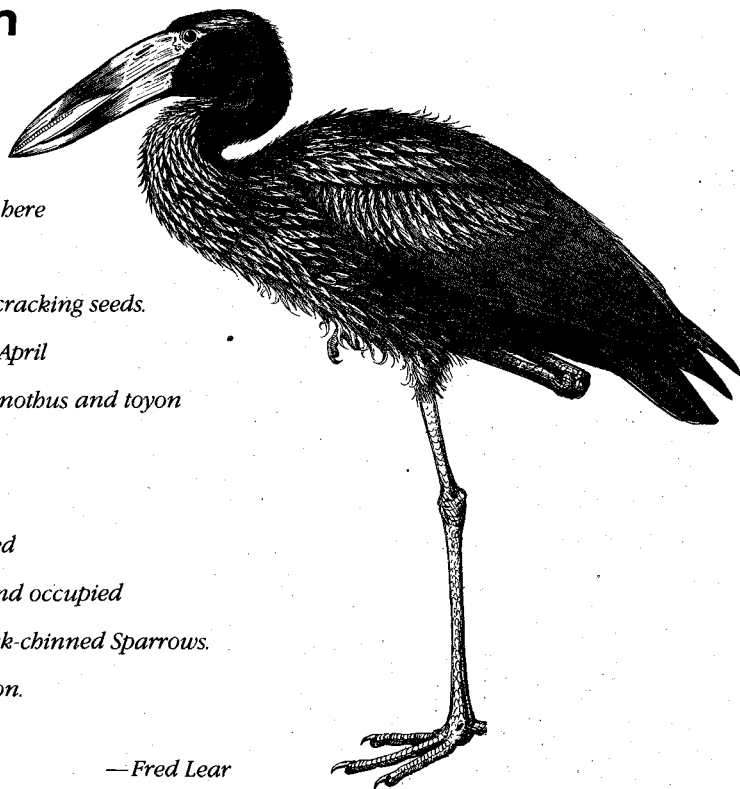
*Down to the creek bed*

*Had been claimed and occupied*

*By half a dozen Black-chinned Sparrows.*

*A successful revolution.*

— Fred Lear



## Membership Memo

A recent letter from National Audubon advises of a new policy that has been enforced since September, 1987. Chapter memberships have been changed automatically, when a person moves into the area of another chapter.

It is suggested that if you move, and wish to remain affiliated with Los Angeles Audubon, you request that your chapter not be changed when you send in your address change.



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Audubon membership (local and national) is \$30 per year (individual), \$38 (Family), \$18 (student), \$21 (senior citizen) or \$23 (senior citizen family) including AUDUBON Magazine and THE WESTERN TANAGER. To join, make checks payable to the National Audubon Society, and send them to Audubon House at the above address. Members wishing to receive the TANAGER by first class must send checks for \$5 to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

THE WESTERN TANAGER received the 1987 Special Conservation Award and 2nd place honors for Newsletter, Chapter with more than 900 members from the National Audubon Society.

Subscriptions to the 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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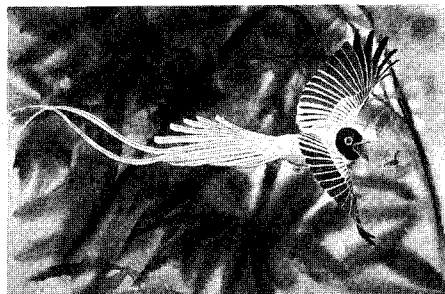


# ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 1988

## EVENING MEETINGS

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



Asian Paradise Flycatcher, male

Painting by John Schmitt

**Tuesday, May 10 — John and Mark Schmitt** will present a program on **The Birds and Wildlife of Borneo**. John, who is a wildlife illustrator (he has a monthly column in *WildBird Magazine*) and a naturalist, has spent over seven months in Borneo painting and studying its birdlife. His program will include many of his paintings and drawings and we hope we hope to have some of the original artwork on display at the meeting. His brother Mark is responsible for putting together the presentation of the program which includes dual programmed projectors and sound. Join us for a look at the sights and sounds of the Borneo jungle.

**Tuesday, June 14 — Dr. Bryan Obst** of UCLA will present **Antarctica's Smallest Bird — Wilson's Storm-Petrel**. The tiny Wilson's Storm-Petrel is one of Antarctica's most successful birds. How has it adapted to thrive in the Antarctic region? Dr. Obst has done extensive research on energy and adaptation in Wilson's Storm-Petrel. His program will present his scientific inquiries in a manner accessible to the layperson.

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

**Tuesday, May 10 — Kimball Garrett**, Ornithology Collections Manager for the L.A. Co. Museum of Natural History, returns by popular demand. His topic will be announced on the bird tape one week prior to the meeting.

**Tuesday, June 14 — To be announced.**

## 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, May 8 —** In cooperation with the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, meet leader **Gerry Haigh** for his monthly morning walk through **Topanga State Park**. Spend a pleasant spring morning birding the 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. \$3 parking fee.

**Saturday, May 14 —** Join **Bob Shanman** for his monthly walk in the **Bellona Wetlands**. Expect a wide variety of shorebirds, perhaps a few raptors, and maybe a surprise or two. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Pacific Avenue Bridge. Take Marina Freeway 90 west to Culver Blvd., turn left to Pacific Avenue, then right to footbridge at end. \$3 charge for parking if no street parking is available.

**Sunday, May 22 — David White** will lead a morning walk at the **Whittier Narrows Regional Park** looking for migrants plus a good variety of land and water birds. Perhaps our spring rains will have brought a bonus of a late crop of wildflowers! Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave., So. El Monte, off Fwy 60 between Santa Anita and Peck Dr. exits, west of Fwy 605.

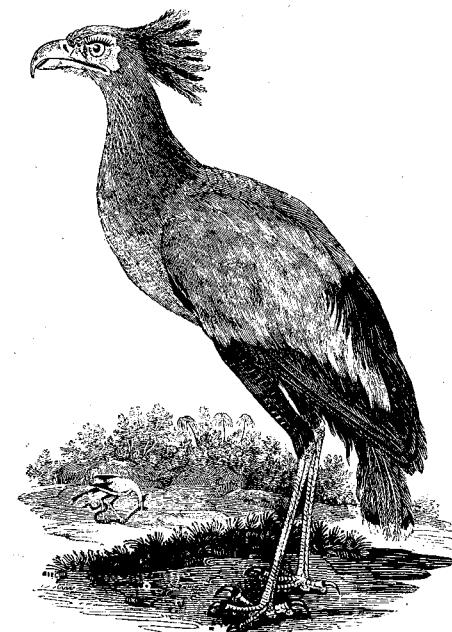
**Sunday, June 12 — Gerry Haigh** at **Topanga State Park**. See May 8 for details.

**Saturday, June 18 — David White** at **Whittier Narrows Regional Park**. See May 22 for details.

**Saturday, June 18 —** Join **Jean Brandt** for a trip to Mt. Pinos. This beautiful mountain top is known to many as the traditional Condor lookout (and to many more as the site of the Annual Condor Watch) and we shall earnestly

hope it will yet be again. Meanwhile, Mt. Pinos offers some of the best montane birding to be found locally. Expect nesting Green-tailed Towhees and perhaps a Calliope Hummingbird. Meet the leader at 8:00 a.m. at the "triangle" formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Portrero Rd. Take Hwy 5 to the summit of Tejon Pass and get off at the Frazier Park offramp. Turn left (East) and drive up the scenic Cuddy Valley. This trip will be repeated July 16 and August 13.

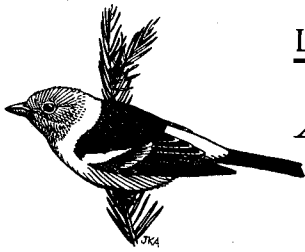
**Saturday, June 25 — Tom Keeney** will lead this outing to the Lower Santa Ana River and West Prado Basin in search of riparian forest specialties such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, and (with luck) Yellow-billed Cuckoo. This area is not accessible to the general public. Take the 91 Fwy to the 6th/Maple offramp and meet at the Denny's at the base of the offramp at 7:30 a.m. We will also visit some grassland and agricultural areas. There is no fee but the trip is limited to 15 people. Please phone your reservation to Audubon House.



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