

WESTERN TANAGER

Los Angeles Audubon Society

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The Audubon House Library

by Glenn Cunningham

Among the better kept secrets of Audubon House is the existence of the Society's Library. Housed in the room (scarcely more than a passageway) between the Bookstore and the back offices, are shelves containing more than one thousand books and hundreds of periodicals on nature subjects, with, appropriately, a heavy emphasis on bird life. All are available to the public for use in the library, and most can be checked out by members.

Little was recorded about the early story of the library, but it is known that from the organization of the Society in 1910 it gradually accumulated books, largely through donation. But not until it occupied its own room in Plummer House in 1937 was there opportunity to display the collection, or indeed, to assemble it all in one place. Board minutes of the time record that on July 1 of that year thirty members inspecting the new quarters "found all in beautiful order — maps, books, and collections displayed in bookcases and showcases on the wall." A short time later the entire contents of the room were insured for \$200 at a cost of \$3.86!

Insurance proved a boon to the Society in 1981 when an arson fire practically destroyed Plummer House. Although no books were lost, many still show stain from the smoke.

The library still continues to grow, occasionally still by donation, but now largely by purchase, and today can claim to be one of the largest collections of popular books on its speciality available to the public in Southern California. It is particularly rich in Field Guides and other volumes on the birds of individual regions. The coverage is truly amazing. Should you need a guide to the birds of Nepal, or Botswana, or South Viet Nam, or Fiji, or the environs of Washington, D.C., there is one available.

Equally popular are those works on individual bird species. And again the Audubon Library's collection of non-technical books in this area is outstanding. In both fields the collection is kept up to date by the purchase of every new title that is published.

Unfortunately the limited space available required that some of the bookshelves be built so close together that they are accessible only to a contortionist armed with a flashlight. The more popular and most frequently used titles, however, are shelved in the more easily reached areas.

First among these are the books covering individual bird species, beginning with Arthur Cleveland Bent's twenty volume set on the Life History of North American Birds, followed by works on single species found roughly in proper ornithological order from Roger Tory Peterson's beautifully illustrated volume on Penguins to the last and the least of the passerines.

Field guides and other works treating the bird life of single regions are likewise shelved in order beginning with North America in general, followed by the United

Special Notice!
The November 8th regular monthly meeting has been cancelled. Please disregard all previous notices. We urge you to use the evening wisely by exercising your right to vote in this important election year.

States, individual states in alphabetical order, Canada and Alaska.

Works on foreign areas begin with Mexico, followed by Central America, the West Indies and South America, then, in order, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian sub-continent, the Far East, Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Pacific Islands, the Oceans and Antarctica.

This regional collection is interrupted by a shelf (at eye level) of non-circulating reference books including A Dictionary of Birds, A Dictionary of Bird Names, World Check Lists, and Guides to Bird Clubs, Wildlife Refuges and Sanctuaries.

This leaves several hundred books that do not fit these categories — books treating ecology and conservation, bird behavior, bird migration, guides to bird songs, nests and eggs, and countless others including such titles as The Art of Audubon, Bird Flight, even A Guide to the Imaginary Birds of the World. These are placed in alphabetical order by author. But bring a small and agile child with you if you hope to reach them.

The L.A.A.S. Board Members, aware of the space problem, recently decided that the library should remove all books that do not contribute to research. Consequently a number have been taken from the shelves awaiting the unlikely advent of more space, or disposal — by means not yet agreed upon. This group includes many that deal with personal birding experiences, pet birds, and the inspiration of nature in general. A few titles — Wild Bird Guests, The Mummer of Wings, A-Birdin' On a Bronco, Story of a Sandhill Crane, many are written in charming style but do not qualify as aids to research.

Recognizing that man does not live by birds alone, the library contains a shelf on mammals, one on fish and sea life, one on trees, one on wild flowers, and one on insects and spiders.

A number of the old and rare books, the more costly items, and all oversize books are in locked bookcases. Among the handsome "coffee table books" — Parrots of the World, Pheasants of the World, Birds of Prey of the World, Herons of the World, and Birds of Paradise and Bower Birds. If any book is in the locked case the catalog card will so indicate.

Card catalogs for the collection are three in number; books are listed by title, by author (both in alphabetical order) and, where applicable, by region, also in alphabetical order from Abyssinia to Zambia.

Periodicals have not been neglected; currently ten are received. Audubon Magazine and its predecessor, Bird Lore, are available beginning with Vol. 12, January, 1910. The Condor dates from 1902 (although with gaps); The Auk and Wilson's Bulletin from 1934; American Birds from Vol. 20, 1966; Birding from Vol. 1, January, 1969; The Loon from Vol. 53, Spring 1981, Bird Watchers Digest from May 1979; British Birds from Vol. 72, January, 1979; and Western Birds, formerly California birds, from Vol. 1, 1970. The issues of recent years are in the "accessible" parts of the shelving, older issues are scattered about the premises wherever space was found.

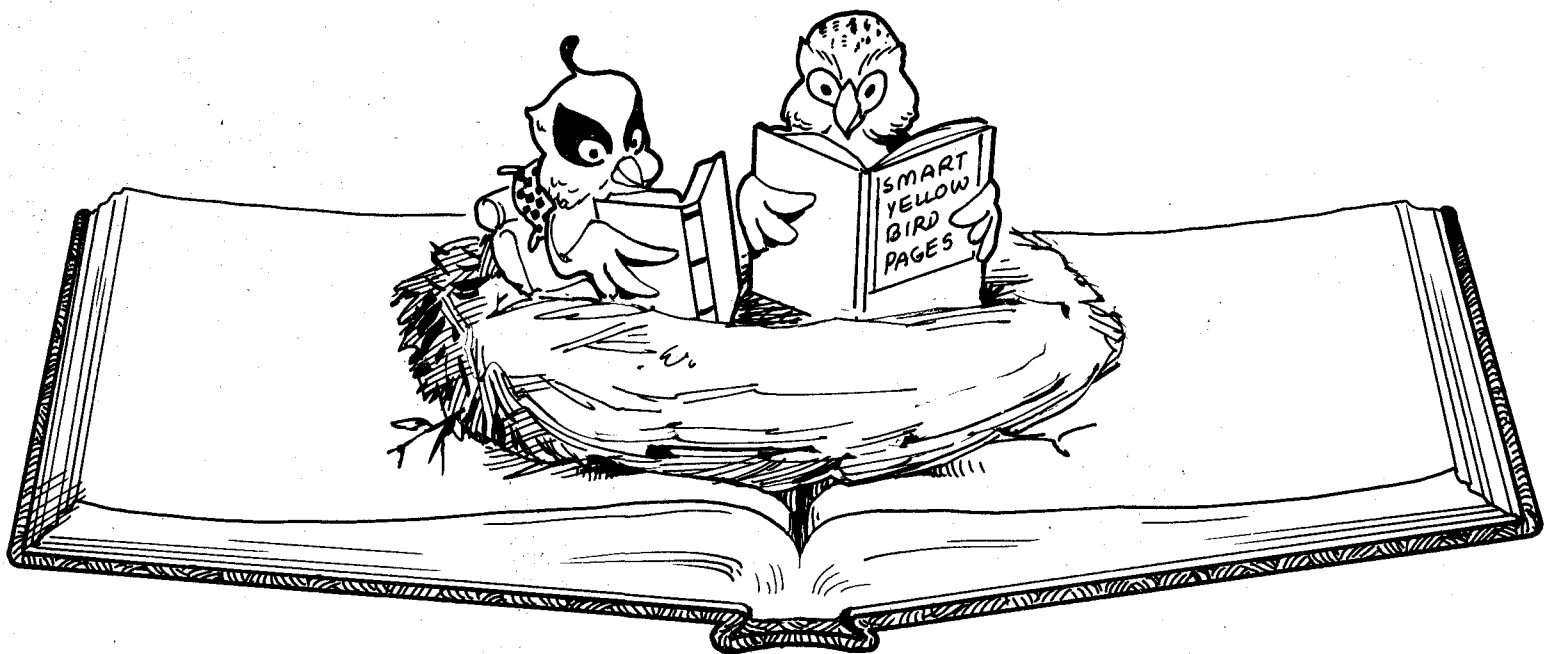
On top of the catalog card files are Thomas Street Guides of Southern Califor-

nia counties, a world atlas, and a set of the Audubon society's Nature Guides. Mounted above is a large map of Los Angeles and vicinity with a guide to the birding sites of the area. And nearby a large world map for those who need to locate Patagonia or Zaire or maybe Texas.

Finally, across the room from the counter bearing the above, are filing cabinets containing materials that may be of use to one planning a birding trip. The top left houses the newsletter of other Audubon Societies that are exchanged for our Western Tanager, some 50 in all. Practically every California chapter is represented as are many distant ones from Buffalo and Milwaukee to Honolulu and Guam. Perusing these, the prospective visitor may find names and addresses for valuable contacts as well as calendars of local meetings and field trips, and notices of recent observations.

The right hand cabinets, labelled "Geographic Files," and organized by States in alphabetical order (individual counties in California) contain highway and city street maps, National and State Park and Refuge pamphlets, bird lists, and clippings from Western Tanager and other sources describing birding areas and suggested trips.

There is something for everyone in the Los Angeles Audubon Society Library. Come in and look around!



pro Esteros

by Barbara W. Massey

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new group, a grass-roots conservation organization devoted to preserving the integrity of the coastal marshes of Baja California, Mexico. It is being called *pro Esteros* and is being incorporated in Mexico with a U.S. affiliate. The need for such an organization became clear in the spring of 1988, when Mexican and U.S. biologists who study the ecology and native species of the esteros in Ensenada and San Quintin became aware of several grave and imminent threats to those marshes. Dr. Silvia Ibarra from CICESE, the biological research station in Ensenada, and I, decided to call a meeting and invite biologists and conservationists from both countries to discuss means of dealing with these threats. On 20 May, 35 interested participants met at San Diego State University and decided to form *pro Esteros*. Dr. Ibarra and I agreed to serve as co-chairs until the organization is established.

The coastal marshes of Baja California are rarities. Thanks largely to the inaccessibility and aridity of the peninsula, they have been spared the 'development' that has destroyed so much marshland north of the border, and are still in near-pristine condition. Their value as natural resources can best be understood by looking at the situation in California, where only 5% of the saltmarsh that was present 100 years ago exists today, and an uphill battle is being fought to save and restore those remnant acreages that were somehow spared. In northwestern Baja the two vast saltmarshes at Ensenada and San Quintin are complete ecosystems harboring native flora and fauna that are disappearing elsewhere from the west coast. They are major stopovers for birds on the Pacific flyway, and serve as wintering grounds for a host of shorebirds and waterfowl. They also serve as models for California's restoration projects, and act as reservoirs for U.S. endangered species (that do not acknowledge political boundaries). For example, the population of Light-footed Clapper Rails in each of these marshes is larger than the entire U.S. population.

But the era of isolation and non-development appears to have ended, and there have been two major threats to Estero de Punta Banda in Ensenada in the 1980s. One was a project by the Bose-Pacific Co. to dike and drain 2/3 of the marsh to create pads for assembling oil drilling platforms, principally for sale to the U.S. Their plan was scaled down considerably and thus far only about 12 acres of marsh have been lost. Although the next phase of this project has been approved and would entail more

marsh destruction, it is rumored that the company has run into financial difficulties and the expansion will not proceed. However, another enterprise is now posing a possibly even more serious threat to the marsh. A partially built, never-used hotel on the barrier sandspit has been refurbished this past year and is about completed. It is a time-share resort directed at U.S. vacationers. A marina is planned that would require deep dredging of the main channel in the estuary. Although an EIS was reportedly submitted in April to the Col. Mistros Federales in Mexicali, by the time of its submission a dike had already been built out into deep water for the marina, and all dune scrub vegetation for a square mile around the hotel bulldozed and removed. There is a major question about release of wastes from the hotel into the bay. The impacts of dredging and pollution on the local fishery, and of high-speed boats on birds and other wildlife, are of concern.

It was difficult initially for biologists from CICESE or interested U.S. scientists to get any information, or even establish communication with the Kister Group, developers of the resort. Now our activities are beginning to show results. The issue has been the subject of several newspaper write-ups in Ensenada and California. Dr. Ibarra has been allowed access to the EIS and made extensive comments on it to SEDUE, the Mexican agency charged with environmental protection.

We hope, through this new organization, to find effective means of saving Estero de Punta Banda from destruction, and to have input into any plans for development at Bahia de San Quintin. Long-range goals include the establishment of coastal reserves in Baja California such as there are

on mainland Mexico, topographic maps of the esteros, inventories of their natural resources, and encouragement of research projects that would increase our knowledge of estuarine ecology.

We invite you to become a charter member of *pro Esteros*. The annual dues will be \$10 U.S., a small amount so that many can participate. Initial costs for establishing the group will be several thousand dollars, including legal fees for incorporation papers, mailings, and international telephone calls. So if you wish to contribute seed money in addition it will be most welcome. Our first contribution from El Dorado Audubon Society, the Long Beach CA chapter of National Audubon, which gave \$300 to get underway. This money will be used to file incorporation papers in Mexico.

Please join us in this worthy conservation effort.

Barbara W. Massey is an old friend of Audubon. She is adjunct professor of biology at Cal State Long Beach and has done vital work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the least tern. We enthusiastically endorse pro Esteros and hope many of our readers will offer their support. Los Angeles Audubon has donated \$300 to the new organization. Memberships can be mailed to:

Barbara W. Massey
1825 Knoxville Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90815.



Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth



Congenital laziness, the World Series, and fall birding are inexcusable reasons for this reprint of the June 1984, "Conservation Conversation." We can only wistfully hope that our failure to solve the dilemmas described here may be overcome in four more years.

Those of us in the environmental movement yield to no one in our concern for life. It is not only our own precious skins we are trying to protect but all planetary protoplasm. We watch with dismay as the fecundity and technology of Homo sapiens create an infinity of endangered species. We are surrounded by hobgoblins of ecological diaster.

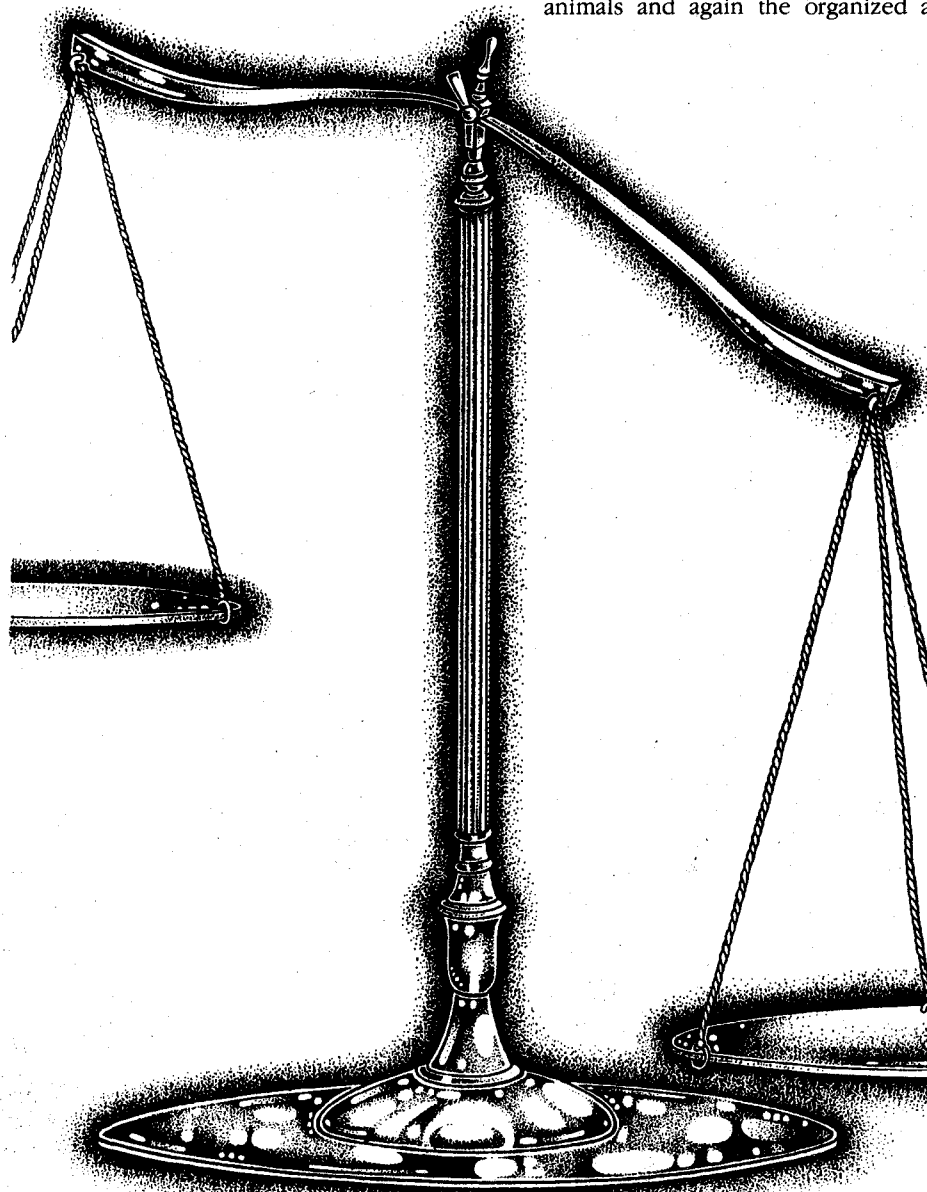
We know that the bell tolls not for the condor but for all of us. So we often find ourselves defending unpopular creatures like coyotes, grizzly bears, and rattlesnakes. Sometimes, to the disadvantage of our own cause, we become advocates of obscure organisms such as the snail darter or the Furbish lousewort. We worry about worthless decaying trees because they support owls and woodpeckers on the edge of extinction. We speak of ecosystems and the web of life they encompass and we fight for them with hard work and dedication.

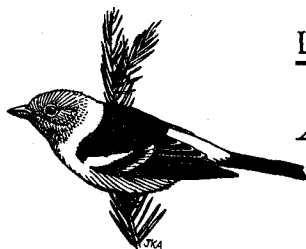
The wild and the free are our principal clients but we love and appreciate the unique qualities of our own pets. Many of us are owned and tolerated by cats and dogs, and we value what we hope is mutual affection. This love and affection is extended by some people to all living things without exception. This is a noble and a lofty attitude, this reverence for life. There are religious saints who will not step on an ant or swat the mosquito that is biting them. There are tender souls who, if they were aware of it, would deplore the taking of city pigeons by peregrine falcons. Even the starling has its defenders.

The environmentalist is faced with a dilemma. How is one to respond to those who hotly defend the goats on San Clemente Island who are methodically destroying the habitat? The goats are warm (if aromatic) living creatures. They do no harm to people. It is not their fault that they were marooned there years ago by humans. Who can deny them the right to live? Yet they are inexorably consuming every bit of vegetation on the island. As the habitat disappears, native and transient wildlife disappears. A living ecosystem will die; San Clemente will become a barren

wasteland. And, as with deer that without predators reproduce and eat themselves into starvation, so the goats will eventually perish. To preserve the island greenery, the Navy, which owns the island, decided to shoot the goats. A great uproar ensued and efforts were made to trap the goats and find homes for them on the mainland. But with all our ingenuity we have not been able to catch them all. Sturdy clusters of them manage to find inaccessible hiding places where they prosper and multiply.

The feral burros in the California desert are an even more perplexing case. They are much more appealing than goats. They remind us of soft, cuddly stuffed animals with soulful eyes: they are "cute!" Like the castaway goats they were set free or escaped years ago and have multiplied, predator-free. They vigorously consume great quantities of vegetation. When they invade military airfields in the desert they became genuine hazards to jet planes and their pilots. Again, the armed forces attempted to direct action by shooting the animals and again the organized animal





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protectors forced a halt to the killing. Some burros were caught and sold or given away to people who wanted them as pets. But there are many burros and few benefactors, so herds of burros still roam the desert chomping their way through Mojave yucca, leafy shrubs and small trees. This is precisely the menu preferred by the desert bighorn sheep. In fact it is essential for the health and well-being of the shy endangered animal. Birders who know that starlings drive bluebirds and woodpeckers from their hole nests well understand the plight of a native species overcome by unopposed invader from another clime.

There is a vision many of us have—often deeply buried in our hearts—of an ecological Eden where the classical interrelationships of nature prevail undisturbed by man and his works. Lower forms are preyed upon by higher forms. The food chain is a series of links from ocean plankton to sharks and the toothed whales; from seed-eating rodents to golden eagles. We've learned that this is the natural order of things. We no longer speak of nature "red in tooth and claw." We are not horrified when a lion kills a zebra or a Cooper's hawk captures a warbler on the wing and eats it before our eyes. This is the way the world has evolved and it has been a successful enterprise for millions of years. But in the last few centuries (a mere speck in time) homo sapiens has become the dominant form of life, the true master of the earth. Our drive for mastery has disrupted the balance of the natural order. The machete and the bulldozer, along with the artificial monsters of chemistry, have altered the world, perhaps irrevocably. There are few places left where the balance is unbroken.

Driven by guilt or understanding many of us are trying to patch up the disruption. We ban DDT, we set aside refuges, we develop The Pill, we try to educate ourselves and our neighbors.

The fate of the earth is *our* responsibility. We have an obligation to atone for our moral felonies. The condor's predicament is primarily man-made: dwindling habitat, fire-arms, "varmint" poisoning. It is up to us to try to save the remnant population. Just so, it is up to us to try to save San Clemente and the desert bighorn.

So what is the answer? The animal right-to-life people are sincere and heaven knows they mean well. But they are indiscriminating sentimentalists. A starling is *not* a bluebird; a burro is *not* a bighorn. A twist of fate—or should we say a crick in the DNA molecule—seems to have favored the interlopers with a vigor and a reproductive success that far outstrips their victims. To a reasonable person, if a choice must be made, the native fauna must take precedence. If burros and goats can be captured and delivered into friendly hands—fine. If this is not possible, and they remain a threat to the survival of habitat and species, they will have to be eliminated. Does this sound cruel and unseemly coming from professed lovers of life? There are moral compromises most of us find we have to make in the real world. (Unclaimed strays at city pound are destroyed. Regrettable, but the alternative is millions of unwanted cats and dogs and nowhere to put them.) We wonder how many of the animal protectors are vegetarians. Do goats have a greater right to life than lambs or cows? None of us is particularly happy about slaughterhouses, yet the vast majority

of us manage to sit down to a steak dinner without being troubled by the vision of hung carcasses and the warm, suffocating smell of blood and offal.

The scientists who compiled the Global 2000 Report to the President estimated that by the end of the century, if current practices and attitudes prevail, thousands of species throughout the world would become extinct. May we hope for a life-giving change in attitude toward our own wildlife threatened by undesirable competitors?

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Winter High Tides at Upper Newport Bay

by William C. Bakewell

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

about the same. In the paragraphs below the times of favorable high waters during this season will be set forth.

The heights of the tide for the times given below are at least 6.2 feet. On 23 November 1988, the height of the higher high water reaches this season's maximum of 7.0 feet. Jean Brandt, in her earlier article on Upper Newport Bay (*Western Tanager*, October 1977), advises birders looking for rails to be on station a half hour before the time of higher high water and to stay for at least one hour. For that reason the times given below are all for higher high waters that occur more than a half hour after sunrise.

In November 1988, the times of favorable higher high waters are 0831 on Thursday the 10th, 0903 on Friday the 11th, 0722 on Tuesday the 22nd, 0759 on Wednesday the 23rd, 0834 on Thursday the 24th, 0913 on Friday the 25th, and 0955 on Saturday the 26th. The highest high water during this entire season of good birding occurs on the 23rd, its height being 7.0 feet.

In December 1988, the times of favorable higher high waters are 0740 on Thursday the 8th, 0815 on Friday the 9th, 0854 on Saturday the 10th, 0936 on Sunday the 11th, 0744 on Thursday the 22nd, 0825 on Friday the 23rd, and 0904 on Saturday the 24th.

In January 1989, the times of favorable higher high waters are 0728 on Friday the 6th, 0809 on Saturday the 7th, 0851 on Sunday the 8th, 0933 on Monday the 9th, 0744 on Friday the 20th, 0821 on Saturday the 21st, and 0855 on Sunday the 22nd.

In February 1989, the times of favorable higher high waters are 0801 on Sunday the 5th, 0843 on Monday the 6th, and 0926 on Tuesday the 7th.

All of this data was obtained from the 1988 and 1989 editions of *Tide Tables West Coast of North and South America*. These books are published by the National Ocean Survey of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Good Birding!

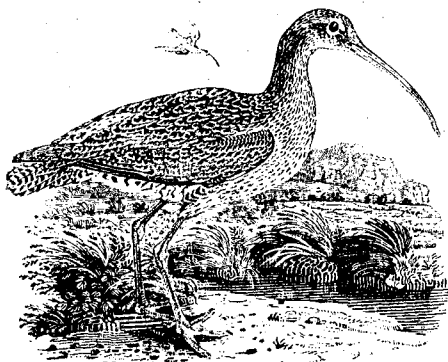
Birds of the Season

by Hank Brodtkin

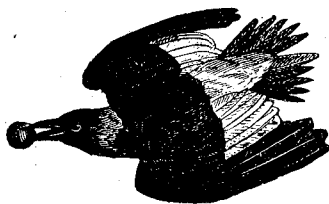
Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentatively, pending review by the *American Birds* regional editors or, if appropriate, by the *California Bird Records Committee*.

Continuing the trend that started in August — this Fall has proved to be the most exciting in recent memory. We should have known something unusual was brewing when a group of hard-core Southern California birders reported an amazing 85 species in 115+ degrees heat at Furnace Creek, Death Valley, on 9/13 with 13 warblers, including a male **Hooded** and a male **Northern Parula**, a **Lark Bunting**, a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and a **Bobolink**.

Then on 9/18 Erica Wilson from Maryland found the state's first **Terek Sandpiper** on the beach at Carmel. With every active birder converging on the Carmel area other rare birds were certain to be found. One group, after having seen the **Terek** on 9/19 went to the nearby Salinas sewer ponds and turned up another rare record, a **Long-toed Stint** (Brian Daniels). Other **Terek Sandpiper** spinoffs included both the **Hudsonian** (possibly two individuals) and the **Bar-tailed Godwit**. California's (and the U.S.'s) second **Little Curlew** was seen on 9/23 near the Santa Maria River mouth (not far from where the first was seen around this date in 1984) in an agricultural field by Jerry Langham from Sacramento. Other shorebirds of interest include a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** in the Kern County section of Edwards Air Force Base on 9/5 (Joe Dunn), and a juvenile male **Ruff** present at Malibu Creek for at least a week after having been seen on 8/22 (Bob Pann).

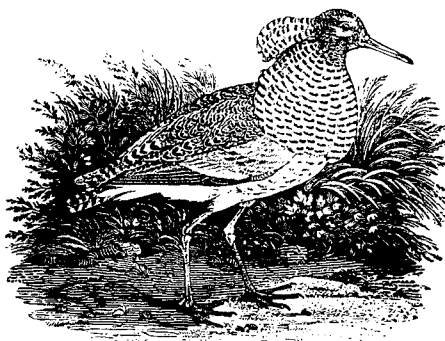


1 The Curlew



A male and female **Blue-winged Teal** at Bolsa Chica on 10/1 (Jerry Friedman) are the first reported on the coast this fall, and the season's first **Wood Duck** turned up at Malibu on 9/11 (Kimball Garrett). Barbara Cohen found the fall's first **Hooded Merganser** at the L.A. Aboretum on 10/1.

On 8/24 Cathy Mish was surprised by an adult **Bald Eagle**, most unusual in the summer, at Lake Hollywood reservoir. Our first report of a **Ferruginous Hawk** comes from Doug Willick who saw one on 9/21 near Turtle Rock Nature Center in Orange County, and six reports of **Osprey** in L.A. and Orange County seem about normal for this time of year.



1 The Ruff

Four chimney **Swifts** over the Los Angeles River at Long Beach at least through Labor Day included two juveniles, another indication of breeding in our area (Brian Daniels).

A female **Red-headed Woodpecker**, constituting the third California record, was found in Goleta by Karen Bridgers on 9/14 and was still present at press time 10/6.

An **Eastern Kingbird** at McGrath on 9/3 (Irwin Woldman) and a **Tropical Kingbird** in Huntington Beach on 10/1 (Jerry Tolman) were to be expected.

Vireos were well represented this Fall, and included a **Yellow-throated** in Oxnard on 9/24 (Jim Royer), a **Philadelphia** (Jeff Boyd) and a **Red-eyed** (Brian Daniels) in Huntington Beach Central Park 10/5, and a **Yellow-green** at UC Irvine on 10/1 (Loren Hayes).

Some of the more sought after wood warblers were seen during this period, two **Blue-winged Warblers** were found, one at Finney Lake south of the Salton Sea on 9/13 (Joe Dunn) and one at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach on 9/17 and 9/18 (Steve Ducatman), the latter being the first for Los Angeles County. Orange County's first **Golden-winged Warbler**, a bright male, was present in Newport Beach on private property 9/30 through 10/2 (Rob Hamilton). Several **Virginia's Warblers** were seen, including one at Huntington Beach Central Park on 9/5 (Loren Hayes), one at UC Irvine on 9/18 (Matt Heindel), and one at El Dorado Nature Center on 9/20 (Bruce Broadbrooks). A **Northern Parula** was found on 9/18 by Jon Alderfer at El Dorado. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** sightings included one at Butterbrecht Springs, Kern County, on 9/9 (Matt Heindel), and one at Wilderness park in Redondo Beach on 10/1 (David Moody). **Magnolia Warblers** were widespread this fall — one in Huntington Beach on 9/20 (Doug Willick), one at Harbor Lake on 9/23 (Jerry Johnson), and one at the McGrath sewer ponds on 10/4 (Randy Moore). A **Black-throated Green** seen in Carr Park in Huntington Beach on 9/24, a **Blackburnian** in Malibu on 9/21 (Kimball Garrett), and a **Bay-breasted** at the Ventura River mouth on 10/1 (Jim Royer) fell within the expected time frame for these vagrants.

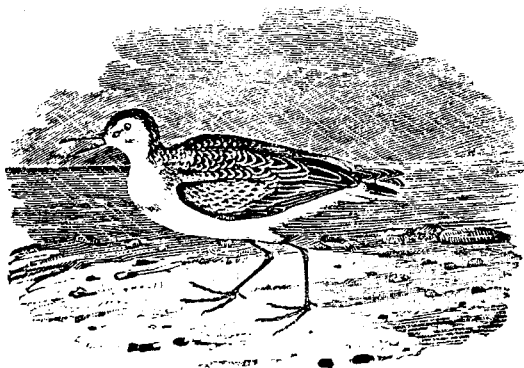
Perhaps the most sought after warbler in California is the **Cerulean**. One very cooperative male was found at UC Irvine by Brian Daniels on 10/1 and stayed through 10/2 much to the delight of many birders. Another much sought after warbler, the **Mourning**, was seen off and on after 9/11 by many birders at Huntington Beach Central Park (Doug Willick).



3 The Osprey

An immature male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Zuma Creek on 9/23 was the first of that species seen this fall (Gayle Benton). A **Dickcissal** spent 9/5 through 9/10 at Galileo Park in California City (Joe Dunn). This seems to be a good fall for **Lark Buntings** in Southern California, the first being at Galileo Park on 9/4 (Brian Daniels). **Clay-colored Sparrows** also were well represented. Another bird at Furnace Creek on 9/11 was reported by Bruce Broadbrooks, and Phil Swan found one at Huntington Beach Central Park on 9/20.

Interesting early reports of **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** come from the north of us — three within one week. Randy J. Moore found the first at McGrath on 9/29 through 9/30, the second was at the Andre Clark



Bird Refuge in Santa Barbara 10/2 through 10/4 (Allyn Bissell), and the third report comes from Goleta on 10/4 (Paul Lehman).

My correspondents will from time to time apprise me of good birding spots for some of our more unusual local species. Steve Ducatman writes that Sepulveda Basin holds a good population of **Tri-colored Blackbirds** and Hank Childs says that 20 to 30 **Pinyon Jays** are resident at the community of Thomas Mountain on the Palms-to-Pines Highway in Riverside County. Both of these species are getting hard to find in Southern California.

It is not too early to start thinking about the upcoming Christmas counts as the vagrants start to dwindle in number in the weeks ahead. Keep an eye out for movements of boreal species into our area. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** have already been seen in the Oxnard plain (Hank Brodtkin, 10/2). Good birding!

Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

Hank Brodtkin
27½ Mast Street
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
Phone: (213) 827-0407
or call Jean Brandt at (818) 788-5188

Ralph W. Schreiber Research Awards

In memory of Ralph W. Schreiber the Los Angeles Audubon Society has changed the name of the research awards to: Los Angeles Audubon Society, Ralph W. Schreiber Research Awards.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society will be giving annual Research Awards in February, 1989. Award recipients will be limited to students, amateurs, and others with limited or no access to major granting agencies. The Awards shall be given for research relevant to the biology of birds. Applicants must reside in Southern California (from San Louis Obispo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties south) or be

currently enrolled in a southern California academic institution; there is no geographical restriction on the research area. One or more awards will be given. The total amount to be given will be approximately \$2,000.

The application deadline for the 1989 Research Award is 30 November, 1988. For applications, write:

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



Membership Note

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

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

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



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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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Call Us!

Make a commitment to assist us in the Annual Christmas Count this December. Be a part of this important survey and help us track ornithological trends in our changing environment.

Help!

Volunteers are needed for Audubon Bookstore and Office assistance. Share in these enjoyable and worthwhile endeavors.

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 1988

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

Special Notice!

The November 8th regular monthly meeting has been cancelled. Please disregard all previous notices. We urge you to use the evening wisely by exercising your right to vote in this important election year.

Tuesday, December 13 - We will be presenting **Binocular Vision**, a new 16mm sound film on that great American birding tradition, the Christmas Bird Count. Further details will appear in the next issue of the Western Tanager.

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

Everyone is invited to attend these workshops dealing with various aspects of bird identification. The topics and speakers will be announced on the LAAS bird tape (213-874-1318) the week prior to the meeting. See you there.

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.

Saturday, November 5 - Los Angeles Zoo Docent Tour. A specially guided one-hour tour focusing on the birds of the L.A. Zoo. Bring lunch and stay for an informal Society member zoo visit. Special admission prices of \$1.50 for children 2-12 and \$3.50 for 13 and older (cheap!). Fee not required in advance, but please sign up with Audubon House, (213) 876-0202 beforehand for this trip.

Sunday, November 6 - Topanga State Park, led by **Gerry Haigh.** Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. take a very sharp turn east uphill on Entrada Dr. (7 miles So. of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile No. of Topanga Village.) Follow signs to the state park, and meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. \$3 parking fee.

Saturday, November 12 - Ballona Wetlands, with leader **Bob Shanman** or alternate **Ian Austin.** Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Pacific Ave. Bridge. Take the Marina Fwy. (90 West) to Culver Blvd., turn left to Pacific Ave., then right to the footbridge at the end. Street parking is usually available.

Saturday, November 19 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. **David White** will lead a morning walk at Whittier Narrows looking for a variety of migrant and resident birds. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. in south El Monte, off Fwy. 60 between Santa Anita and Peck Drive exits, west of Fwy. 605.

Sunday, November 27 - Malibu Lagoon. **Abigail King** of the Santa Monica Mtns. National Park Service will be leading a trip to the lagoon and to Malibu Creek if time permits. Meet in Malibu Lagoon parking lot at 8:30 a.m. The lot is on the left of Pacific Coast Highway just past the lagoon bridge.

Saturday, December 3 - Antelope Valley, with leader **Jean Brandt**, from Quail Lake along the length of the Valley. No fee, but contact Audubon House for reservations. We would like to keep the vehicles limited to five cars, so please supply information on comfortable seating in your car and/or willingness to be assigned as a passenger.

Sunday, December 4 - Topanga State Park, led by **Gerry Haigh.** See Sunday, November 6 for details.

Sunday, December 4 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park, **David White.** See Saturday, November 19 for details.

Saturday, December 10 - Ballona Wetlands, with leader **Bob Shanman** or alternate **Ian Austin.** See Saturday, November 12 for details.

Sunday, December 11 - Carrizo Plains, led by **Rob Hansen** of the Nature Conservancy. We will meet near the Plains at 9:00 a.m. When making reservations, please include information for carpooling described in the Antelope Valley trip. Directions and further information will be sent in your S.A.S.E. Fee \$10.00.

Sunday, January 1 - Topanga State Park, led by **Gerry Haigh.** See Sunday, November 6 for details.

Saturday, January 14 - Ballona Wetlands, with leader **Bob Shanman** or alternate **Ian Austin.** See Saturday, November 12 for details.

Sunday, January 15 - Lake Norconian with leader **Pat Nelson.** A rare opportunity to observe large populations of wintering waterfowl in this restricted area. Past trips have been highly successful... Trip is scheduled for 8:00 a.m.; further details in upcoming issues.

Los Angeles Audubon Society
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Los Angeles, CA 90046

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Sunday, January 22 - Malibu Lagoon with leader **Abigail King.** See Sunday, November 27 for details. 8:30 a.m.

RESERVATION TRIPS: (Limited Participation) See page 5 for Policy and Procedures

Sunday, November 20 - Pelagic trip past Santa Barbara Island to the Osborne Banks, with leaders **Kimball Garrett** and **Herb Clarke.** 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., on the MV Vantuna out of Terminal Island. \$28.00. Reservations may be made by sending your cheque and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Audubon House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

LAAS Pelagic Trips—Spring 1989

Boat: Occidental College's R.V. Vantuna
Dock: USC Berth 26, Terminal Island, San Pedro
Spaces: 38 + 2 leaders
Prices: May be subject to increase
Boarding: 1/2 hour before scheduled departure
Cancellation: 30 days prior to trip departure if inadequate response.
No refund 2 weeks prior to sailing (unless you sell your ticket to another party).

Trip #1
Sun., Feb. 26
\$28.00
6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Destination: Santa Barbara island and adjacent sea
Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Brian Daniels

Trip #2
Sat., Mar. 18
\$28.00
6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Destination: Santa Barbara Island and out to sea
Leaders: Bruce Broadbrooks and Herb Clarke

Trip #3
Sat. June 10
\$32.00
6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Destination: Santa Barbara Island and Osborne Bank
Leaders: Kimball Garrett and Phil Sayre

*Vantuna not available April 9 to June 9.

Expected Birds, Winter and Spring Trips:

Shearwaters: Sooty, Pink-footed, Black-vented (W), Short-tailed, No. Fulmar
Jaegers: Pomarine, Shorebirds: Red Phalarope, Wandering Tattler, Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird
Terns and Gulls: Arctic Terns(s), Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull(s)
Alcids: Common Murre(s), Pigeon Guillemont(s), Xantus Murrelet, Cassins Auklet, Rhinoceros Auklet