



WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of
The National Audubon Society

Volume 56 Number 4 October 1989

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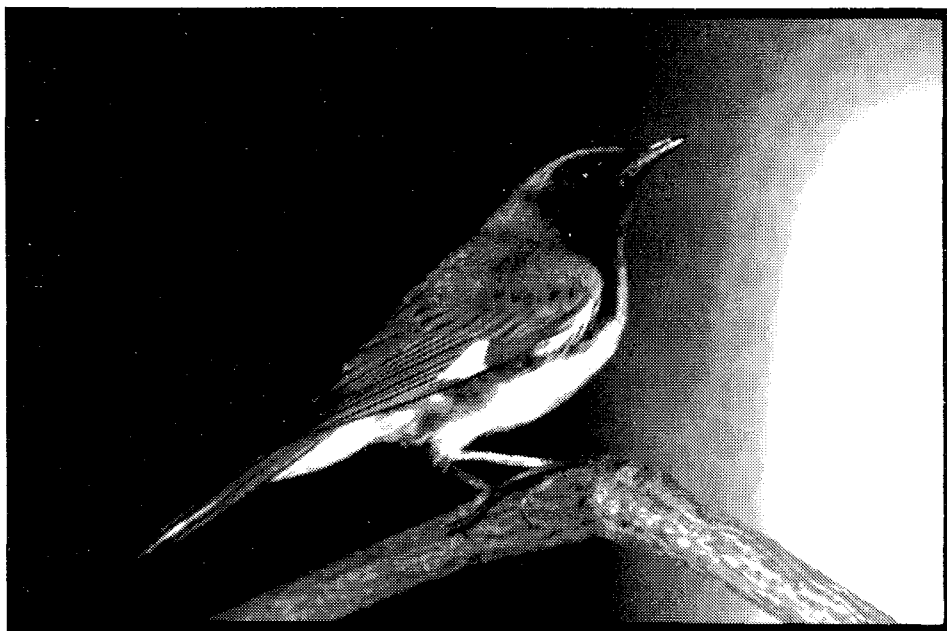
Early January, 1987, midst chilly Northern California rains, a little vagrant bird strayed to the small town of Arcata - a Eurasian Oriental greenfinch, a casual migrant to the Aleutians, was discovered at the Arcata Oxidation ponds adjacent to the bay. Something burns bright in the chest of some birders, the spirit of the chase, the flame of desire to see every misplaced feathered critter that makes a wrong turn.

Gayle Benton and I, southern Californians both, decided to hit the road and make the long haul to see this bird. Our arrival in Arcata just before dusk allowed us to check out the reported location, the oxidation plant and seaside park, and to prepare our strategy. The next day the weather was great; no rain or fog to impede our search.

After a night's rest, we traversed the area, looking for the groups of house finches the greenfinch was said to accompany. A birding friend from San Jose told us to be sure to check out the berry brambles around the log pond. There we found many house finches, long-billed marsh wrens, song and fox sparrows enjoying the feast, but no greenfinch.

Mark Cudney, a birder from the Sacramento area, there for his second go at finding the Oriental greenfinch, had good directions from Ron Levalley, birder and director of Biological Journeys based near Arcata at McKinleyville. The berry bushes facing the street were the best place to find the bird this week. After several hours of staring at gorging house finches, we finally saw a bird with a bright yellow wing patch, lots of white on the wings, a plain breast, greenish face, grey nape and crown - the bird we had driven so far to see.

The next day we waited around a long time for another look, also finding in the fields a palm warbler, unusual for this area, and a swamp sparrow in the field below the brambles. Mark then advised us to drive southerly some miles to Ferndale where some eastern warblers were seen on the Xmas count. Leaving the seaside park, Gayle



Black-throated Blue Warbler

(photo courtesy of Herb Clarke)

Chasing the Rare Vagrant

by Helen Matelson

and I were negotiating heavy traffic through the nearby town of Eureka. A car pulled up on our right, and the driver yelled, "Did you see the greenfinch?" "Yes" I answered. "Are you going to Ferndale next?" "Yes we are!" "We'll see you there." *Really*, our binoculars were not showing, we weren't wearing feathers - how on earth did this guy distinguish two rare-bird chasers from all the other cars on the busy street! After much speculation, we guessed he'd spotted the "I'd Rather Be Birding" license plate holder on the rear of Gayle's car and just figured we were comrades - but it was a shocker, and part of the fun of bird chasing.

In Ferndale the reported Cape May and Black-throated Blue warblers were not to be found. The town was worth a visit for its picturesque preserved Victorian buildings and nearby fields full of flocks of swans and geese.

Stockton, east of San Francisco, was our next stop. Betty Wyatt, our San Jose informer, informed us that two Little gulls were at the sewer ponds, accompanying the many Bonaparte gulls wintering there. This "Old World" species, now breeding on the Great Lakes, would be a splendid bird to see. Using the car as a shield, we drove the dikes of the ponds to the gull feeding site.

For the next two hours, we searched through the hundreds of Bonaparte gulls for the dark-under-the-wing look of the Little gull. We finally spotted that dark gray lining as the bird flew in, feeding among the Bonapartes. The head was darker than the other gulls. Since these birds were reportedly at this sewer pond two or three winters, perhaps they were the same individual and were now winter adults, as there was much less black on the primaries than expected on a younger bird.

Sweet success - hard won!

A couple of days after our return home, Betty called to report a Brown shrike identified at Point Reyes, north of San Francisco. On the way home from the greenfinch, we had passed within 40 miles of this very



Little Gull (photo courtesy of Herb Clarke)

spot. We could not resist, but again returned to the north coast, spending a few days birding the Point Reyes area after a very satisfactory study of the Brown shrike.

The bay and the woods were full of birds; a Eurasian widgeon, Lesser and Greater scaup, Varied thrushes and a number of White-throated sparrows. In Marin County, we were lucky to find a small bay that had male, female and immature Common and Barrow's goldeneyes all swimming together, a good chance to finally study the differences in these species at close range.

Jon Dunn doubts that the Oriental greenfinch will be a countable bird for one's U.S. list, since its origin, whether a wild or a released caged bird is subject to question. The Brown shrike, found a time or two in the west in the past, probably will be a listable bird.

So, you pay your money and takes your chances, and it's really great fun.

Day of the Bird

October 14 is the Third Annual Whittier Narrows Day of the Bird at the Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary. The Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates sponsor this fundraiser which features bird and nature walks, barbeque lunch, Indian dancing and storytelling, lectures on raptors and the natural environment, music and 18th century entertainment. The day, which begins with a bird walk at 8:00 a.m., ends at 4:00 p.m. A special focus this year is "Outdoor Vacation Planning," professionals from national, state and county parks and from environmental groups such as Audubon and Sierra Club will share expertise on vacation opportunities. There is no entrance fee.

Funds raised by Day of the Bird will be used for a wild bird intensive care center, veterinary and rehabilitative work, bird food, and emergency operations. You may participate, even if you cannot attend, by ordering commemorative buttons, posters, T-shirts and frisbees. The Associates would also appreciate donations of building materials and labor to help build raptor flight cages. Donors of \$500 value in any form will be remembered with a bronze plaque in the Museum.

Wildlife artist Pat Brame has created buttons and a special edition poster. Buttons, which show a hawk in flight, are available in five different colors, corresponding to donations of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$25 and \$100. A special hand-painted button is available for donations of \$500. Posters are \$15 (plus \$5 for mail orders). T-shirts and frisbees will also be for sale. You can pick up your but-

tons any time after October 1 at the Nature Center Museum if you order by mail now. Send check or money order payable to the order of WNNCA, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., South El Monte, CA 91733. More information is available from the Nature Center, telephone (818) 444-1872. Offers of labor or materials should be made to Jack Stewart at (714) 593-3036 or (714) 596-5568.

Day of the Bird is at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., South El Monte (west of Peck Road), October 14, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fill Your Local List

Gail Baumgarten continues to help birders find those hard-to-find local residents. She began this service around the new year and has become the darling of avid birders across the country. Apparently only the readers of *Winging It* (a new publication of the ABA), and a few local birders have really caught on to this service. She has had a flood of calls from far-flung corners of America for help in finding elusive species. She continues to collect and share invaluable information with the birding community. Call her at (818) 788-7357. If you do not reach her, Audubon House may be able to help.

Audubon House Library

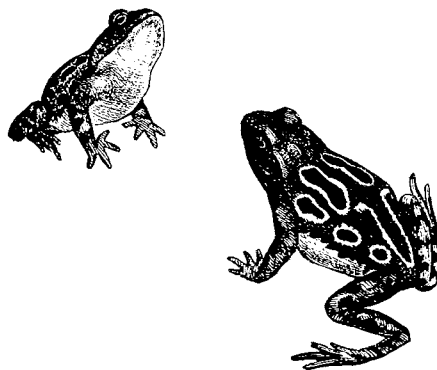
L.A. Audubon Society has a fine library of books and periodicals for birders and naturalists from which members may borrow. Check it out!



Common Egret

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth



Sometimes the good guys win one.

The hearing room in Santa Clarita (formerly Valencia, Saugus and Newhall) was packed with a standing-room-only crowd of very "concerned citizens." They came from Frazier Park, Tehachapi, Ventura and all parts of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles County Planning Commission was listening to testimony on a permit application for a proposed wind farm just above Gorman in those brown sensuous hills that magically explode every spring into a dazzling display of wildflowers. The prospect of 458 buzzing wind turbine generators - some 150-foot towers - slicing into the Tejon Pass was simply too much for environmentalists and nearby residents.

A branch of the Pacific Flyway funnels through the pass and it seemed inevitable that migrating birds would become hamburger as they flew into these giant Cuisinarts. (A wind farm in Altamont Pass in northern California killed 108 raptors, including 36 Golden Eagles.) Sherry Teresa, a biologist with the California Fish and Game Department, spoke of sightings of Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Swainson's Hawks in the Gorman area. All are endangered or threatened species. Other opponents of the wind farm focussed on the California condor (the "sexiest" bird of all) pointing out the probability of a return to this ancestral habitat of captive condors to be released in 1992 or 1993. (A number of enthusiastic county listers cherish their L.A. County condor seen near Gorman.)

Zond Systems, the wind farm applicant, rolled out a spate of experts, complete with maps, diagrams, photo enlargements and yards of statistics to prove their points. This took up the entire 3-hour morning session. After lunch, the opposition had its licks. The local group, Save the Mountain Committee, was well organized and presented (what to us were) cogent arguments disputing Zond's conclusions, especially what was said to be a woefully inadequate environmental impact report. Owners of the 200,000-acre Tejon Ranch had joined

with the Committee and brought in their own hired guns to rebut the claims and highlight the omissions of the EIR.

After listening to Linda Blum of National Audubon and a Sierra Club leader, the commissioners seemed to feel they had heard enough. Perhaps after five hours their chairs were getting hard. And there were still 40 or 50 wind farm opponents who hadn't spoken yet. While some disappointment could be sensed when the hearing was abbreviated, the commissioners were right: any further testimony would have been repetitious. Also, they had probably already reached a decision. In fact, after allowing a courteous interval for rebuttal, they voted unanimously to turn down the wind farm. A great victory. A significant victory.

* * *

A few comments can be made about the wind farm struggle that may be of interest. Save the Mountain Committee mobilized all its energies to actually defeat a \$100 million project. The leaders of the Committee came from Frazier Park, a small mountain community close to the proposed development. They reached out in all directions for allies and help. They put out informative mailings, they collected signatures, they burned up the long distance telephone lines. They did their homework and it showed in their testimony. They got nearly 200 people into a hearing room in Santa Clarita - not exactly a stroll around the corner for most of us. And the place was alive with reporters, photographers and TV cameras. The Committee had created an important event.

Undoubtedly the Committee's partnership with the Tejon Ranch made a difference. At most hearings of this sort, the developer's troops are easily spotted: they wear ties, the white shirts and the \$300 suits. The environmentalists usually come to the microphone in jeans, hiking boots and open collars. Not so this time. It was hard to tell "our" experts from theirs. Is this alliance of an environmental group with a wealthy "special interest" cause for alarm?

When the commissioners voted, each had a few words to say about their decision. One of the five said, "You can't tell me that the money that has been spent comes strictly from the people. It's coming from people who are concerned about, 'What is going to happen to my piece of property?'"

The Tejon Ranch is protecting its own interests. Perhaps a wind farm would decrease the value of its property which they may want to develop in the future. For that matter, there must be some Frazier Park residents who are not so much concerned about the fate of migratory birds and condors as they are of the intrusion of hundreds of whirring windmills into their bucolic paradise. Not to worry. If the wildflowers and the wild birds and the beautiful hills are spared, we've won. If the Tejon Ranch owners in a year or two announce plans for a gigantic development on their 200,000 acres of grazing land, they will regretfully have to be opposed. We hope this won't happen. Tejon Ranch has been an important ally in the wind farm fight. It has been a generous landowner, maintaining valuable raptor habitat and assisting Condor Recovery scientists in their work.

Finally, environmentalists were confronted with a moral dilemma over this Gorman wind farm. We stand on our soap boxes complaining loudly about fossil fuels polluting the air we breathe, destroying the ozone layer and creating the monstrous greenhouse effect. Then we oppose this alternate energy source that would save x-number of barrels of oil and generate power for y-number of homes. Are we two-faced hypocrites? No. We acknowledge the dilemma and we repeat our support for all forms of alternate energy. But not in this place. The loss of a national treasury of wildflowers, the visual blemishes on the hills that would be seen from two highways, and the genuine threat to resident and migrating birds are flatly unacceptable. The commission emphatically agreed that the price of a wind farm at Gorman was scandalously high.

LAAS Needs a New Home

If you have any ideas about an alternative, permanent meeting location, please contact Ken Kendig at (213) 931-6692 [home] or (213) 938-2200 [work].

Antarctica Alert

by Jesse Moorman

The Cousteau Society is conducting (or perhaps leading, if people like you will join) a campaign to defeat the Wellington Convention (the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities). The protection of Antarctica is a tremendously important issue for the global environment, but exploitation is the manifest destiny of modern government. This proposed treaty illuminates the conflict between environment and international sovereignty most chillingly; fighting it may be like barking at a very cold moon.

Antarctica has been reserved as a special place by treaty; essentially a common heritage of mankind. Now the eye of cupidity has glanced upon the snow-white continent and portends environmental catastrophe. The Wellington Convention, signed by 33 countries a year ago, could lead to exploitation of oil and other mineral resources in Antarctica, threatening irreparable damage to delicate ecosystems and wildlife. This Convention would amend the Antarctic Treaty, which has guaranteed only non-military, scientific use of this pristine continent since 1959.

The Wellington Convention is wrong because:

- * The harshest weather conditions in the world would make accidents inevitable;
- * The results of industrial disasters would be incalculable and irreversible because of Antarctica's biological fragility;
- * World demand for minerals and energy should be met through technological innovation and renewable resources and not through the sacrifice of Antarctica;
- * Antarctica should be protected forever from plunder as an irreplaceable wilderness and a natural legacy for our descendants.

The Wellington Convention can be defeated if any of nine key nations (Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, United States) refuses to ratify it.

The Cousteau Society is collecting petitions that:

- * Urge the United States NOT to ratify the Wellington Convention, thus sending a message to the world that Antarctica must be protected forever;
- * Urge world leaders to begin work immediately to establish Antarctica as a global heritage preserve.

You can contact your U.S. Senator directly to oppose ratification of the Convention. If you write your Senator, the Cousteau Society might appreciate a copy of your letter for moral support. The Los Angeles office assures me that they send mail only to their members, so you should not be in danger of getting more junk mail.

The Cousteau Society
930 West 21st Street
Norfolk, VA 23517



Population Conference '89

To learn more about the effects of overpopulation on the environment and society, and to learn how you can help put the brakes on this devastating growth, plan to attend this conference.

The day-long event includes an address by Werner Fornos, President of the Population Institute in Washington, D.C., an afternoon of workshops and networking booths.

Thursday, October 26, 1989
Cal State Long Beach, Student Union
11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Luncheon 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Workshops 1:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
\$25 including lunch
\$15 for workshops only

- Local Growth and the Human Factor
- Overpopulation: The Root Cause
- Effective Activism
- Overpopulation and Reproductive Issues

Further information:

Earth Balance
913 Huntington Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
(714) 969-8407

Chief Seattle's Letter a Hoax

Sandy Wohlgemuth was upset with your editor for leaving a sentence out of the September "Conservation Conversation." That column presented a well-known piece attributed to Chief Seattle. Sandy's original preface included the statement, "Whether Chief Seattle actually spoke these eloquent words or they were translated and embellished by some unknown hand is not important." After fiddling with the phrasing, I forgot to put that sentence back in. The importance of Sandy's sentence, and of the unknown embellishment, was more than either Sandy or I expected.

After the September *Tanager* was published, I discovered an expose of the hand that embellished the Chief's speech. The editor of *Environmental Ethics* (an interdisciplinary journal begun in 1979) has discovered some recent research revealing the deception. *Environmental Ethics*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (1989) pp. 195-96.

Chief Seattle did make a speech, in Duwamish language, in relation to the Port Elliot treaty of 1855; he never wrote a letter to President Pierce. Dr. Henry Smith, who happened to be present, translated the speech which is published in W.C. Vanderwerth, ed., *Indian Oratory: Famous Speeches by Noted Indian Chieftains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971), pp. 119-22.

In the same year the book was published, the Southern Baptist Convention was producing a fictional film called *Home*. Screenwriter Ted Perry wrote a speech for an Indian character, which was unfortunately attributed to the historical Chief Seattle. In the intervening 18 years, the speech has become famous in environmental circles, but may now be cause for some embarrassment.

The community of environmental scholars is concerned that this eloquent misrepresentation will have bad repercussions for the environmental cause. One of the scholars who discovered the mixup argues that the statement is authentic, only the attribution to Seattle is spurious. The other scholar expects "a backlash repudiation of the image of traditional American Indians as native environmentalists." The editor of *Environmental Ethics* suggests that henceforth we "refer mostly to Indians who really did make proto-environmental remarks and when reciting the Perry text, if indeed it must be recited, to present it as the work of a twentieth-century writer - who is not an American Indian."

Dropping Like Flies

by Jesse Moorman

Children are most at risk from pesticides in food; if the food's good enough for kids, then it'll be good enough for the old goats, too. Mothers and Others for Pesticide Limits (a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council) have a new book out, *For Our Kids' Sake, How to Protect Your Child Against Pesticides in Food* (NRDC, New York, 1989, 87 recycled pages, plus inserts). This book tells you everything you need to know to start protecting your family from dangerous residues on your food. You'll learn what is wrong with our food, how to sanitize the polluted food, how to find a supply of better food, how to start growing your own. In the long run, the book can help you join a campaign to reform pesticide laws and regulations. Proceeds from the book sales will bankroll a pesticide ballot initiative in 1990.

Young children are especially harmed by these pesticides for several reasons. First they eat much more food in proportion to their body weight, and eat a much larger proportion of fruits than adults. Their immature systems are much more susceptible to injury from the pesticides, and the injury has much longer to develop into cancer or other disease. Despite all the factors counting against children, none of them are taken into account in setting legal limits on pesticide residues. As a result, children are at risk from food that is officially considered safe and wholesome.

Margaret McNally, of the L.A. task force of Mothers and Others, says the book has been useful to mothers with little children who need to know what to do; it has virtually all info that they need. The book also has a section that tells what residues you are most likely to have on your produce. This info is not much use by itself, since you should be washing and peeling anyhow, but it is complemented by a previous book, *Pesticide Alert: A Guide to Pesticides in Fruits and Vegetables* (Lawrie Mott & Karen Snyder, Sierra Club Books, 1987) which has more on each pesticide, including the history and uses of the chemical. *Kids' Sake* has a good bibliography which lists some other very interesting titles.

Here are seven ways Mothers and Others suggest to remove pesticides from your produce:

1. *Wash it.* A little dishwashing soap in the water is advised, since plain water has little or no effect on most pesticide residues. Rinse well.
2. *Peel it.* This will remove all pesticides on the surface, but not those inside the produce. In some cases, peeling removes valuable nutrients.
3. *Buy certified organically-grown produce.* This can sometimes be expensive these days, although demand has not yet exceeded supply. Let your markets know that you want it.
4. *Buy domestically-grown produce in season.* Imported produce often contains more pesticides than domestically-grown produce, and may contain pesticides that are banned in the U.S. Train your supermarket to label country of origin.
5. *Beware of perfect-looking produce;* it might be laced with too many pesticides.
6. *Grow your own.* If you use pesticides on it, use only those that thorough testing has proved safe for health and environment.
7. *Write to your elected officials to get reforms in pesticide regulation and to reduce pesticide use.*

Pesticides are divided into four categories, depending on what type of pest is to be poisoned. There are insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and rodenticides. These marvels of modern chemistry, besides killing insects, fungus, weeds and rodents, can also cause cancer, nerve damage, birth defects and genetic defects in the human consumer or her offspring.

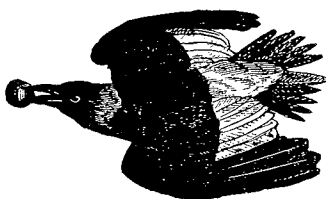
The FDA's usual testing methods detect less than half of the pesticides that are likely to remain on the food. The tests detect only 60 percent of the pesticides that the FDA knows to be health hazards. Sampling a tiny fraction of the food supply with these methods, the FDA in 1987 found pesticide residues on half the fruits and 41 percent of the vegetables. The truth could be much worse, but there is not enough information. There is no ready answer for my question, "What was in that melon that gave me a headache two days in a row?" There are about 600 active ingredients in the universe of pesticides, 350 of them are used on foods, and full health information is available on

only 5. The EPA, which now regulates pesticide uses, does not yet have useful information on synergistic effects of pesticides. There may be a significant change underway. A 1988 bill requires the completion of data gathering in eight or nine years, and new data are pouring in after an eternity of bureaucratic doldrums. If you are inclined to study the health effects of various pesticides, the most current information may be available in information papers from the EPA itself.

NRDC is finally opening an L.A. office in September which will have several functions. Attorney James Thornton will head the office, suing all those environmental demons; Sherry Morse directs L.A. Mothers and Others. Nonetheless, the book is not generally available here. (L.A. Audubon's copy should be in our library.) You may order the book by mail: Mothers and Others, Department Los Angeles, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011 (\$7.95 each book, postage included).

Birds of the Season

by Hank Brodtkin



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

Most of us have acquired at least one new life bird without leaving our chairs. The 37th Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist of North American Birds has been published in the July, 1989 issue of *The Auk*, and some of its pronouncements will allow you to do just that.

Here are a few changes that will interest most of our readers; for the complete list of changes please refer to the Supplement. New for North America north of Mexico are **Stejneger's Petrel** (sight record off Monterey), **Black-tailed Gull** (Alaska), **Eurasian Collared Dove** (Florida, from an introduced colony in the Bahamas), **Mottled Owl** (road kill in Texas), **Greenish Elaenia** (Texas, photograph), **Yellow-breasted Bunting** (Alaska) and **Shiny Cowbird** (Florida).

Some of the English name changes are: **Common Barn-Owl** to **Barn-Owl**, **Northern Hawk-Owl** to **Northern Hawk Owl** and **Common Pauraque** to **Pauraque**.

Most intriguing are the "splits." Here is how we add birds to our list without leaving home. **Western Flycatcher** has now become **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** (our bird) and **Cordilleran Flycatcher** (the bird that breeds mainly between the Sierras/Cascades and the Rockies). The Cordilleran, which can so far only be differentiated in the field by voice, can be found in California in the Siskiyou and White Mountains (Richard Webster saw and heard one in Cottonwood Basin this summer), and apparently on the east slope of the Sierras (Gaines, D., 1988, *Birds of Yosemite and the East Slope*). **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher** now applies only to the pale desert birds; the individuals along the coast become **California Gnatcatchers**. **Water Pipits** which breed in Siberia and North America have been separated into **American Pipits**. The familiar

Brown Towhee will in the future be referred to as the **California Towhee** (our bird) and, east of the Colorado River, as **Canyon Towhee**. Of course, these are the same birds we have always been seeing. As time goes on, our ability to peer into the very building-blocks of life—the genes—increases and, based on recent studies by ornithologists such as Ned Johnson, Charles Sibley and Robert Zink, our whole idea of what a species is may shortly be turned upside down.

October with its vagrants is an exciting time to be along the coast and in the deserts. The arrival of some of our winter residents should remind us that it is not too early to start thinking of our local Christmas counts: Los Angeles, Malibu and the Antelope Valley. More information on these will be upcoming in the *Tanager*.

August is the beginning of fall migration, not only for shorebirds but also for passerines, as indicated by the reports following.

Two immature **Magnificent Frigatebirds** were reported, one from Gladstone's Restaurant north of Santa Monica (Jean Brandt) on 4 August and one at Red Hill on the Salton Sea on 9 August (Steve Meladnoff).

The immature **Little Blue Heron** first reported from Playa del Rey by Bert Warren on 22 July and still present (29 August) has been seen and photo-graphed by many observers. Speculation has it that it may indeed be a **Little Blue/Snowy Egret** hybrid. Another bird reported by Dick Smith to be in similar plumage was at the Tijuana River bottom on 20 August. Many Snowies and at least one pair of Little Blues have been known to nest there. An unquestionable adult Little Blue was at Goleta on 3 August (Shawneen Lehman). A **Least Bittern** was seen at Finney Lake in Imperial County on 29 July (Betty Jo Stephenson).

A juvenile **Swainson's Hawk**, a bird rarely seen at the coast nowadays, was reported from Goleta on 20 August (Jon Dunn).

The shorebird migration that started in

mid-July continued through August. A **Black Oystercatcher** (with nine **Surfbirds** and one **Wandering Tattler**) was at Playa del Rey on 4 August. McGrath State Beach and Goleta each had four **Semipalmated Sandpipers** through August (Paul Lehman). A juvenile **Ruff** was present at Goleta from 22 August to at least 29 August per Paul Lehman; and an old friend, Fred Heath, jogging as usual, found the best bird of the month, an **Upland Sandpiper**, in Ventura on 28 August.

A **Laughing Gull** was reported from Upper Newport Bay on 18 August (Dick Smith) and a **Pigeon Guillemot** was seen at Point Mugu on 6 August (Richard Webster).

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, most rare on the coast, serendipitously crashed into Helen Matelson's window in Santa Barbara on 1 August. The bird flew off apparently unharmed. Even more bizarre was the **Pileated Woodpecker** which flew over Peter Barnes' head at Malibu Lagoon on 12 August. It was still present on the 13th.

The warbler migration included a **Black-and-White Warbler** at Tapia Park from 12 through 19 August (Kimball Garrett and Sandy Wohlgemuth) and an **American Redstart** and a **Virginia's Warbler** at Big Pine on 11 August (Steve Meladnoff).

Finishing up, there was a **Great-tailed Grackle** at McGrath on 20 August (Barbara Elliot) and a pair of **Indigo Buntings** at Huntington Beach Central Park on 5 August (Dick Smith).

I was pleasantly surprised to find in my mail a note from Chuck and Rachel Rosenbach with photos of a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** which was at their feeder in west Los Angeles on 4 June. It reminds me to thank the birders who have written and have left messages on my machine. To those of you, including the Rosenbachs, to whom I have not personally replied, I apologize. Your efforts have not gone unappreciated—indeed without them there would be no column.

The Rosenbachs' correspondence also reminds me to ask those of you who have photographs and descriptions of birds unusual for our county to please send a copy to our Los Angeles County *American Birds* coordinator, Kimball Garrett, at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007. Reports and photos should be sent as soon as possible after a sighting—even if it means developing a partially exposed roll of film!

Under Susan Drennan's editorship *American Birds*, a National Audubon Society publication, has really blossomed. The

Summer 1989 issue I recently received, besides containing the winter reports from all over the continent, has an article on separating the Eastern and Western Screech-Owls by Kenn Kaufmann, a piece on birding Bentsen State Park in Texas by Pete Dunne, two commentaries on the Exxon oil disaster, and a book review with four sample plates of the first volume of *The Birds of South America* by Robert Ridgely and Guy Tudor (get this superb volume at the LAAS Bookstore—it's a winner!) Subscriptions for the magazine are \$27.50 per year for five issues, and are available from American Birds, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Good Birding!

* * *

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

Hank Brodtkin
27-1/2 Mast Street
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
(213) 827-0407
OR
Call Jean Brandt at (818) 788-5188

Bookstore News

by Charles Harper

This month has brought two new and important additions to the literature on the identification of the South American avifauna.

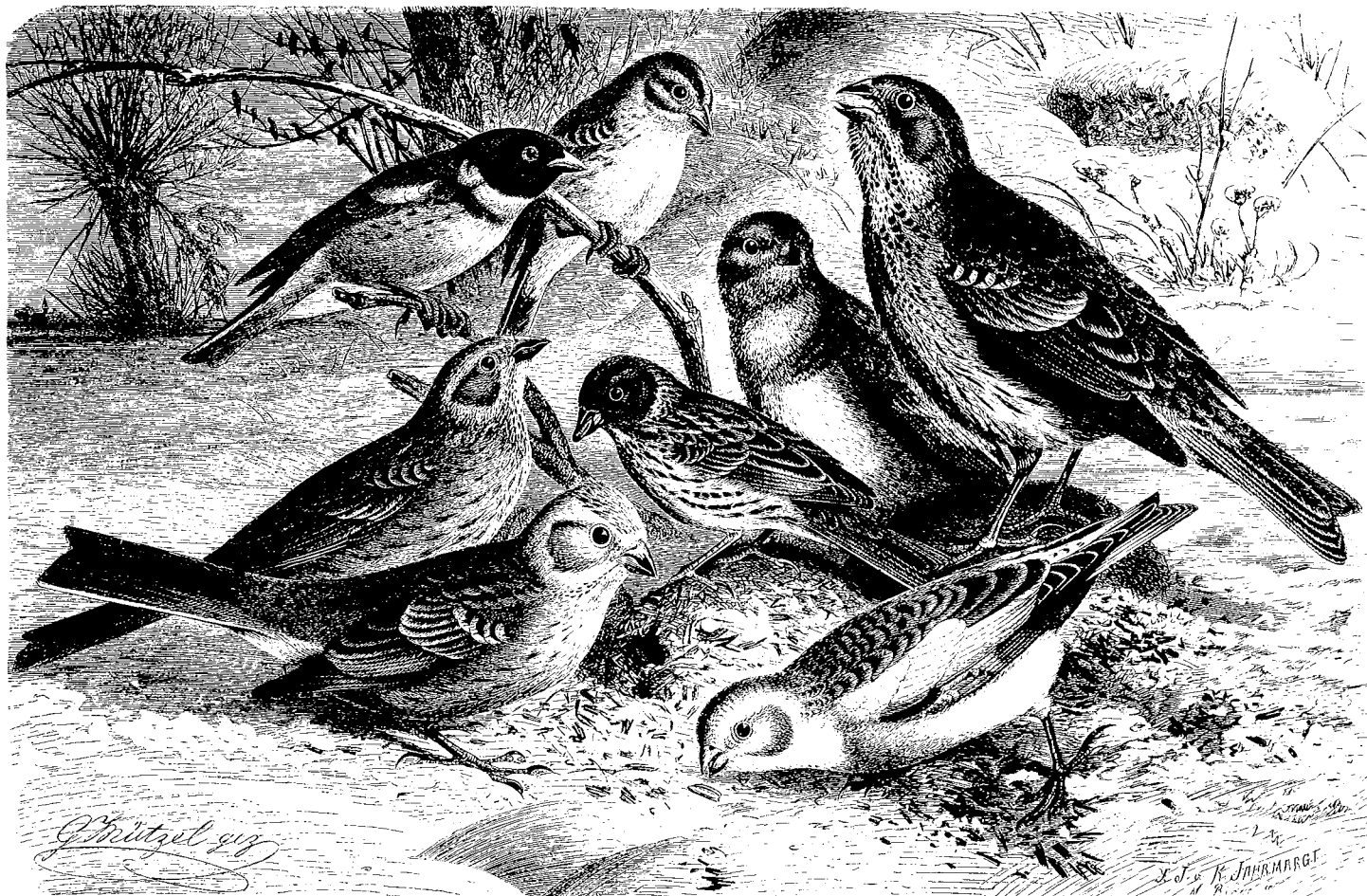
Sadly, the first work represents the last efforts of John S. Dunning, who succumbed to cancer at the age of 81, only months before his *South American Birds: A Photographic Aid to Identification* appeared. In this book he has more closely approached his intention of illustrating with color photographs the species of South American birds as outlined in Meyer de Schauensee's *A Guide to the Birds of South America* (1970), now long out of print. Dunning's earlier effort, *South American Land Birds* (1982), illustrated over 1,000 species. The present work encompasses much of the material of *Land Birds* and includes color photographs of more than 1,400 species! The text, covering over 2,700 land and inland water birds,

is of necessity extremely brief, but includes key identification characters and a range map for each species. Much of the authority for the text and maps comes from Robert S. Ridgely, Dunning's collaborator.

Wherever you are bound in South America, you will want to carry Dunning's *South American Birds* as an invaluable adjunct to whichever regional field guide you are using.

The second major publication this month is Robert Ridgely's and Guy Tudor's *The Birds of South America, Volume 1, The Oscine Passerines*. For many readers, the knowledge that it is composed of Ridgely text and Tudor illustrations will be assurance enough of the exceptional quality of this, the first of four volumes covering the species of South American birds. Volume 1 covers more than 700 species of the true songbirds (Jays and Swallows, Wrens, Thrushes and Allies, Vireos and Wood-Warblers, and the Tanagers, Icterids and Finches). Subsequent volumes will consist

continued on page 8



Bookstore News

continued from page 7

of the Suboscine Passerines, the Nonpasserine Landbirds, and the Nonpasserine Waterbirds.

The book is clothbound and large format, but is still styled a field guide; its internal arrangement is of 31 (gorgeous!) plates followed by lucid text and range map, two species to a page. Ridgely himself terms it "a field handbook... even if its four volumes must be left in the car or a hotel room... There are simply too many birds in South America to have all of them included in a superficial field guide." In fact, it is a formidable effort to synthesize the most current information on identification, taxonomy, status and distribution, behavior and habitat for the avifauna of the continent as a discrete faunal realm, and it would be difficult indeed to find such an ambitious work more beautifully and authoritatively accomplished.

The Birds of South America, Volume 1, Ridgely and Tudor (\$55) and *South American Birds*, Dunning (\$35) are both available at Audubon House.

A Day in Sepulveda Basin

WHAT: A basic basin clean-up of the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area; a chance to meet other park users.

WHEN: Saturday, October 28 (if rain, November 4) 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meet in the parking lot at Woodley Park: 405 Freeway to Burbank Boulevard, west to the second stop light (Woodley), right (north) to the Woodley Park sign (also the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden turnoff).

WEAR: Old clothes and especially old shoes and work gloves.

BRING: Lunch and water (we'll provide goodies), work gloves (if you have them).

OTHER: If you cannot help clean up, volunteer to bake cookies, pass out refreshments, direct people, contact service groups.

INFORMATION: Jerry at (818) 994-9623 or Jill at (818) 344-8714.

What's In A Name?

An unfortunate incident occurred recently of which the entire membership should be aware.

We received notice from an attorney that Los Angeles Audubon was the beneficiary of a very large bequest in an estate of a recently deceased member. However, examination of the will showed that National Audubon was the named beneficiary and not Los Angeles Audubon, as the attorney had assumed. In fact, the attorney really thought that the decedent had intended that Los Angeles Audubon should receive the money.

While we are happy to see a large sum given for conservation to any organization, we feel it important to point out the ease with which a mistake can be made, particularly by an attorney who is not entirely familiar with various environmental organizations with similar names.

We urge our membership to consider bequests to environmental organizations in their wills, and particularly to our own Los Angeles Audubon Society, but strongly recommend that the wording be carefully checked to make sure the money goes to the right place.



Budgerigar

Audubon Research Awards

The Los Angeles Audubon Society will be giving annual Research Awards in February, 1990. 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 either reside in southern California (from San Luis Obispo, Kern and San Bernardino counties to the Mexican border) or be currently enrolled in a southern California academic institution. There is no geographical restriction on the research area. One or more Awards will be given. The total amount to be awarded will be approximately \$2,000.

The application deadline for the 1990 Research Awards is November 30, 1989. For applications, write:

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

Reservation Policy and Procedures

For LAAS trips that require reservations, supply *ALL* the following information:

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

If a trip is not filling up, it will be cancelled *two Wednesdays* before the scheduled date (four weeks for pelagic trips); you will be so notified, and your fee will be refunded. If you cancel a reservation after those times, you will get a refund only if someone takes your place.

Send to: Reservations, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Happy Birthday, Whittier Narrows!

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

In August, Whittier Narrows Nature Center was fifty years old. National Audubon leased a portion of river bottom land, bought 7 acres for a headquarters and began an educational conservation program directed particularly toward children.

In 1948, Alma Stultz, former president of Los Angeles Audubon, became director of what was known as the Audubon Center of Southern California. The next 20 years saw the federal government take over the property as a flood control basin for the new Whittier Narrows Dam. The Center survived a 45-acre fire, a new headquarters was dedicated at the present site, more land was acquired, and in 1963, 45,000 visitors passed through.

National Audubon decided to leave in 1969 as it became difficult to raise enough money for operation and expansion on only 127 acres. The following year, Los Angeles

County Parks and Recreation Department took over and the name was changed to Whittier Narrows Nature Center and Wildlife Sanctuary.

Perhaps the most dramatic and significant change occurred in 1975, and thereby hags a nifty tale. When the Pomona Freeway was being built, soil was obtained from a borrow pit dug at Legg Lake in Whittier Narrows. The high water table filled this small depression and, in time, with no attention paid, it developed into a charming little lake with lush vegetation. Out of the blue, so to speak, came a splendid birding spot. One day, Ed Navojosky was there and overheard a conversation that revealed a plan the County Parks and Recreation had to change the character of the lake. Most of the greenery was to be removed and it was to become another fishing lake.

L.A. Audubon, with president Jerry

Maisel at the helm, sailed into action. A lawsuit was filed to prevent the takeover. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas - an ardent outdoorsman - granted an injunction, money was raised by the Society, and an environmental lawyer was hired, hearings were held and blood pressures soared. The U.S. Army came to the rescue. Not the blue-uniformed cavalry, but the much-maligned Corps of Engineers. In a refreshing change from the diligent river-channeling proclivities, the Corps engineered a marvelous settlement to the controversy. In a rhubarb field in the nature center, three new lakes were created and 150 acres were acquired to add to the sanctuary. This was the generous mitigation for the loss of the pond at Legg Lake.

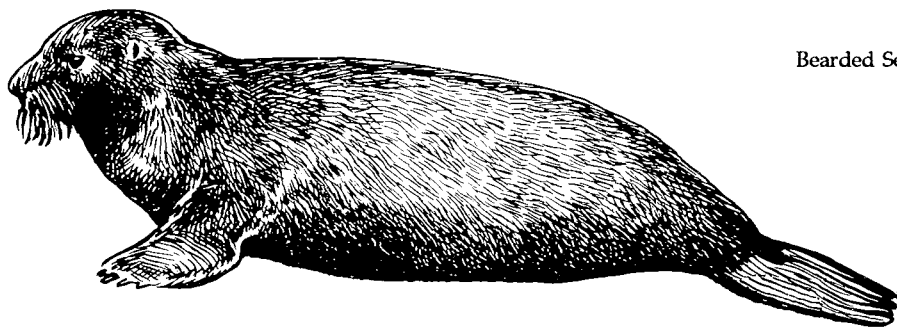
Excellent planting landscaped the barren borders of the new lakes (still called New Lakes today) and now the trees tower overhead and the understory is thick and green. The bird life is exuberant with many ducks in winter, a Great Blue Heron rookery and interesting migrants in season. David White leads a monthly field trip there year-round.

The 1975 struggle was a war that everyone won. The Corps of Engineers is proud of their beneficent environmental achievement. So are we.

Correction on Butterbredt Springs

The July-August issue of the *Tanager* carried an anonymous warning that careless closing of a gate at the springs on the Onyx Ranch caused the death of cattle. Keith Axelson, wildlife advisor to Onyx Ranch, graciously writes to say that no cattle have been lost at the springs, and that Los Angeles birders have not been accused of wrongdoing.

The Ranch strictly prohibits any form of harassment of cattle, birds and wildlife, including mist-netting of birds. Birders and visitors will be permitted on the Ranch as long as these sanctuary rules are heeded.



Bearded Seal

Volunteers Always Needed

Members who would like to contribute a little time and talent to the Society are needed at Audubon House. The most active day-to-day operation is bookstore sales, and extra hands can be put to good use in filling the orders that come in. The atmosphere is informal and congenial, and the conversation witty and stimulating. The bookstore provides a great service in supplying a wonderful selection of books, scopes, binoculars and accessories, and it is our main source of income for LAAS's conservation work. For more information, call Audubon House at (213) 876-0202.

Contribute to the Tanager!

Don't you have some knowledge or experience to share with our readers? You can submit finished articles or just send in some interesting facts that we can pass on to our members. Deadline is the beginning of the month before the publication date, but we cannot publish all items the next month. Send your ideas to the *Tanager*, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Does anyone out there have ambitions to be an editor? We might use some help. Contact the editor through Audubon House.

Pigeons and Hammocks: A Fruitful Relationship

by Reed Bowman and
G. Thomas Bancroft,
Audubon Research Biologists

In ecology, the term mutualism means a relationship between two organisms that benefits both. Ecologists are increasingly finding evidence that in the tropics and sub-tropics, mutualism between plants and animals is an abundant and complex phenomenon. An understanding of the nature of mutual interactions may be critical if we are to save the rapidly disappearing flora and fauna of these regions.

We have been studying the role fruit plays in the reproductive ecology of the white-crowned pigeon in the Florida Keys. In the Keys, 70 percent of the native flora relies primarily upon birds for seed dispersal, and the white-crowned pigeon, a fruit eater, may be the most important avian seed-disperser there.

White-crowned pigeons feed almost exclusively in hammocks (rises in landscapes with West Indian hardwood plants). Early in the breeding season, the pigeons feed mainly on figs. By mid-July, however, poisonwood fruit accounts for nearly 80 percent of their diet. Timed with this shift in diet are a peak in nesting initiations and an increase in nesting success. It appears, moreover, that poisonwood is central to the survival of the pigeon brood. Before poisonwood ripens, as many as 90 percent of second-hatched chicks die, mostly of starvation. Once the poisonwood fruit is available, only 15 percent of these chicks perish.

The problem for wildlife managers is that Florida's hammocks, because they occupy high ground, are under intense development pressure. In addition, poisonwood, because it causes a poison-ivy-like rash in humans, is one of the first plant species to go. The implications of this are clear for both pigeons and hammocks: Without poisonwood, the population of the white-crowned pigeon could be severely limited. Without the seed-dispersing birds, the health of the hammocks' plant communities will suffer. We are in the process of adding our data on the pigeons to a larger model that will help us predict the effects of environmental changes on the South Florida ecosystem and, with luck, help us manage it for a healthy future.

Audubon Toughens Stand Against Drilling in Arctic Refuge

In the wake of the catastrophic Valdez oil spill, at its June meeting the board of directors of the National Audubon Society developed a stricter policy on the controversy about opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Last year, Audubon opposed drilling until and unless careful research could show that wildlife and the environment would not be harmed. After examining the evidence of the last two years, the Society has concluded that this criteria cannot be met, and therefore unconditionally opposes any form of oil extraction in the refuge and urges that it be designated wilderness.

The oil industry sees the refuge as its highest priority onshore drilling site, and President Bush continues to publicly support oil exploration there. Legislation that would open the refuge to drilling has stalled in Congress, largely in response to the spill; however, proponents of the legislation still plan to forge ahead.

At the Audubon board meeting, board member Scott Reed summed up the need for the protection of the refuge as wilderness: "The whole proposition to drill in the Arctic, to construct the trans-Alaska pipeline, and to ship the oil by tankers across the

seas was promoted and sold to the public upon the representation that no serious harm would ever happen to natural creatures....

"Big Oil lied about the risks and the remedies. Big Oil cheated by evading the double hull commitment with the full concurrence of the United States Coast Guard. Big Oil and the state and federal governments were grossly negligent by failing to stock and man the response boats and equipment. Investigation and public disclosure to date has yet to find an area of protection in which something was done right....

"Our position must be 'nevermore.' The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge must be just what the name describes, a wildlife refuge.... The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is off limits."

To prevent a recurrence of the Valdez disaster, Audubon is also moving on other fronts. The Society joined with other environmental organizations in several lawsuits against Exxon; staff in Washington, D.C., and Alaska are pressing Audubon's six-point strategy, which includes updated and stringent oil spill contingency plans and a protection plan for Alaska's marine environment; and Audubon's experts renewed their call for development of alternative energy sources and energy-saving regulations.

Concerned Auduboners should take this opportunity to write their legislators, requesting full wilderness protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Audubon Activist Newsjournal of the National Audubon Society

Simply put, there's no better source of information for individuals concerned about the fate of the natural world. Each issue gives you straight news on important conservation issues and the contacts you need to take effective action.

IT ONLY COSTS \$9
FOR ONE YEAR!

Send your name, address, city, state and zip along with your check in the amount of \$9 payable to:

Audubon Activist
950 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

New Audubon Wildlife Report Examines Corps' Wetland Role

For the fifth year in a row, the Audubon Wildlife Report dives into the heart of a federal agency and emerges with a well-written and balanced analysis. The 1989/1990 volume features the often-controversial U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands champions will be familiar with the Corps, an agency whose conflicting mandates to be both wetlands protector and developer often put it at odds with itself and with those who would protect precious wetlands.

But there's more. The sections on conservation challenges are a must-read for all environmental activists. The Report con-

continued on next page

Report

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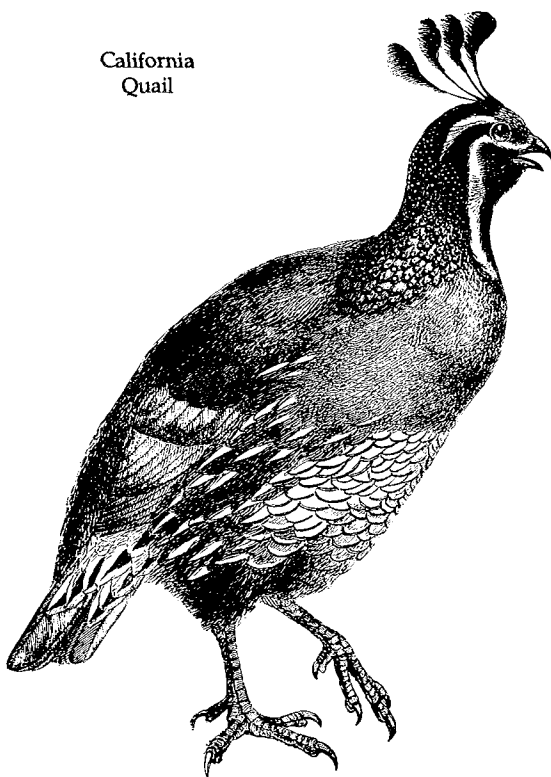
tains some of the most comprehensive and incisive discussions of important and timely conservation issues—destruction of our ancient forests, battles over water rights in the West, global warming and its implications for wildlife and humans, the often federally subsidized overgrazing of our public lands, and many other topics.

A longstanding and popular component of the series, the species case histories, cover a diversity of wildlife species, both abundant and endangered. Some of the species featured: monarch butterfly, western North Atlantic swordfish, humpback whale, roseate tern, marbled murrelet, and ocelot.

The appendices are invaluable for their addresses and phone numbers of key personnel in the major federal natural resource agencies.

The Audubon Wildlife Report 1989/1990 is an indispensable part of any conservationist's bookshelf. The report will be available beginning in August. All four earlier volumes, 1985 to 1988/1989, are still available from Academic Press, Inc., which copublishes the book with National Audubon. To order, call: (800) 321-5068 (In Missouri, Alaska, or Hawaii: (314) 528-8110.)

California
Quail



Field Trips

continued from page 12

Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10 - Carrizo Plains (two trips). Leader **Rob Hansen**. Even with two dates available, these trips are expected to sell out due to last year's response, the ensuing success of that trip, and Rob Hansen's impressive familiarity with the birds and the area. This is an excellent opportunity to see raptors, including dark- and light-phase Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons and others seen last year. Most would probably agree that the high point was the sight of hundreds of Sandhill Cranes gliding over the ridge to roost on Soda Lake. This year we will plan to take Soda Lake Road up from the south. We may be able to trade in some of our 600 Mountain Plovers for more raptors. Bring lunch and scopes, and meet at 8:30 a.m. near Wheeler Ridge (map and info will be sent upon registration). In an effort to accommodate all comers while meeting expenses and limiting the carpool to a manageable 7 cars per day, the trip rate will be a flat \$40 per car. So call up some friends and make it a social event. Sign up at Audubon House with SASE per field trip policy.

RESERVATION TRIPS

(Limited Participation)

Policy and Procedures

Reservations for LAAS trips will be accepted **ONLY** if **ALL** the following information has been 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 or change
- (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, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046

If there is insufficient response the trip will be cancelled **two Wednesdays** prior to the scheduled date and you will be so notified and your fee refunded. Your cancellation within that time will bring a refund only if there is a paid replacement available.

EDITOR: Jesse Moorman

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Hank Brodtkin

CONSERVATION EDITOR:

Sandy Wohlgemuth

ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT:

Kimball Garrett

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PRESIDENT: Robert Van Meter

1st VICE PRESIDENT: Jean Brandt

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

Richard Webster

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Mildred Newton

Annual membership in both societies is \$35 per year, \$21 for seniors, and presently \$30 for new members for their first year. Members receive *The Western Tanager* newsletter and *Audubon* magazine, a national publication.

Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not normally be sent to LAAS. New memberships and renewal of lapsed memberships may be sent to Los Angeles Audubon House at the above address. Make checks payable to the order of National Audubon Society.

Non-members may subscribe to the *The Western Tanager* for \$12 per year. The newsletter is sent by first class mail to subscribers and members who pay an additional \$5. Make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters, Library and Bookstore are located at:

Audubon House, Plummer Park

7377 Santa Monica Boulevard

West Hollywood, CA 90046.

Open: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday - Saturday

(213) 876-0202 - office

(213) 874-1318 - bird tape

(updated Thursdays)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EVENING MEETING

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

Tuesday, October 10 - Dynamic duo of Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn, authors of *Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution*, will present "Some Fall Bird Identification Challenges." Come sharpen your skills with our resident experts.

IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

Precedes the regular evening meetings
7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

* * *

FIELD TRIPS

CALL THE TAPE!

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

Sunday, October 1 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh will guide participants through this beautiful nearby area. The group will look at migrants and resident species in the sycamores, grassland, scrub oak and chaparral. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new to the area. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. heading south, take a very sharp turn east (left) uphill onto Entrada Dr. (7 miles south of Ventura Blvd. and 1 mile north of Topanga Village). Follow the signs to the state park. \$3 parking fee.

Monday, October 2 - Malibu to McGrath. First Monday in October for 18 years running! Ed Navojosky will lead interested parties up the coast from Malibu Lagoon to McGrath State Beach estuary, stopping along the way to bird and picnic at Big Sycamore Canyon and elsewhere. This is an excellent time of year to see breeding, migrant and wintering bird species together (with decent vagrant possibilities). Bail out early if a full-day affair doesn't suit you. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the shopping center parking lot adjacent to the Malibu Lagoon bridge. Take Pacific Coast Highway north over the bridge, turn right and right again into the shopping center, and meet at the extreme southeast corner of the lot (considering PCH to be running north-south), where the lot fronts the creek. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, October 7 - Prado Basin. Basin ecologist Tom Keeney will take our group duck-club hopping through the riparian woodlands behind Prado Dam. The emphasis will be on passerine migrants, with some summer/winter resident birds mixed in. No cuckoos this late, though. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant just south of the 91 Fwy's 6th St. offramp in Corona (coming from the east, it would be the Maple St. offramp). Bring a lunch and insect repellent. Dress for a warm day.

Saturday, October 14 - Pelagic Trip to Santa Barbara Island. Leaders Kimball Garrett and Herb Clarke. Leaving from L.A. Harbor at 6 a.m. Fee \$32. Reservations should be made as

soon as possible to avoid disappointment. (213) 876-0202.

Sunday, October 15 - Huntington Beach Central Park and Bolsa Chica. Join Daniel Cooper in search of late and straying passerine migrants and wintering shorebirds. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at the north end of the park. To get there, take 405 Fwy south to Golden west St.; take this south a few blocks, then turn east onto Slater Ave. Turn into the park lot on the south (right) side of the street. Later the group will caravan down to nearby Bolsa Chica estuary. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, October 21 - Ballona Wetlands. Bob Shanman or Ian Austin will conduct this monthly walk at our nearest wetlands to welcome back the wintering waterfowl. Black Oystercatchers are usually seen. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Pacific Avenue 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 along Pacific.

Sunday, October 22 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. David White will lead a morning walk to check in on their resident birds and renowned waterfowl. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 N. Durfee Avenue in South El Monte, off Fwy 60 between the Santa Anita and Peck Dr. exits, west of Fwy 605.

Sunday, October 22 - Malibu Lagoon. Fourth Sunday of each month. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the lagoon parking lot (daily fee) on the ocean side of Pacific Coast Highway, just north of the lagoon bridge. You can also turn into town for street parking. Parking along the highway is not recommended, as there have been several automobile break-ins in recent months. This walk is under the leadership of a member of the Santa Monica Audubon Society.

Sunday, November 5 - Topanga State Park. Meet leader Gerry Haigh at 8 a.m. See October 1st trip for details.

Sunday, November 5 - Oxnard Plains. Still unclear on the distinguishing features of *fulva* and *dominica* Golden-Plovers, or just having trouble finding these recently-elevated species? Larry Allen will attempt to resolve your predicament with information, tips and spotting scopes. This may also be an excellent chance to look for and not find the Red-throated Pipit seen nearby last year. Other promising areas will also be visited at Larry's whim, to round out this morning of birding. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the historically plover-laden sod fields on Huene Rd, just east of Casper Rd. Boots may be appropriate.

Saturday, November 11 - Antelope Valley. Fred Heath, organizer of the A.V. Christmas Count, will show us around Edwards Air Force Base and nearby areas. Wintering waterfowl and hawks should be establishing themselves. Bring a lunch and be prepared for possible bad weather — tennis shoes are out. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Lamont-Odett Vista Point located along Hwy 14 about 1 mile past the Pearblossom Hwy turnoff.

Saturday, November 11 - Ballona Wetlands. Bob Shanman or Ian Austin leads. See October 21st for details.

Sunday, November 12 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. David White will lead. See October 22nd for details.

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Sunday, November 12 - Pelagic Trip to Santa Barbara Island and out to sea. Leaders Herb Clark and Jonathan Alderfer. Leaving from L.A. Harbor at 6 a.m. Fee \$28. Reservations should be made as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. (213) 876-0202.

Sunday, November 23 - Malibu Lagoon. For details see October 22nd.

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