



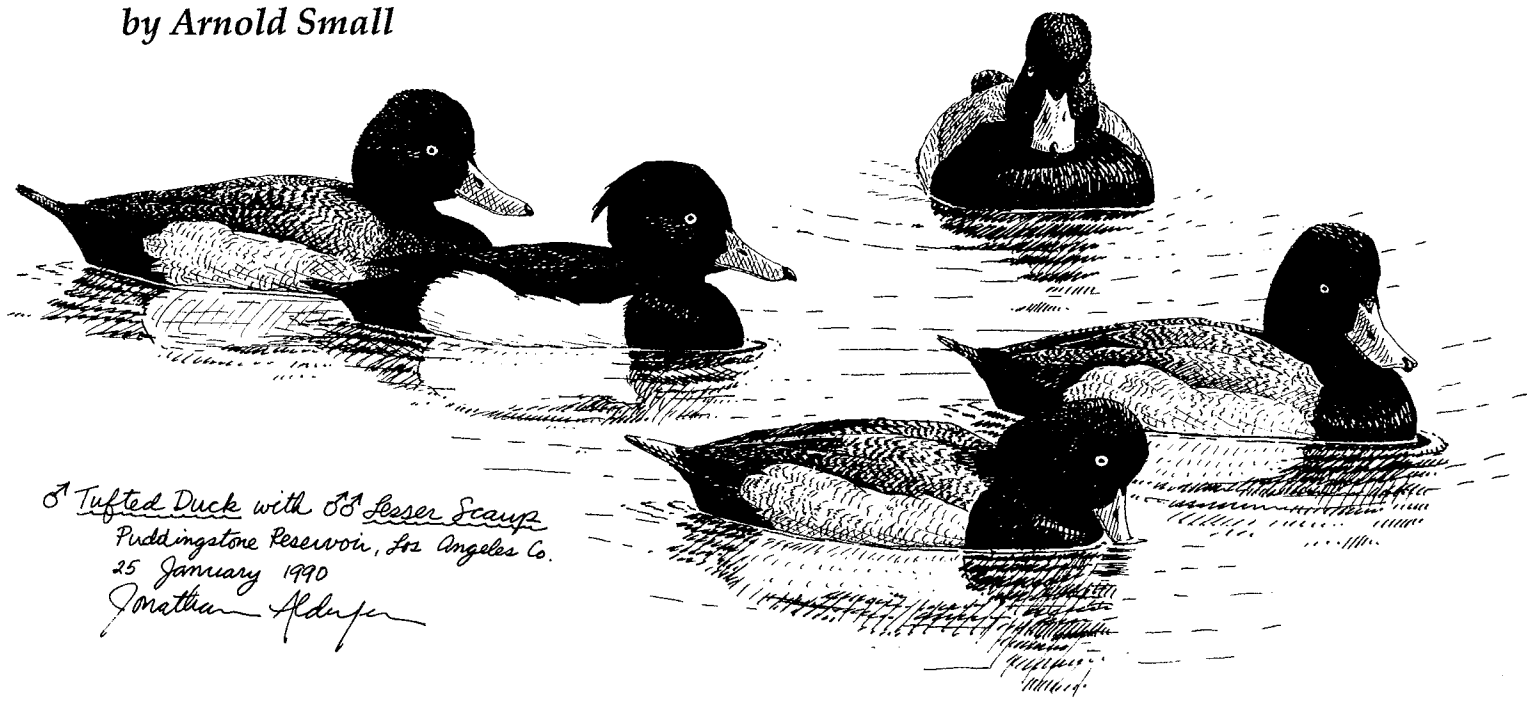
WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of
The National Audubon Society

Volume 57 Number 3 November 1990

Vagrant Birds In California

by Arnold Small



♂ Tufted Duck with ♀ Lesser Scaup
Puddingstone Reservoir, Los Angeles Co.
25 January 1990
Jonathan Alderfer

Vagrant birds may be defined as those individuals whose normal species' breeding range and routes of migration do not include California nor its offshore waters (out to 200 nautical miles). However, for a small number of marginal vagrants (i.e. American Redstart, Bobolink), their breeding range and/or migratory routes barely include the fringes of the state.

About 200 of California's 580 bird species may be considered vagrants or near-vagrants. This is 34.5 percent of the state's avifauna. As might be expected, the largest number of vagrants in California are derived from the "eastern" North America component. Those species with large breeding populations account for a large proportion of the California records. The majority of fall vagrant passerines in California are immatures rather than adults. Indeed, over 90 percent of the vagrant autumn parulines on the California coast are immatures, presumably dependent upon "distance-and-direction" navigation. The majority of vagrant fall shorebirds have also proven to be immatures. Of course, in

spring, virtually all the passerine vagrants in California may be due to mis-orientation – the inability of an individual to follow the correct orientation. Two types of mis-orientation – "180 degree reverse mis-orientation" and "mirror-image mis-orientation" were proposed as causing some of the vagrancy to California by "eastern" North American birds. The "mirror-image mis-orientation" theory was developed by DeSante and summarized by Diamond to explain the occurrence of vagrant passerines in coastal California in the fall. He worked with records of parulines (warblers), especially the Blackpoll Warbler, and was able to demonstrate that these birds were oriented in their migratory

flight path (presumably from Alaska and Canada) to the southwest at the same angle towards the southwest to which they should have been oriented towards the southeast in relation to south. That is, they could not tell right from left when navigating in reference to a southerly heading or, putting it another way, they flew a "mirror-image" course of what should have been their normal course of migration, and thus arrived on the west coast rather than the east coast of North America, but displaced the same distance to the south. Since mis-orientation can occur in any direction, it can be assumed that since so many members of a population are oriented normally for migration (that is, to the southeast) then those species

with the largest breeding populations would produce the largest number of mis-oriented offspring that follow a mirror-image route to the west coast. These two types of mis-orientation may also explain vagrancy to California of a number of Asian species.

However, another factor may be involved in this western displacement phenomenon, and that is the "high pressure" weather system which normally forms over west-central Canada in late summer and fall. Clockwise winds from this system may force or probably encourage southbound or southeasterly-heading birds to swing southwestward with favorable following tail winds. The large numbers of immatures would be accounted for by their relative autumn abundance in the population and, in addition, some adult birds (with correct navigational genes) occur in this migrational stream every fall anyway. That these migrants are on a southwest heading has been demonstrated on the Farallon Islands (situated 27 miles west of the Golden Gate) by observers from the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory stationed there and who have charted migrants arriving early in the morning from the ocean to the west and the southwest. Presumably these migrants overshot the mainland at dawn and, before they were out of sight of land, reversed course and made for the nearest available landfall at first light. The survivors, then, might follow the coast southward, and that might explain the appearance of some of them at the various coastal "vagrant traps" situated there and now well known to modern California field ornithologists. Those that were out of sight of land are presumed to have perished at sea from exhaustion or were consumed by gulls and jaegers.

Another type of vagrancy might be due to 180 degree mis-orientation in which migrants on a fall southbound heading might for some reason become disoriented, then re-orient themselves but in the opposite direction, and thus migrate north rather than south in the fall. Williams *et al.* noted this event while observing eastern land birds

along the Atlantic coast. It might explain the fall and winter appearances of Broad-billed Hummingbirds, Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Greater Pewees, Tropical Kingbirds, Thick-billed Kingbirds, Rufous-backed Robins, Grace's Warblers, Yellow-green Vireos, Varied Buntings, Painted Buntings, and Streak-backed Orioles in California.

Spring vagrants tend to concentrate at the eastern desert oases rather



Common Pochard, Silver Lakes, SBCO February 1989, Photo by Arnold Small

than on coastal promontories as do the fall vagrants. This is somewhat more difficult to test and explain, but one possibility is the more or less regular establishment, in central Mexico, of a strong "low pressure" weather system during the latter part of May. This system becomes established where Mexico narrows considerably near the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is through this narrow funnel of land that many northbound migrants, bound for both coasts, must pass. Since this "low" forms late in the migration season, it might delay the migrants and account for the typically late arrival times (mid-May to early June) at the desert oases in California of the "eastern" vagrants that have also been given a northwestward thrust by the tail winds generated by this counter clockwise wind pattern.

One of the most intriguing questions pertaining to vagrants concerns the actual number of vagrants of any given species that are present in California during any one season or month or week or even on any given day. The ultimate question is to know the ratio of the actual number to the perceived number (the number of records) per species per unit of time. This kind of

speculation is purely an intellectual exercise since we can never know, and the ratio, no doubt, varies from species to species. What we can determine by examining the accumulated data is the relative abundance of one vagrant matched against another. We know, relatively speaking, that during fall migration Blackpoll Warblers are more numerous than Cape May Warblers and that these, in turn, are more numerous than Pine Warblers and to what

comparative degree. It is probable that our samples, drawn from many years of accumulated data, accurately reflect the real situation in nature. At the well-known "vagrant traps" it is unlikely that, on any given day during migration when birders are there in force, any vagrant goes undetected. The ultimate question is how that "vagrant trap" reflects the real situation for miles in any direction. We can never know, but we realize that because

it is a "trap" of sorts, the concentration of vagrants must be much higher there than in other habitats nearby. Not only do these "traps" trap the birds, they trap the birders as well, so the record samples from less attractive habitats are much smaller. Binford points out that "field ornithologists tend to be selective in their birding habits in respect to localities and dates. As a result, large areas of the state remain virtually unworked, and other localities are visited only at certain times of the year." Hence, distributional data, especially on vagrants, although at times voluminous, is biased in favor of certain favored and accessible birding locations within California. For example, coastal coverage along the southern and central coast is fairly extensive, but north of Marin County it diminishes rapidly in Sonoma and Mendocino counties and increases again somewhat around Eureka in Humboldt County, decreasing again in Del Norte County. This is largely the result of inaccessibility because of terrain, the lack of roads and to the paucity of local birders there. Similarly, we have extensive data on both the north and south ends of the Salton Sea, but very little information

about birds in the intervening regions and on the Sea itself.

"Vagrant trap" is a term which has been coined to describe a relatively small area of desirable habitat (particularly for small passerines such as flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers) that is an "island" of vegetation (deciduous, coniferous or mixed) isolated from other such desirable habitats by large expanses of unsuitable habitat. Continental islands such as the Farallon Islands and the Channel Islands are obviously such traps. Coastal promontories with small groves of trees; riparian woodlands along the lower reaches of rivers and streams that empty into the sea; well vegetated coastal or near-coastal parks, cemeteries, gardens and golf courses that are surrounded by urban development (Central Park in New York City is a classic example, as is the lighthouse on Pt. Reyes

MRN); coastal peninsulas that are situated in a more or less north-south direction (since so many of the fall southbound vagrants hug the coast during migration); small well-watered and vegetated desert communities, parks, farms and ranches; and, of course, natural desert oases and other streamside woodlands in the deserts—all are "vagrant traps," and are diligently searched by birders, especially during spring and fall. "Habitat islands" are bird traps also because they are "islands" of attractive and suitable habitat surrounded by an inhospitable environment. Lakes and marshes in arid country attract and hold waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and other water-loving birds. Sewage-treatment plants of the "secondary" type, with muddy borders, salt evaporating ponds and sugar processing ponds attract a variety of waders, especially the vagrants such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Ruffs, Curlew Sandpipers, and White-rumped Sandpipers as well as rarer gulls like Franklin's, Black-headed, and Little. Rubbish dumps and sanitary landfills may attract thousands of gulls that often include Thayer's, Glaucous, and even Iceland. Groves of deciduous trees isolated and sur-

rounded by agricultural or grazing land attract birds to the woodlands who have no other choice. Vagrants often display remarkable site tenacity for from a few days to even months on end and may remain within a relative small area, returning even to the same small grove of trees again and again. If the night sky is clear, they are less likely to remain for long in one place; if it is overcast, they may linger until it clears. It now appears not unreason-



Roseate Spoonbills, Zuma Creek, LACO 25 June 1973

able to hope that a vagrant seen one year in a specific place might well return to that exact location the following year on about the same date.

It is also likely that in well-studied shorebird habitats of *manageable size* (where most of the birds can be seen and identified within a reasonable time) such as at Bolinas Lagoon, the Salinas sewage ponds or the Santa Clara River estuary, no vagrant shorebird is likely to escape notice. However, the enormous tidal flats at Humboldt Bay, San Francisco Bay, Morro Bay, and South San Diego Bay defy more than a cursory and localized examination, and as a result, many vagrants must be overlooked. The same condition applies to waterfowl on manageable lakes as opposed to the such large and inaccessible bodies of water as the San Francisco Bay/San Pablo Bay complex, the vast marshes of the Sacramento NWR, or the Salton Sea. It is likely that the Common Pochard discovered on Silver Lakes was found because every Canvasback and Redhead on those lakes could be studied. How many have gone undetected over the years among the 40,000 or so Canvasbacks that sometimes winter on San Francisco/San Pablo Bays? As so fre-

quently happens, once a previously unrecorded vagrant is found for the first time, birders are quickly alerted to its appearance and where and when to search for it, and the number of records subsequently increases, often rapidly. Yellow-billed Loons, Tufted Ducks, Broad-winged Hawks, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruffs, Philadelphia Vireos, and Mourning Warblers are some cases in point.

The rather regular late summer incursions of large wading birds from Mexico is similar to that which occurs along the Atlantic coast from Florida. Many of these are immature birds unable to face competition of adults and thus disperse, many of them traveling to the north where competition is less intense. It may be a method that a species has evolved for colonizing and exploiting potential new habitats. In any event, it more or less regularly brings to California some

Brown Pelicans, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Yellow-footed Gulls, Laughing Gulls, a number of southern herons, Elegant Terns and Black Skimmers (in which case the northward dispersal successfully resulted in the colonization of South San Diego Bay and Bolsa Chica by both the Elegant Terns and Black Skimmers, and in the past, the south end of the Salton Sea by Laughing Gulls and more recently by Black Skimmers). Much less frequently and at irregular times it results in the arrival of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, White Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills, Anhingas, Olivaceous Cormorants, boobies of at least two species and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. Although the pursuit of vagrants is one of the most enjoyable aspects of birding, much more remains to be learned of the status and distribution of California's "regular" birds. 🐦

* * *

This article is an excerpt from Arnold Small's forthcoming book, *California Birds: Their Status and Distribution*, to be published soon by Cornell University Press.

Conservation Conversation

by David White

Big Green and Li'l Ol' Us

Not long ago, I stopped at a restaurant in Olancho near the desiccated remnants of Owens Lake. On the wall in the men's room someone had written "EARTH FIRST!" Alongside, someone else had added "OLANCHA SECOND!"

The conversation continued. An arrow pointed to EARTH FIRST! and asserted, "L.A. DUM [expletive];" another arrow pointed to DUM and commanded, "LEARN TO SPELL!!" I liked "OLANCHA SECOND!" just because it seemed such a neat expression of Audubon's dictum to "Think globally, act locally." But the exchange as a whole showed a depressing resemblance to current enviro-political discourse.

By the time this column appears, the November elections are likely to be history; we'll presumably know if Proposition 128, "Big Green," passed or not. Either way, debate will run hot. Did it pass because voters are fed up with legislators ignoring issues crucial to the health and welfare of our planet and ourselves? Did it fail because we were suckered by opposition ads? They warned us about (gasp!) Tom Hayden as "Environmental Czar" (omitting that the position would be separately elected); they fretted about allowing lawsuits by "radicals like Earth First!" (as if Earth First! were a sponsor of Prop 128, which it wasn't—and aren't these the folks who think we should all "work within the system?"). Or did it pass just because too many people saw through the desperately *ad hominem* anti-Prop 128 campaign and reacted by voting for it?

It is a tough task, trying to sort out the wheat of issues from the chaff of campaign rhetoric. I wish it were easier to maneuver the labyrinths of truths, half-truths, well-intentioned misunderstandings and outright lies so quickly constructed around our ini-

tiative propositions. The best thing, of course, is to read the propositions and either ignore advertisements entirely or pay suspicious attention while asking who is paying and why they might care. But the 16,000-word text of "Big Green" is too much for any but the most dedicated or compulsive readers, and its fate will almost certainly hinge on predigested media presentations. People who decide how to vote because of sloganistic radio and TV ads are beyond help; this column is for those who also read. Here, for the future, are some thoughts on how to wade through some of the more sophisticated arguments against environmental action.

The most nearly convincing arguments against Prop 128 were that it attempted too much and didn't allow needed flexibility. But until the concerned public sees a government that is actively committed to environmental principles, that tackles hard issues head-on and uses flexibility to improve how things work rather than to create loopholes for exploiters, it is expectable that reach and rigidity will be necessary tools of environmental defense.

Two other arguments are more insidious and are being applied to a spectrum of environmental issues. Whatever has happened to "Big Green," you will see these arguments again, in various disguises. One is that we should do nothing local (neighborhood, city, state) if a problem is complex and requires attention at the next level up (city, state, nation); the other is that we should do nothing until we can bring "good science" to bear on the issue. What makes these arguments truly treacherous is that they are so firmly based on reason.

Daniel B. Botkin advanced both arguments against "Big Green," writing in the *Los Angeles Times* back in September. Because "we can't take local actions that result in total control of the greenhouse effect over our own state," and because the problem is "complex and poorly understood," Botkin suggested in place of Prop 128 "a series of short initiatives" with more flexibility.

From a perspective both abstract and ideal, Botkin is absolutely right. The best way to solve a problem is to understand it perfectly and to apply precise corrective measures at exactly the right time and place. But unfortunately, the world is not a friendly place for abstract ideals. By the time we understand a complex problem it may have evolved into something else entirely; even if we know what to do, economic and political interests may try to prevent timely action.

The "greenhouse effect" issue is clearly global in scope, and concerted international action would be required for a stable and lasting solution. But does this mean that cities, counties, states, and individuals should relax and let the diplomats figure it out? Not in the least. The very worst part of not acting locally is the dangerous illusion that we are part of neither solution nor problem. Folks just wanna have fun!

It is true that you and I cannot solve the whole problem, but we can do our little parts. We can plant a tree, let the hedge get bushy, pack away the gas-powered weed eater, and minimize driving. And even if California's redwood forests are not as effective a "carbon sink" as Brazil's rainforests, not clearcutting them is at least as likely to help as it is to hurt.

The necessity of acting locally on problems that are regional or larger is easier seen than the problem of "good science." After all, science and technology are the true religions of our society, and to question them borders on heresy. But let's consider the secular equivalent of televangelists: scientists (or politicians using scientists' words) who argue that we shouldn't do anything until we can do it "scientifically."

Many people see through the political ploy of calling for studies in order to postpone real action, but fewer understand the flaw in logic. Science is primarily explanatory. It predicts simple phenomena well, but as things become complex, predictions become uncertain (i.e., statistical). Science is adept at "what" but positively inept

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.

As usual, this fall shaped up as the most challenging and interesting part of the year. A **Smith's Longspur** at the Moonglow Dairy near Moss Landing in Monterey County demonstrated again that in spite of California's list of 572 birds (see Roberson, Don. 1989. *News From the California Bird Records Committee. Western Birds* 20: 269-271), this is the time of year a new state record is most likely to turn up.

A word about the good work of the Western Field Ornithologists which publishes the above-cited journal. Originally formed some 21 years ago as the California Field Ornithologists by some of the legendary California birders of the day including Guy McCaskie and Jon Winter (who are, by the way, living legends!), *Western Birds* includes serious ornithological papers, many of which are authored by "amateurs." Membership in the Western Field Ornithologists is available in various categories but \$14.00 sent to Howard Cogswell, 1548 East Avenue, Hayward, CA 94541, will get you in for a year.

Associated with the Field Ornithologists from its earliest inception is the California Bird Records Committee which reviews reports of species not yet on the state list and those birds considered "super-rarities" in the state. For a list of birds subject to review and a report form (use of which is not necessary, but a good guide to the type of information sought by any committee judging rare bird sightings), the reader can send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Don Roberson, Secretary of the California Bird Records Committee, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

Of course, all unusual sightings in Southern California should be sent with full details to *American Birds* regional editor Guy McCaskie, 954 Grove Street, Imperial Beach, CA 92032. Los

Angeles County sightings may be sent to county editor Kimball Garrett, Section of Ornithology, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, 900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90007. If your bird is on the review list of the California Birds Records Committee the details will be forwarded. Remember the best evidence is corroboration by other birders. Send photographs if possible.

Late August and early September saw hoards of **Black-vented Shearwaters**, seen not only on pelagic trips but also from the beaches. In addition to 100 Black-vented, Steve Mlodinow reported two **Pink-footed** and one **Sooty Shearwater** as well as four **Black Storm-Petrels** from Malibu on 19 August and these same four species, plus **Least Storm-Petrels**, were seen from Pt. Dume on 25 August (Kimball Garrett and Kathy Molina). A pelagic trip across the Catalina Channel on 15 September yielded a **Red-billed Tropicbird** and a **Brown Booby** (Brian Daniels).

An immature **Magnificent Frigatebird** overflew the Santa Clara River mouth on 7 September (Ed Navajosky), and a **Least Bittern**, not often seen in Los Angeles County these days, was seen at Harbor Lake on 18 September (Mitch Heindel). Twenty-two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were seen at the San Joaquin Marsh in Irvine on 22 September by Bea and Dick Smith who were down there looking at the eclipse plumage male **Garganey** found by Richard Webster on 12 September who was down there looking at a **White-rumped Sandpiper** found by Doug Willick on 9 September. There is a moral to this story somewhere!

Among the **Solitary Sandpipers** reported this fall were two at Owens Lake on 5 August and one in the Los Angeles River in Long Beach on 17 September (Mi. H.). The **Bar-tailed Godwit** found on 30 August near Pt. Mugu by Barbara Elliott has to be the most exciting bird found so far this fall. The first **Pectoral Sandpiper** reported was one on 20 August at Malibu (Ken Younglieb). A **Buff-**

breasted Sandpiper was seen at the Kern County side of Edwards Air Force Base on 16 September (Matt Heindel) and a **Ruff** was at the Ventura Sewage Ponds on 15 September (Gayle Benton and B.E.). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was found at the Santa Clara River Mouth on 7 September (Randy Moore).

Two **Andean Condors** being used in the California Condor recovery program were seen near Bakersfield on 20 August (Paul Farelli). **Burrowing Owls** are very scarce in coastal Los Angeles County so it was gratifying to hear of six on the Cal State Dominguez campus on 15 September (Mi. H.).

A **Gray Flycatcher** was at Pt. Fermin on 16 September (Mi. H.), and an **Eastern Kingbird** was found in the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin on 22 September (Lloyd Kiff).


Virginia Warbler reports this fall include one at Malibu on 26 August (Phil Sayre), one at the El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach, on 28 August (Jon Alderfer) and one on the Los Angeles River in Long Beach on 22 September (Daniel Cooper). A **Magnolia Warbler** was seen on 21 September at Harbor Lake (Mi. H.) and another was reported from Huntington Beach Central Park on 22 September (B.D.).

A **Blackpoll Warbler** was seen at Harbor Lake on 21 September (Mi. H.), a **Bay-breasted Warbler** was at Huntington Beach Central Park on 22 September (B.D.), and a **Black-and-White Warbler** was also at Harbor Lake on 21 September (Mi. H.). A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported from Galileo Park, Kern County on 19 September (Rick Clements). Two local **American Redstart** reports came in, one from Brentwood on 9 September (Russell Stone) and one from the Natural History Museum on 19-21 September (K.G.).

Single Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach, on 28 August (J.A.), at Pt. Fermin on 16 September (Mi. H.) and at Sepulveda Flood Control Basin on 23 September (L.K.). Also at El Dorado on the 28th was a **Black-chinned Sparrow**.

Lastly a Bobolink was reported seen at Harbor Lake on 18 September (Mi. H.).

Early to middle November will see, with exceptions, the last of the fall vagrants. The desert oases like Furnace Creek, the Mojave-California City area, and Anza-Borrego will be quite comfortable. **Ruddy Ground-Doves**, **Tree and Harris Sparrows**, **Rusty Blackbirds**, and **longspurs** can be looked for in these places. Winter invaders will also begin to show up along the coast—**Golden-crowned Kinglets**, **nuthatches**, even **Mountain Chickadees**, and perhaps a new California species from Siberia. Those of you with feeders should keep an eye on them. Let us know what you find.

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

PR Person Needed

LAAS is undertaking a publicity campaign and needs a knowledgeable, experienced PR person to help plan strategy and to give advice on techniques, sources, and methods. Also needed are a writer and anyone else who would like to help with the many details in compiling and sending out press releases and announcements. Please contact Tom Van Huss, 8512 Tuscany Avenue, #305, Playa del Rey, 90293, (213) 306-4889.

H • E • L • P

Needed at once! Volunteers to label, sort, sack and deliver the *Western Tanager* to the Post Office. This is a sporting job for a team of four compatible people who are willing to come in to Audubon House one day (6 hrs.) per month. Please, please call Audubon House to join the team.


C A L E N D A R

Continued from back page

Sunday, December 9 - Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve. Leader Eileen Weiss. An easy morning bird walk. Note: Ballona Lagoon is not the same as Ballona Wetlands. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the bridge at Pacific Ave. and Lighthouse St. south of Washington St. in Venice. To get there from the 405 Fwy., take Culver Blvd. SW to Lincoln Blvd. (PCH), turn right on Lincoln, left on Washington Blvd. and veer left onto Washington Ave. Turn left on Pacific Ave. and continue about

3/4 mile to Lighthouse St. Search out parking in the adjacent residential areas. (LA, p.49, C-6).

Sunday, December 23 - Malibu Lagoon. Leader SMAS member. Meet at 8:30 a.m. See November 25 write-up for details.

Saturday, January 12 - Gull Mini-Workshop. 8:00 a.m. Malibu. Leader Larry Allen. 

RESERVATION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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

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

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

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

Millie Newton is available at Audubon House on Tuesdays 10-3 to answer questions about field trips. If you want to carpool to an event, she can also provide contacts for you.

WESTERN TANAGER

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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 *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.

National Headquarters, New York
(212) 832-3200

Los Angeles Audubon Headquarters,
Library and Bookstore are open

Tuesday - Saturday

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

(213) 876-0202 - office

(213) 874-1318 - bird tape

(updated Thursdays)

To report bird sightings,
before 9:00 p.m.

(818) 788-5188 - Jean Brandt

(213) 827-0407 - Hank Brodtkin

C A L E N D A R

EVENING MEETINGS

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

ID Workshop preceeds the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 13 - Arnold Small will give a slide presentation entitled *Beyond the Roaring 40s*. He will discuss birds seen on his recent trip to Tierra del Fuego, Patagonia, Sub-Antarctica and Antarctica.

ID Workshop: Lee Jones

Book Signing: Hank Childs, *Where Birders Go In Southern California*

Tuesday, December 11, 8:00 p.m. - Lynn Barclay: **Birding for Bats**. This entertaining and informative talk with slide presentation will offer a broad perspective on these mammalian aeronauts; answering questions ranging from "What is a bat?" to "What makes bats unique?" The status of bats worldwide as well as of the 26 species of bats found in California will be discussed.

ID Workshop - Herb Clarke - **Birds of the Fall**

Saturday, December 8 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Leader David White. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See November 18 write-up for details.

Saturday, December 8 - Carrizo Plain #1. This year the trip will be led by a Nature Conservancy staff member with first-hand knowledge of the preserve. Sandhill Cranes may not be seen, but good numbers of raptors were observed last year and will hopefully return. The trip rate will be a flat \$20 per car, so call up some friends and make it a social event. Lots of dirt roads. Please read the October description for more details before reserving! Bring lunch and scopes (map and information will be sent).

Sunday, December 9 - Carrizo Plain #2. See above and October *Tanager* for details.

Continued on previous page

FIELD TRIPS

CALL THE TAPE!

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

Notations in parentheses after trip listings refer to Thomas Bros. map page and grid coordinates (county, page number, grid coordinates).

Saturday, November 3 - Newport Back Bay. Leader Mary Carmona. Notable high and low tides on this day. Targets: rails in the a.m. and shorebirds in the p.m. High tide birding at 10:00 a.m., eat a sack lunch, check Huntington Central Park or Bolsa Chica then return to Newport around 3:30 p.m. for low tide. Meet at 10:00 a.m. along Back Bay Dr. just off Jamboree Rd. Take the 405 Fwy. south to MacArthur Blvd. south, turn right on Jamboree Rd., drive past San Joaquin Hills Rd. to Back Bay Dr. on your right. If you hit PCH, you've gone too far. We will carpool in the back bay. (OC, p.31, F-5)

Sunday, November 4 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh will be guiding participants through this beautiful and nearby area. The group will be observing migrant and resident birds in the sycamores, grasslands, scrub oak and chaparral. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new in the area. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. heading SW from the Valley, take a very sharp turn east uphill on Entrada Dr. (7 miles so. of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile no. of Topanga Village). Follow the signs to the state park and meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch at 8:00 a.m. \$3 parking fee. (LA, p.109, D-4)

Sunday, November 18 - Sepulveda Basin Natural Area. Leader Dustin Alcala anticipates seeing fair numbers of raptors, geese and smaller waterfowl, other wintering birds and resident riparian and grassland species. This is an easy walk. Meet at Woodley Park at 7:00 a.m. To get there, take Burbank Blvd. west, turn right onto Woodley Ave. and continue to the Woodley Park entrance on the right. Meet in the first parking area. (LA, p.15, B-6)

Sunday, November 18 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Join David White on this regular morning walk to see the park's renowned wintering waterfowl and other birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. in south El Monte, off Fwy. 60 between Santa Anita and Peck Dr. exits, west of Fwy. 605. (LA, p.47, D-5)

Saturday, November 24 - Prado Basin. Ecologist Tom Keeney will take our group through the extensive ponds and riparian woodlands behind Prado Dam. We should see a good selection of waterfowl, riparian passerines, raptors, shorebirds and other wintering birds. Sign-up by phone with Audubon House to learn 8:00 a.m. meeting location in Corona. 20 maximum. Bring a lunch, warm clothing and mud-resistant footwear.

Sunday, November 25 - Malibu Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the lagoon parking lot. The lot is on the ocean side of PCH, just west of the lagoon bridge, but you can turn right into town for street parking. The lagoon lot has a daily fee. This walk is under the leadership of a member of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society. (LA, p.114, B-5)

Sunday, December 2 - Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See November 4 write-up for details.

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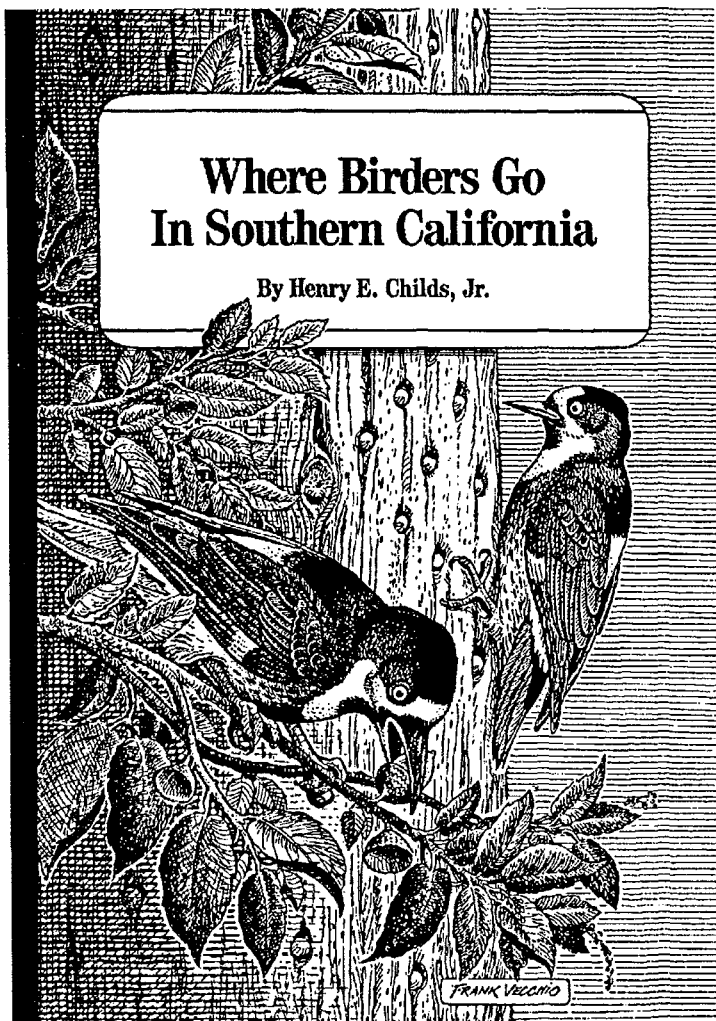
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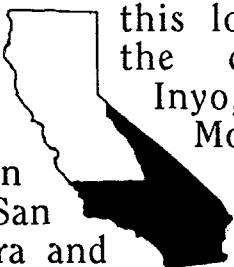
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