



HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

In 1932 the Los Angeles Audubon Society decided to inaugurate once more the taking of an annual Bird Census, something which was done by the society for many years and then discontinued. Stimulated by the splendid record that was achieved in this first year after the census holiday, our society, in 1933, exceeded all other districts in number of species seen--156 being recorded, with over 35,000 individuals. This year we were able to observe and record 170 species, with 20,325 individuals.

Taking the Santa Monica Bay District, with Santa Monica as a center, twenty-one dependable observers radiated $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in all directions, searching the canyons, shore and sea. Between 6 a. m. and 5 p. m., seven groups of two to four individuals aggregated 125 miles by automobile, 35 miles by foot, with $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles at sea. The day was clear, with a low temperature of 57 degrees and a high of 79.

Chairman for the day was Mrs. J. M. Brennan, a past president of Los Angeles Audubon (1932, 1933), who also was in charge of the census during those two years:

Those making the count were President Mary Barnes Salmon; Mesdames Oliver C. Edwards, Grace S. Hall, Elizabeth Lee, Ella Hamilton, E. E. Eldridge, E. Powers, Clara Veatch, E. E. Cobb, John J. Schmitz, Roy L. Sergeant, and Willard Wikoff; Misses Charlotte Hamilton, Helen Pratt, and Miriam Faddis; and Messrs. W. D. Quattlebaum, George O. Hale, W. G. Webb, J. M. Brennan, and Barton O. Pelham.

Following is the list of birds reported:

3 Common Loons, 2 Pacific Loons, 17 Red-throated Loons, 194 Western Grebe, 2 Horned Grebe, 13 Eared Grebe, 10 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Pacific Fulmar, 1 Sooty Shearwater, 3 Black Vented Shearwaters, 617 California Brown Pelicans, 426 Farallon Cormorants, 16 Brandt Cormorants, 5 California Herons, 3 American Egrets, 11 Brewster Egrets, 2 Anthony Green Herons, 5 Black-crowned Night Herons, 9 American Bitterns, 1 White Fronted Goose, 35 Common Mallards, 1 Gadwall, 28 Baldpates, 37 Green-winged Teal, 3 Cinnamon Teal, 52 Shovellers, 519 American Pintails, 35 Redheads, 2 Canvasbacks, 20 Greater Scaups, 15 Lesser Scaup Ducks, 1 Ring-necked Duck, 2 Golden Eyes, 1 Buffle-head Duck, 187 White-winged Scoters, 1207 Surf Scoters, 22 Ruddy Ducks, 34 American Mergansers, 17 Red-breasted Mergansers, 3 Turkey Vultures, 1 White-tailed Kite, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 6 Cooper Hawks, 3 Western Red-tailed Hawks, 3 Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawks, 2 American Bald Eagles, 9 Marsh Hawks, 2 Prairie Falcons, 51 Desert Sparrow Hawks, 171 Valley Quail, 1 California Clapper Rail, 1 Light-footed Rail, 1 Virginal Rail, 2 Black Rail, 358 American Coots, 167 Black-bellied Plover, 68 Killdeer, 14 Semipalmated Plover, 6 Western Snowy Plover, 1 Surf Bird, 2 Black Turnstones, 3 Wilson Snipes, 17 Long-billed Curlews, 10 Hudsonian Curlews, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 106 Western Willet, 4 Greater Yellow-legs, 3 Lesser Yellow-legs, 35 Least Sandpipers, 41 Red-backed Sandpipers, 95 Western Sandpipers, 5 Long-billed Dowitchers, 540 Marbled Godwits, 5 Avocets, 2 Red Phalarope, 1898 Sanderlings,
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LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Los Angeles Audubon Society has regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month--the first being a field trip, and the next a program meeting which is held in the State Building at Exposition Park at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Dues for annual membership in the Society are \$1 per year, with life membership \$10, and Patron \$100.

If you are interested in studying and protecting your feathered friends, won't you identify yourself with us?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Glancing through the Encyclopedia Americana the other day we learned that there is a bird's nest which is valuable as food. This is the nest of the selangana, or of related species of swift or swiftlet, found in the Malay Archipelago and used as a delicacy by the Chinese.

It has the shape and size of a half teacup, is attached to the rock in the interior of a cave, and has the single appearance of fibrous gelatin or isinglass. It is composed of a mucilaginous substance secreted by special glands.

The caves in which these swifts dwell in crowds are numerous in northern Sumatra and in Borneo, and are, in most cases, the property of wealthy owners, who get a large annual income from the hazardous occupation of securing the nests. This can be done only by climbing about the interior of the great sea-cave, holding torches, and raking off the nests into little bags hung upon the end of the pike poles. The best, which are whiteish in color and almost free from any mixture with the pure glutine from the glands in the mouth of the bird, are worth \$10 to \$15 a pound.

CAL - N - DAR

Calendar for January with days of the week (S, M, T, W, Th, F, S) and dates (1-31). Some dates have circled numbers.

- Jan. 3 - Field trip. Meet at the Riverside Drive entrance to Griffith Park at 9:30 a. m. Bring your field glasses, a notebook and a pocket lunch.
10 - Board meeting. At Mrs. Fargo's. 1 p. m.
17 - Suprise program meeting. State Building, Exposition Park. 2 p. m. Charlotte Hamilton is the chairman. (INCREASE YOUR MEMBERSHIP)

YE EDITORESS REGRETS

Recent developments make it necessary that the Raymond Brennans be in Sacramento during the entire legislative session, which opens January 7. Therefore, they have decided to move their worldly belongings to that city for the coming months.

But THE WESTERN Tanager will continue to reach you, although material for it will have to be in earlier than usual to make a certain issue. Keep this in mind when mailing in your copy.

The Sacramento address will be "Park-Mansions Apartments." But, for your convenience, telephone or mail your ideas to Secretary Miss Betty Keim, 304 Subway Terminal Building, Los Angeles, Mutual 3341. She will forward them immediately.

THE WINDOW-SHELF

Dear Audubonites,

Next to the pleasure of being a member of our loved Audubon is the joy I find in having a window-shelf, where I can serve meals and furnish baths for my feathered friends. A feeling comes over me! Why not tell you of my experiences! Will you listen to me for a few moments!

Our home is well adapted for the adjustment of such a feeding place. A grape trellis, two climbing roses, and lovely poinsettias add their charm. The birds can first alight on these, and then fly down to the tray. I often see birds waiting on the trellis while I scatter the seed. As I close the window they come promptly to the prepared feast.

Regular feeding and plenty of water assures a large bird gathering. Often, in fair weather, I scatter the seed at night, also seeing that the water is there for the little rogues. They both drink and bathe out of the same dish.

Little Song Sparrow is a very early comer and a pet, following my husband as he feeds the chickens and seeming to know him as a friend. "Madam Towhee" is also early. One season we had one with only one leg. Poor dear! Evidently caught in a trap. How grateful she seemed to be for food in a safe retreat.

The little Finches have come regularly to us, in numbers, for several seasons. The elders bring their offspring. These seem to harmonize with the Gambel Sparrows, who also come in flocks. English Sparrows are evidently not aristocratic enough to mingle, and are driven away. Another rather unwelcome visitor is "Robber Blue" Jay. However, I put out some large crusts, and while he is noisily carrying them away he, at least, is not robbing our henhouse and sucking eggs. Once quite a number of blackbirds came--too many to feed--and I was not so well pleased to welcome them.

Little Bush Tits are far too busy cleaning the rose bushes of aphids to notice the tray.

Once a Western Blue Bird hovered near; also an Audubon Warbler. Mockers will come for raisins, but I have had very few.

Now for strange visitors.

Once we saw a little mouse enjoying crumbs. He had climbed up the trellis and entered through a hole made for drainage. Dear little "Mousie Gray!" I have a different feeling for him now. So graceful, dainty and timid!

Now a tragedy.

One morning I found a huge cat sunning himself on my bird tray. Apparently asleep, but in reality awaiting a bird feast. Alas! She was the pet of a loved neighbor, whose little seven-year old boy, when carrying her, said: "She weighs a ton." Quite evident, as later I will explain. My daughter, who has a fond feeling for felines, carried Puss home the first time. This was not effective, for again she came to the tray. Next time our Fox Terrier hastened the homegoing and treed the cat. A long interval 'til the next visit. Then early one morning, a crash! The entire tray was broken down, and found hanging to the arbor. Cat hair explained the tragedy. No more visits from Puss, and my tray made firm again.

Inside my window is my pet canary, singing and trilling, and imitating a whistle song I taught him. Generations have taught him to be contented with his cage home. So he coquets with his little friends on the other side of the glass, contented and joyous.

Soon the beautiful song of the meadowlarks will come to us from over the hills, and we shall feel how good it is to be alive and to enjoy the wonders of nature.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carl Schmitt

December 22, 1934

(Cont. from page 13)

1 Parasitic Jaegar, 2 Kittiwake Gulls, 261 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 1173 Western Gulls, 4 Herring Gulls, 2350 California Gulls, 1566 Ringed-billed Gulls, 2 Short-billed Gulls, 22 Heermann Gulls, 463 Bonaparte Gulls, 1 Caspian Tern, 13 Royal Tern, 107 Forster Tern, 1 California Murre, 2 Cassin Auklets, 3 Rhinoceros Auklets, 19 Western Mourning Doves, 15 Chinese Spotted Doves, 4 Road-runners, 5 Barn Owls, 2 Long-eared Owls, 9 Short-eared Owls, 1 Pasadena Screech Owl, 1 Pacific Horned Owl, 6 Western Burrowing Owls, 2 White-throated Swifts, 3 Black-chinned Humming birds, 42 Anna Humming Birds, 3 Western Belted Kingfishers, 2 Willow Woodpeckers, 10 Nuttall Woodpeckers, 1 Rednaped Sapsucker, 1 Southern Red-breasted Sapsucker, 61 California Woodpeckers, 50 Red-shafted Flickers, 1 Cassin Kingbird, 5 Say Phoebes, 61 Black Phoebes, 1 Western Wood Peewee, 4 Western Fly Catchers, 10 California Horned Larks, 1 Tree Swallow, 76 California Jays, 10 Western Crows, 2 American Ravens, 24 Plain Titmice, 1 Bailey's Mountain Chick-a-dee, 328 California Bush-tits, 76 Palid Wren-tits, 2 Dotted Canyon Wren, 1 Common Rock Wren, 8 San Diego Wren, 4 Western Winter Wren, 3 Western House Wren, 13 Tule Wren, 86 Western Mocking Birds, 29 California Thrashers, 1 Townsend Solitaire, 21 Alaska Hermit Thrush, 10 Western Robins, 30 Western Blue Birds, 6 Western Gnatcatchers, 2 Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, 33 Western Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 18 American Pipets, 43 California Shrikes, 1 Hutton Vireo, 3 Lutescent Warblers, 3 Dusky Warblers, 1351 Audubon Warblers, 1 Townsend Warbler, 26 Tule Yellow-throats, 68 San Diego Red-winged Blackbirds, 168 English Sparrows, 15 Tricolored Red-wings, 359 Western Meadowlarks, 869 Brewer Blackbirds, 13 California Purple Finches, 1 Cassin Purple Finch, 2351 Common House Finches, 27 Willow Goldfinches, 117 Green-backed Goldfinches, 38 San Diego Towhees, 103 California Towhees, 27 Western Savannah Sparrows, 14 Belding Sparrows, 5 Large-billed Sparrows, 1 Western Lark Sparrow, 1 Valdez Fox Sparrow, 3 Gray Phase Fox Sparrows, 5 Reddish Phase Fox Sparrows, 3 Rufous-crowned Sparrows, 45 Thurber Juncos, 206 Gambel Sparrows, 66 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 125 San Diego Song Sparrows, 2 Lincoln Sparrows.

Our National Bird Lore's Christmas Bird Census is an annual and international event, usually being taken by different districts in every state in the union as well as in some foreign countries. The information obtained from these diversified districts regarding the number of resident and winter migratory birds gives to the Government Biology Survey a foundation upon which to work in making plans for bird protection. By giving complete protection to some birds and less to others the government may help to bring back and preserve the balance of nature which has been so seriously upset by the carelessness and greed of man.

SEEN ABOUT

Mesdames Mabb, Loretta Smith and Lizzie Kline, Miss Jennie Winchester, and the Brockmans visiting the Carolina Pines in Hollywood for Xmas dinner. From there to see Christmas Tree Lanes in Altadena and at the Coliseum. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Leon S. Griswold honeymooning in Riverside and at Arrowhead Springs. Their 25th anniversary. . . . A semi-albino California thrasher and a Cooper hawk at the December 8 field meet. . . . Charlotte Hamilton at the Xmas festival in girl scout uniform conversing with State President Meyers, Junior Field Agent Pratt, and Mrs. Mason, President of the Southwest Bird Study Club. . . . Mrs. Edwards initiating New Member Rose, and Mother Hall, Elizabeth Lee, in the science of bird study on unscheduled field trips. . . . President Salmon spending Xmas at Coronado, and talking with Dr. Clinton Abbott, Curator of the Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

WE WONDER WHAT SHE WOULD CALL AUDUBON

James Lane Allen, a relatively famous author, had just written a book called "The Kentucky Cardinal," telling about that beautiful red flame which flashes through the air in that state. Soon after it was placed in the book stores an elderly lady came into one of them and asked the clerk for a book on the subject of nature, or some nature subject. The girl very promptly pulled down "The Kentucky Cardinal." The old lady said, "I don't want anything ecclesiastical." The clerk said, "Madam, the Kentucky Cardinal is a bird." Whereupon the elderly lady replied, "I don't want to know anything about his private life, either."