

T H E

## Western Tanager

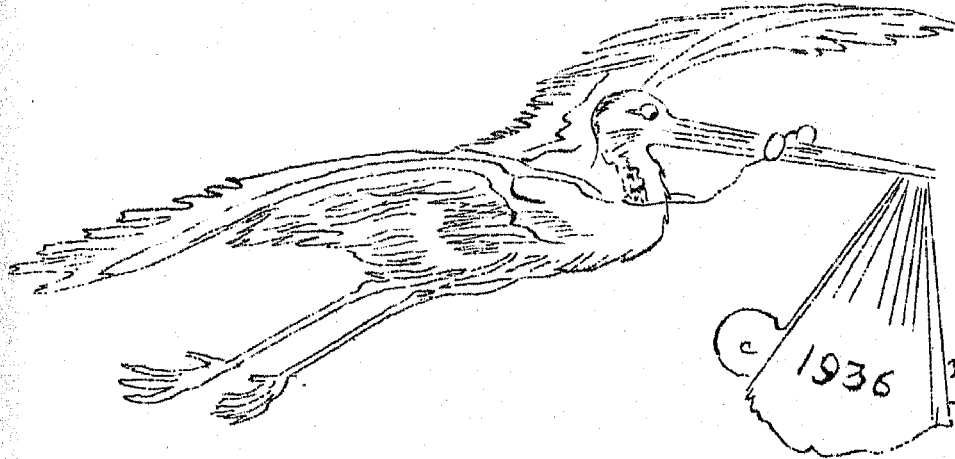


Mrs. RAYMOND BRENNAN, Editor

VOL. II

JANUARY 1936

No. 4

THE STORK  
Alma J. Stultz

My personal acquaintance with the stork began when he brought me home at an early hour in the morning. And it is a pleasure to write about so old a friend.

Many fables have grown up around the stork.

According to Swedish legend the

stork received its name from flying around the Cross of the crucified Redeemer crying "Styrka! styrka!" (strengthen! strengthen!) In Germany, Holland and Denmark it is considered a bird of good omen, and the symbol of domestic affection. To attract this good fortune, a platform or an old cartwheel is put on the roof to aid in nest building. The nest consists largely of sticks. The pairs return year after year to the same nest, building onto it, until it is several feet in height.

The three to five eggs are white. The parents feed their young by regurgitation and exhibit great affection for them. A familiar scene in these countries is a white stork standing motionless on one leg on top of a house.

From its loving care for its young has come the familiar legend that the stork brings the new baby into the home. Which reminds me of the conversation of our neighbor, age five, and her Grandma. "Is the stork s'posed to bring little babies, Grandma?" "That's what they say." "I been thinking those little tinsy, winsy babies would be scared, carried by nothing but the bill of that stork." "Were you scared, Diane, when the stork brought you?" "Yes, I was most scared to death."

Every child is familiar with storks, due to the old fables and fairy tales. Yet there are no storks in America except those imported and exhibited in Zoological parks. The best known species is the white stork, found in summer throughout most of Europe and Central Asia. In autumn they migrate to Africa and northern India in large flocks and at a great height. I once saw a motion picture of their flight, and it was beautiful.

White storks are not entirely white. Their quill feathers are black, and their legs and bill a bright red. They are about three and one half feet high. Their food consists largely of frogs, eels, toads, reptiles, young birds and small mammals. They have no voice, but snap their beaks when they wish to make a sound. They fly with the neck outstretched.

The group of storklike birds includes the Bitterns, Herons, Ibises, Spoonbills and Flamingos.

Lyly says in his "Euphues" in 1580, "It fareth with me--as with the stork, when she is least able carries the greatest burden."

THE WESTERN Tanager

Published by the  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Free to members. Outside subscriptions  
50¢ per year.

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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 \$1.25 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?

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times, a Canyon Wren, which crawled from between two boulders. The Wren drank and ate ravenously. Then it hopped upon a rock and sang a song of thanks. The trip paid for just that!

JAN. 2. FIELD TRIP. To Sunland Park, at the junction of Foothill and Sunland Blvds. Mrs. Eldridge, our field chairman, says that those making the trip may look forward to seeing the Bell Sparrow, the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, the Western Gnatcatcher, the Red-breasted Sapsucker, and the Cactus Wren. We meet as usual at nine o'clock, with pocket lunches in order.

| JANUARY |    |    |    |      |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|------|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | Th   | F  | S  |
|         |    |    | 1  | (2)  | 3  | 4  |
| 5       | 6  | 7  | 8  | (9)  | 10 | 11 |
| 12      | 13 | 14 | 15 | (16) | 17 | 18 |
| 19      | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23   | 24 | 25 |
| 26      | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30   | 31 |    |

THINGS OF INTEREST

Feeding the birds from a high hotel window ledge, with no tree, shrub, and vine surroundings, has been joyfully carried on for several years by two kind Audubon friends and co-workers, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brockman.

Linnets made all reservations long ago, accepting all tidbits, but showing a marked preference for melon seeds. At times the entire family--parent birds and young--have made daily calls to take of the furnished repast, and at such times, it seemed, Mr. Linnet considered it more particularly his duty to rout other linnets, although battles for possession are waged at different times.

At this inviting place, if the window was unscrewed, those little bird visitors might fly into the room, for here and there upon the walls, as if just alighted or ready to fly away, are cut-out pictures of butterflies and moths in colors, suggesting the outdoors.

Perhaps some day other birds will wing their way to this luncheon place and, if so, will find that their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Brockman, have ready a furnished table for them. -by Elsie Humphreys

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A member, whose home was destroyed during the recent mountain fires, took water and food to where the home had stood that had given her so much pleasure in feeding and studying the birds. Mrs. Anthony told us that the only living things found were one small lizard and, after whistling and calling several

JAN. 9. BOARD MEETING. At the home of Mrs. Fargo. 2 p. m.

JAN. 16. PROGRAM MEETING. At the State Building in Exposition Park at 2 p. m. This month we shall have the pleasure of hearing Mr. C. S. Bauder, Assistant Chief of Fish and

Game Patrol. He will talk to us on the problem of the enforcement of fish and game laws, about illegal trapping and the curbing of violators. Mrs. E. E. Cobb is in charge of the program.

## BIRD NOTES

Two Farallon Cormorants were among the visitors at the Birds' Christmas Festival at Echo Park. They posed at close range with outspread wings, showing the conspicuous orange throat patch. A pair of Anthony Green Herons came so close during the Program they could be studied without us leaving our seats.

First Vice-President, Charlotte Hamilton, has a Ruby-crowned Kinglet feeding from her grapefruit suet cups.

Four Californian Blue jays made a beautiful picture on Mrs. Schmitz' feeding tray in Highland Park. This accounted for so many acorns found stored in her oxalis hanging baskets.

Mrs. Sergeant reports the saucy Audubon Warblers and gossipy Bush-Tits have real quarrels over their rights in the trees at her home on North Normandie Avenue.

The talking Minah bird did not appreciate the birding trip that Mr. and Mrs. Griswold made when they flew to Catalina. He greeted their salutation with, "Good-Bye!"

Word has reached us that twelve American Merganser ducks are at Echo Park Lake.

One of our members, after listening to the lecture by Wright M. Pierce at our last Indoor Meeting and seeing the loving confidence in the eyes of his tame Sparrow Hawk looking up at him as he talked, says that every Sparrow Hawk she now sees arouses very different feelings in her than formerly and she longs to stroke it as she did the tame one.

From Berkeley, Mrs. Deuprey writes of visiting Lake Merritt and surrounding flats in company with Mrs. Kelly, President of the Audubon of the Pacific, and Mrs. Stephens, Editor of "The Gull." At one place they counted over one hundred American Egrets, and at another they saw over seventy-five Yellow-billed Magpies. They were beauties. A banded European Widgeon was at the Lake for his fifth consecutive winter. Mrs. Deuprey said that it was interesting to study and compare the Eared and Horned Grebes together, as identification would be doubtful at any distance. She also reported seeing the American Golden-eye (male and female), Redheads, Buffle-heads, Canada Geese, and a Mandarin Duck, and many other birds more familiar to us in southern California. Most of the birds were very tame, and the three bird students could walk all around them as they rested on the beach.

A San Diego Towhee mustered sufficient courage to snatch a bit of apple peeling from the outdoor breakfast table of Mrs. Raymond Brennan in Hollywoodland.

## BACK FROM ABROAD

Members will be pleased to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Keeley have returned to Los Angeles after their sojourn in Switzerland and Italy, and that they plan to continue their bird study with us.

## ANOTHER LIFE MEMBER

Ralph Ellis, of Berkeley, California, has just sent us his check for a life membership in the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Keenly interested in vertebrate zoology, Mr. Ellis tells us that he makes "an effort to subscribe to every journal on birds or mammals that is published in the United States." He has promised to write an article for us soon -- perhaps on the history and evolution of small periodicals. We shall look forward to this article with great anticipation.

## WE SHALL ALSO HEAR FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Señor Gonzalo A. Moreno, our friend in South America, has just written us as follows: "Regarding to some articles that I shall take care to write for your Publication, I take the pleasure to tell you that I shall be very pleased to send you regularly modest contributions for Ornithological studies." We are anxious to receive them, Señor Moreno.

### OUR POET LAUREATE ACCEPTS

In the December issue of The Western Tanager you will remember reading that Mrs. Rebecca Farson McKay had been chosen as poet laureate to succeed her sister, M. Elizabeth Farson, who had been taken from us. Mrs. McKay has accepted with the following words:

To the Members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Audubon, is your worthy name,  
Chosen from him who won great fame  
Giving to birds their true acclaim.  
Your pleasant task to go and see  
On desert shrub or city tree  
The birds in plumed variety.  
Your steadfast purpose is to spy  
On all the birds that joyous fly  
Hither and yon across the sky,  
And compass by your deeds and words  
The conservation of the birds,  
Our winged wanderers, the birds.

The honors you to me have showed,  
The honors recently bestowed,  
Will prove, believe me, quite a load!  
Honors of which I did not dream,  
To merit which I do not seem,  
Yet I may say I do esteem.  
I cannot hope to fill the place  
Of her you knew, her will and grace  
Who could with wit your woes erase.  
Her vivifying spirit true,  
Her fine desire and further view,  
Will long inspire and strengthen you.

So then, reluctantly, I'll state,  
If you will stand by me and wait,  
I'll take the Crown, the Laureate.

### BERRIES USED FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Grace S. Hall, Tree Chairman

Cotoneasters are ornamental shrubs belonging to the Rose Family. The name is Latin, meaning "like a quince" (leaves). There are about forty species in the temperate regions of Europe, Asia, northern Africa and western China, but none in Japan. Mr. Charles F. Saunders says that the small whitish or pinkish flowers which unfold in spring, clothe the branches in profusion but are of minor interest compared with the cheerful berries that brighten the bushes in autumn and throughout much of the winter, and which are particularly useful for draping low walls or rocky banks, whence the name "Rock-spray," given then in England. Ten or more species of this shrub thrive in southern California--in almost any soil, if it is well drained, but they "dislike moist or shady positions."

Cotoneasters seem well adapted to many uses in our gardens. Some have trailing or drooping habits, or prostrate, others weeping and tall, or evenly branching and upright. The most showy varieties appear to be indigenous to China and the Himalayas and are greatly liked by the wild Pheasants. The berries have from one to five stones.

Birds that the writer has observed eating these berries and those of the "Toyon," the Spanish name for our own native shrub, which is often tree size and is much admired in winter for its bright red berries, are the Cedar Waxwing, Alaska Hermit Thrush, Varied Thrush, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, and the California Brown Towhee. Mrs. Eldridge has observed some Finches, the Roadrunner and the Jays.

Similar in appearance to the Cotoneaster is Pyracantha, the Firethorne, but the presence of leafy thorns amid the foliage helps to distinguish this genus from the others. It is considered by botanists to be an evergreen Hawthorne. It comes from China and makes a brave show of bright berries.

The Toyon, to which we referred above, is sometimes called Christmas Holly. "An upstart for Christmas honors," it is no holly at all. *Heteromeles arbutifolia* is its long name, and it belongs to the Rose Family. Mr. F. M. Follz says that the shrub is very desirable as forest-cover, grows to good size, casts a deep shadow, and is not very inflammable.

Let us not be jealous of our wild birds that work all the year saving our trees and shrubs. Plant a few berries for them!