

Western Tanager



Mrs. RAYMOND BRENNAN, Editor
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SPRINGTIME



JOY IS IN THE AIR

HOW RESTFUL IS MY GARDEN

How restful is my garden,
Away from milling throngs;
It's full of springtime fragrance
And filled with mocker's songs.
There are white and purple lilacs
With their drifting faint perfume,
And roses and day lilies
Rioting with bloom,
How restful is a garden,
Away from milling throngs.

-- Mary Ward

A HUMMING BIRD'S NEST

A mother whose son was ill in a sanitarium in Pasadena told the following story:

As the young man lay in his bed, a humming bird flew into his room, gathered some wool from his blanket, and took it to a vine outside on his porch, and began to build its nest. It kept visiting the blanket and picking off the loose wool until the beautiful nest was finished. Then eggs were laid, and the young hummers fed and cared for until they flew away. He did not tell his nurse, or doctor, or anyone about his birds, fearing harm might come to them if anyone but himself knew. After the birds left the nest, he had it cut down, varnished; and then he gave it to his mother for a keepsake and told her the story.

A LIFE CYCLE

Recently in Woodland Park, near Whittier, Audubonite Mrs. Humphreys was presented with the larva of a moth by our Butterfly Chairman, Mrs. Ella W. Hamilton. Now read what Mrs. Humphreys says:

"It presumably came out of its pupal case about Easter time--a fitting time, anyway, for the transformation--for it is lovely in color, and so opposite in appearance to the worm. (You will recall its black spiny hairs and clumsy feet like appendages to legs, although it did have some beautiful blue markings.)

"With the only guide I have at hand--The National Geographic of 1927 (July)--the moth was easily placed with the Noctuid family, meaning night flyers, which are of lighter coloration than the diurnal, or day fliers. Turn to page 110, Plate XII, Figure II, listed as Cirrhophanus triangulifer. There must be a common name for the species, which must be very common in Woodland Park, from the number of those restless larvae seeking a place to make their wonderful cradles or cocoons.

"I fully intended to release the moth upon emergence from the cocoon, but in my weary and distressed state forgot all about it.

"There had been, apparently, no distressed state on the part of the moth--for it is so fresh and uniform--only a dryness, which took place after its life cycle was completed and it had expired, very quietly, where it had deposited a tiny mound of light green eggs."

THE WESTERN Tanager

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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?

BITS OF INFORMATION

The following have been nominated as officers for the coming year: Pres. Emeritus, Mrs. Robert Fargo; President, Miss Charlotte Hamilton; 1st Vice-Pres., Mrs. Raymond Brennan; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mrs. Harry C. Eldridge; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Willard Wikoff; Corres. Secretary, Mrs. James Brennan; Treasurer, Mrs. O. M. Stultz; Librarian, Miss Jennie Winchester; Auditor, Mrs. Leonard Hall.

Between 500 and 1000 wild pigeons are reported to be visiting at 1258 N. Cedar, in Glendale.

Our Breakfast Party last month was a huge success. Fried eggs, and crisp bacon! Plenty of coffee and sinkers!- Yum, Yum!!

Approximately 200 attended the April program meeting in the State Building. With Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Association, as speaker of the day, Los Angeles Audubon acted as hosts to Inglewood, California, and Pasadena Audubon Societies.

OBITUARY

Within the past few weeks two friends near and dear to Audubon have departed from us. They are: Mrs. Sarah J. Wicks, mother of Mrs. James M. Brennan, and for many years a loyal Audubonite; and Mr. George L. Veatch, husband of our Press and Transportation Chairman, Mrs. Veatch.

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE

MAY 7. -- FIELD MEETING, at the mountain home of Past President, Mrs. Leon S. Griswold in Sierra Madre Canyon. Trail leader, Mrs. Eldridge, reports that she will be on hand at 8:30 a. m. to go with those who wish to take the trail trip. A delightful luncheon will be served. But as Wimpy says, "You bring the lunch." This is a meeting to which we all look forward.

MAY 21. -- PROGRAM MEETING, in the State Building at Exposition Park, at 2 p. m. Combined Flower and Butterfly Program. Mrs. Edwards, Flower Chairman, will bring as guest speaker, Mr. Edgar Baxter, author of "California Cactus," and noted authority on that subject. Mrs. Hamilton, Butterfly Chairman, promises us something new and interesting about butterflies.

JUNE 4. -- ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PICNIC, AT FERN GLEN IN GRIFFITH PARK, WESTERN AVENUE ENTRANCE. THE TIME IS NINE A. M. MRS. GRACE S. HALL, OUR TREE CHAIRMAN, WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE FESTIVITIES. DON'T FORGET. JUNE 4.

BIRD NOTES

Several members have observed the white Thrasher near the Bird Sanctuary. He is a glorious songster. Even his bill is light grey.

Mrs. Eldridge tells of seeing Florida Gallinules near Nigger Slough.

It was interesting to watch the feathers fly in all directions during a recent dispute for possession of a hole in a telegraph pole on Chevy Chase Drive, between a Red-shafted Wood-pecker and a California Woodpecker.

Did you know that the Ruddy Duck is known by sixty-one different names?

Mrs. Salmon saw a large grey bird take flight over Silver Lake. It flew with neck fully extended and feet straight out behind. A well-informed resident said it was a Sandhill Crane and that a pair has come to that locality for several winters. We will be glad to receive any other observations concerning these rare visitors.

Mrs. Leonard Hall entertained five bird lovers on April twenty eighth, with a drive around Sherwood Lake and through Hidden Valley. Fifty-four species of birds were seen. At one stopping place Western Kingbirds, California Purple Finch, Bullock Oriole, Arizona Hooded Orioles, Cedar Waxwings, and a Lewis Woodpecker were seen; and at another, the Lark Sparrow, more Kingbirds, Horned Lark, Lawrence Gold Finches, Western Blue Birds, Western Tanager and Pipit caused enthusiastic exclamations.

Audubonite Mrs. Kanst, in Hollywoodland, reports having seen a Mountain Blue Bird and four Lazuli Buntings at her hillside home. Also, an Arizona Hooded Oriole. Her Black-headed Grosbeak returned the second week in April. "All permanent residents are singing as happily as usual at this time of year. There were never dearer birds than live around here. Even Mr. Jay quarrels at me when I drive him from birds' breakfast table. Western Mocker came into the gallery every day for raisins last summer when he was feeding his family. What a heaven if we had nothing to do but chase birds!"

NOTES CONCERNING THE BIRDS OF THE EASTERN REGION OF ECUADOR

By Senor Gonzalo A. Moreno

"Distinguished Audubonites:

"I do not wish to continue further without first having expressed my appreciation for the kind reception that you have given my previous articles. For the same I feel very encouraged. I wish, also, publicly to express to Mrs. Raymond Brennan my most grateful thanks for her exact and correct translation of my works.

"And now I shall attempt to give in these brief notes a hurried description of the enormous ornithological importance that the eastern region of Ecuador has because of the wealth of species that it possesses.

"The study and the scientific importance of the birds of eastern Ecuador is very great. Witness the precious and valuable collections made by numerous collectors, among whom there is Dr. Fosta, who surveyed part of the high section of the east, collecting rare and beautiful specimens of birds which have served to enrich the museums of the United States and Europe. There remains yet a vast region to explore: the zone of the lower Pastaza, Tigre, Morona and Santiago.

"In these regions the inhabitants are very few, and, as a result, the birds have found a favorable and quiet surrounding for a life without molestation. Thus we see that it is not astonishing that on descending through these quiet valleys, if you fire at a group of birds you do not place them in flight, for they do not realize the danger that threatens them. And if one of them falls wounded to the earth, the others continue tranquilly singing and eating, as if nothing had occurred. Clearly, this can only happen where the emigrant birds have not yet felt the persecution of man, nor perceived the danger of firearms.

In the higher altitudes of the east, that is, between 3000 and 1500 meters, there are very few birds, owing to the lack of adequate means for their livelihood, there being a scarcity of trees that are rich in palatable fruits, etc. But from

SELECTIONS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN ON MARCH 16, 1936, TO MRS. GRACE S. HALL
BY AUDUBONITE MRS. WALTER ANTHONY

Yokohama, Japan

March 16

"We have had a wonderful opportunity to see Japan, and we are thoroughly in love with it. Already we talk of another visit when the grass is green and the cherry and plum trees are in blossoms. We have seen quite a number of plum blossoms, but the snow lies in shady places and the sod is brown.

"But this does not concern the temples and the trees, mostly evergreen. The largest are Cryptomeria, that grow very much like our Giant Sequoias. Most of the trees are pines, and, of course, quantities of Bamboo. We see so much of that in California that it is no novelty.

"We did have a bamboo shoot salad which was very good.

"The food here in Japan is very good. Vegetables of all kinds, native fruit; even huge, sweet strawberries were served us last night in a Japanese-English Restaurant in Yokyo.

"But when I wanted to buy a few lemons to take back to the Baby Castle, we secured Sunkist lemons at 12 sen a lemon. Mr. Anthony thought they mean 12 sen a dozen and said he would take two dozen. But it was 12 sen for each, so he cut down his order.

"A yen is 100 sen, and each yen in our money is about 34 cents. This makes our money go a long ways.

"As to birds, we have not much to report. Here in Yokohama there is a huge turkey strutting around, and many crows. We saw, at Kyoto, one lone little sparrow, and that one constitutes the only small bird we have seen.

(She mentions several cities they have visited: Yokyo, Kobe, Nara, deer park and its shrines. Motored to Kyoto, which is wonderful.)

"I should like to leave Japan with the vision in my mind and memory of Nikko.

"Our trip so far has been even more satisfactory than we had expected, and we are looking forward to Java and Singapore with great expectations."

SEÑOR MORENO CONTINUES

1500 to 500 meters there are astonishing numbers of all kinds of birds, of very handsome and brilliant colors. There are some that are totally white, others completely black. Some with the most exquisite shades of the rainbow. Turkey-hens, parrots, doves, humming birds, toucans, etc., etc., give to the forest a most beautiful spectacle of movement, of life, of joy.

"The phenomenon of migration is very common in all this eastern section; but this does not preclude some species being year-around residents, just as in all the world. There are some birds that feed by preference on insects from the marshes and rivers.

"Generally the birds of the east are granivorous and frugivorous, and thus we see them migrating from the warm valleys to the more temperate zones, following the ripening of the fruit. We could say that each tree has its bird parasite, which prefers its fruits. And it is for this reason that the inhabitants of these regions (the countrymen), who are very excellent hunters, very well know when it is the season of the doves, when it is the season of the parrots, etc.

"Other birds are, by preference, insectivorous, and these also migrate according to the greater or lesser number of insects in their state of larvae or complete development that will serve them for food.

"But perhaps the most marvellous feature in this endless number of birds is their varied song. From dawn until dark, there is a grand chorus of sublime melodies invading the forest, breaking its imposing, gloomy silence. There are hundreds of birds that sing, and there are hundreds of new and different rhythms!

This is the general aspect of our eastern section as seen from the viewpoint of the ornithologist, And its characteristics, for the most part, correspond very nearly with those of all the forest and the western or coastal region.

Gonzalo A. Moreno