

Western Tanager



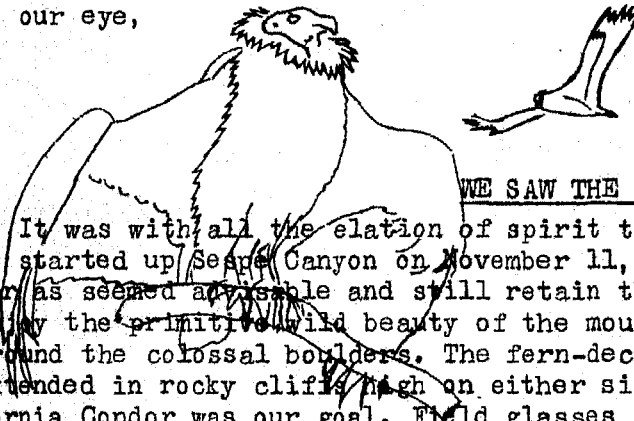
VOL. III

DECEMBER 1936

No. 2

CONDORS AT HENLEY'S CAMP

At Henley's Camp, we saw upon the highest peak,
The Condors mount still higher in the blue,
As if an unknown entrance into Heaven, they knew
And there would consolation seek.
We watched these Noble Monarchs of the sky,
Until among the clouds, they vanished from our eye,



And then returned in soaring circles from the deep,
Back to their nest upon the lonely peak.
Aerial Spirits, how I envy you!
I, too, would soar and consolation seek
Among the clouds and stars and moon and sun,
Away from all the sordid things that should be done.
Oh Condors, do you thus the elements defy,
To know the glorious grandeur of the sky?

Mabel Fossler

WE SAW THE CONDOR!

It was with all the elation of spirit that attends an anticipated adventure that we started up Sespe Canyon on November 11, 1936. The cars bumped along the road as far as seemed advisable and still retain them intact; and in walking we could really enjoy the primitive wild beauty of the mountain stream below us, tumbling over and around the colossal boulders. The fern-decorated and flower sprinkled mountain walk extended in rocky cliffs high on either side. We were all sky-minded for the California Condor was our goal. Field glasses were focused on a large colony of white throated swifts near the skyline, when a shadow swept along the rocky walk suggesting an airplane and the call arose, "There it is"! A giant bird circled with mighty wing strokes out over the Canyon in graceful curves and the Condor was unmistakable. Quivering with delight we watched breathlessly. We saw one, then two, and then a third one. Two large white wing patches extending from the shoulders marked two of them as adults and the absence of white, the immature one. Identification was so easy as they sailed side by side. We saw the orange colored heads. We saw the long extended black feather tips curl inward towards the back as the bird banked in its majestic curves. Several times we saw the light colored legs drop as if it were about to alight on the mountain summit. The whole scene was staged and timed perfectly for each one of us to see and at the same time realize that we were viewing a rare sight, the largest flying bird in America. Dawson states in all probability there are not more than 40 in California. They share the reputation for greatest size with the giant Sequoias, both uniquely Californian, to be protected and cherished as surviving links with strange ages of the dim past.

Campers in the Canyon told us the Condors never came down into the low parts as they need space to take off and lift their heavy bodies. Scarcity of feeding grounds and the great difficulty they have in catching rabbits and ground squirrels, as their wings make lots of noise alighting are probably all contributing factors to their diminishing numbers.

Exploring the Canyon to the end revealed no others, so we returned happy and hungry to our afternoon lunch and pumpkin pies which were given additional flavor by comparison of observations and checking with descriptions of Dawson, Wyman and Hoffman.

It required decided mental re-adjustment to begin to think of wars, politics and traffic as we turned toward Los Angeles. We had had a most remarkable Armistice Day, a Peace Day of happy adventure.

Charlotte McKay Edwards

THE WESTERN Tanager
 Published By The
 Los Angeles Audubon Society
 Free to Members. Outside subscrip-
 tions -- 50¢ per year

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Officers

President Emeritus.....Mrs. Robert Fargo
 President.....Miss Charlotte A. Hamilton
 First Vice President.....Mrs. Raymond Brennan
 Second Vice President.....Mrs. G. Harry Eldridge
 Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Willard Wikoff
 Corres. Secretary.....Mrs. James M. Brennan
 Treas. and Membership.....Mrs. O. M. Stultz
 2223 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.
 Fitzroy 7537

Librarian.....Miss Jennie Winchester
 Auditor.....Mrs. Leonard S. Hall

Chairmen of Committees

Birds and Wild Life.....Mrs. C. Harry Eldridge
 Wild Flowers.....Mrs. Oliver C. Edwards
 Butterflies.....Mrs. Ella W. Hamilton
 Trees.....Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty
 Historian.....Mrs. Roy L. Sergeant
 Education.....Mrs. Thomas Squire
 Hospitality.....Mrs. J. W. Mabb
 Press & Transportation.....Mrs. George L. Veatch
 Telephone - Parkway 6127

Club Editor.....Mrs. Maud Murphy
 1800 Spruce Street-South Pasadena, Calif.
 Telephone -- Blanchard 71312

The Los Angeles Audubon Society holds two regular meetings each month -- the first Thursday being Field Day, the third Thursday, a program meeting held at the State Building at Exposition Park at 2 P. M.

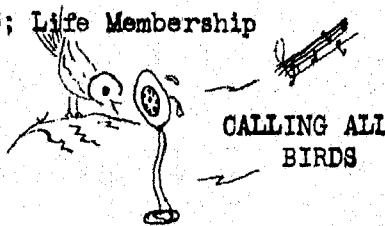
The annual dues are \$1.25; Life Membership \$10.00 and Patron \$100.00.

HOW LONG DO THEY LIVE?

(Name)	(Years)
Blackbird	12
Canary	24
Crane	24
Crow, Ravens and Eagles	100
Fowl (common)	10
Goldfinch	15
Geese	50
Heron	59
Linnet	23
Nightingale	18
Lark	13
Partridge	15
Peacock	24
Pelican	50
Pheasant	15
Pigeon	20
Robin	12
Skylark	30
Sparrowhawk	40
Swan	100
Thrush	10
Wren	3

Some of the Parrott family are said to live over 100 years.

DECEMBER						
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



You are cordially invited to be our guests at the Bird Festival which will be held at Echo Park on Saturday Morning, December 5th, 1936, at 9 o'clock. We know that many of your friends and relatives are stopping with us for awhile before taking off for other climes, so see that the invitation is broadcast. There will be plenty of crumbs, raisins and tidbits for all. Mrs. Eldridge is in charge and has promised a delightful program. ***

THERE WILL BE NO INDOOR MEETING DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1936.

The regular Board meeting will be held at 10 A. M., December 10th, 1936, at 2820 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles. ***

We have greatly missed our President, Miss Charlotte Hamilton, at the meetings, but we hope that the much needed rest will restore her to us soon. We are very fortunate in having as First Vice-President, Mrs. Raymond Brennan, who is carrying on admirably.

INDOOR MEETING -- NOVEMBER 12, 1936

About 200 members and guests enjoyed a delightful program arranged by Mrs. Thomas Squires. Mr. John Garth's talk prepared us for the strange birds shown in the motion picture "Tropical Birds," "Birth of a Seal" and "The Capture of an Elephant Seal." The birds and seals should receive praise for their fine characterizations, as well as our thanks to Mr. Garth for bringing them to us.

Mrs. Naomi Smeely Brown's bird songs and calls were greatly enjoyed. The "California Mocking Bird" is an appropriate title for her.

Professor C. H. Woodruff's informal talk should be published verbatim. His happiness in finding a counter-part in California for each bird friend left in the east, gave an inner-glow of satisfaction long to be remembered.

NOVEMBER FIELD DAY

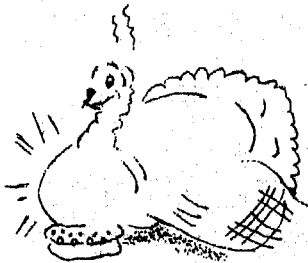
The meeting was held at Woodland Park, November 5th, a fine warm day, and was a beautiful setting for the 42 varieties of birds listed. Among those present were: Western Knatcatcher, American Pipit, Cardinal, Black and White Warbler, Townsend Warbler, Prairie Falcon, American Egret, Willow Woodpecker, Gila Woodpecker, Sierra Creeper, Wilson Snipe, California Blue Heron. Also large flocks of Cedar Waxwings were observed flying back and forth over the Park.

Mrs. Eldridge told us about a trip taken the week before along the coast. She said, "Believe it or not.." but they counted over fifty Egrets, American and Snowy, in one marsh;--Also five varieties of Rails. We know how particular she is in identifying birds, so we are very happy to record so fine an experience.

Mrs. Edwards, as usual, gave us a fine talk on flowers. The subject was the "Involucre of Plants" with special emphasis on the Poinsettia and Bougainvillea.

Mrs. Daugherty gave us some interesting facts about the Carob Tree, specimens of which were shown. It is a commercial, ornamental and historical tree, worthy of our friendship.

Mrs. O. M. Stultz



DON'T BLAME THE TURKEY FOR BEING
WILD



"When the Pilgrims landed," said Col. H. P. Sheldon, of the Biological Survey Bureau, "the original American gobbler was a very tame bird.

"He would come right out of the woods and approach the Pilgrim who would promptly knock him dead with a club."

Col. Sheldon scoffs at the stories of Pilgrims hunting turkeys with blunder busses; he says powder and shot were too expensive to waste on a bird that could be clubbed.

But soon the surviving wild turkeys learned their lesson. They began to avoid man, and now are extremely hard to bag.

Comparatively few of the wild ones come to the sad ending that befalls our domestic turkey!



AN UNUSUAL MESSAGE OF THANKS

On one of the bird walks with the Pasadena Audubon Society, Mr. Charles Broughton, an artist of note, told us of an interesting incident, which we wish to pass along.

Last Christmas, his nephew sent him a paper knife, the handle of which was an ivory carved Japanese lady. He acknowledged the gift by sending the following verse:

The little lady from Japan
Where everybody wears a fan
Brought me your Xmas greeting.

One wonders why she is so gay
From all her friends so far away
And only strangers meeting;
I ask her why she crossed the sea,
When smilingly she answered me
(Her voice is but a wee one)

"They've had no Xmas in Japan,
Since all the great big world began
And I have come to see one."

CONSERVATION

From time to time one word stands out in the history of our national program as a sort of keyword and that word at the present time is "Conservation." Nature study groups become discouraged and in order to protect their interest against depredation, they become somewhat narrow in scope, when from the very nature of the subject under study a broad philosophy should be created and a desire to include fellow man in this most delightful and worthwhile of interests should be developed.

A backward look is encouraging for the future. In the fifty years that have passed since the organization of the Biological Survey a very extensive program of Conservation of Wild life has been developed. The vast sums of money that have been spent during the past years, or I should say very recent years, have been used mainly for the restoration of Migratory waterfowl, resting areas, refuges, and approximately seven million acres now held to be in uneconomic use have been set aside for that purpose.

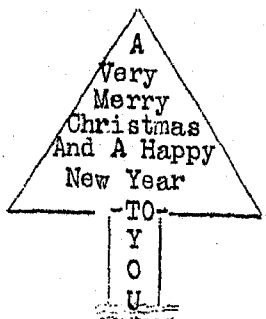
The future of the Conservation of Wild life depends largely upon the intelligent education of the present and future generations, from an economic, recreational and aesthetic standpoint.

Although the federal government has instituted research, demonstration and education through cooperation with selected land grant colleges and state game commissions in representative parts of the country, our interest is centered mostly upon local problems concerning lack of the study of conservation as a subject in California schools. Children should be given an opportunity to know the economic value of birds to the agriculturalist and to the gardener; more groups such as campfire girls, boy scouts, girl reserves and all groups of that kind, encouraged to gain a first hand knowledge of Nature and its conservation, as well as developing mind and body in the recreational opportunities afforded by the out-of-door life. Mr. J. Otis Swift, Nature Editor of the NEW YORK TELEGRAM, very aptly says, "There is hardly a hobby that pays as great return in adventure, satisfaction, mental and physical training, accumulation of wisdom and an awareness of the Cosmos as the study of wild birds."

Let us work toward the education of our groups and individuals, and for the co-ordination of understanding efforts for the conservation of our wild life.

Mrs. J. H. Comby
Pico, California

And last on the page
are our



but foremost in our thoughts
best wishes for the
Holiday Season!

