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Western Tanager



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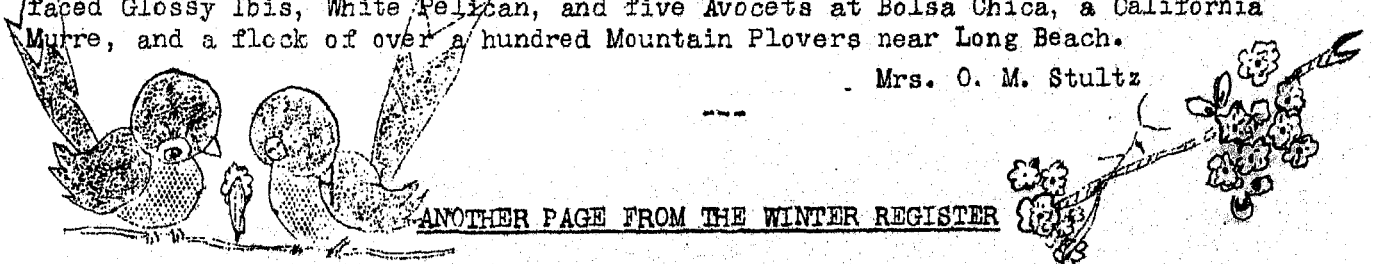
"HAVE YOU HAD A THRILL?"

What strange or interesting bird have you seen? We would like to have as complete a list as possible of our birds this year and are asking the assistance of our members. Will you keep a list of the unusual birds or flocks of birds observed in your garden or on trips, and make a note of where they were seen and the date? It should prove of great assistance to others in locating the birds. If convenient, turn the lists in at the meetings to Mrs. Eldridge, or mail them to Mrs. C. Harry Eldridge, 609 West 54th Street, Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge took a three-day trip during the Holidays and their Christmas Tree covered three states. It was decorated with living birds and lighted with sunrises and sunsets - the Vermilion Flycatcher was its rarest ornament, although many others added their beauty such as the Crissal Thrasher north of Palm Springs and the Leconte Thrasher, south of Palm Springs, the Vermilion Flycatcher in the first cotton field, south of Palm Springs, the Verdin, the Western, Plumbeous and Black-tail Gnatcatchers, Cabanas and Cactus Woodpeckers, south of Palm Springs.

In Imperial Valley were flocks of Phainopepla and thousands of Mourning Doves, also the Pacific Horned Owl and Wood Duck. The Louisiana Heron and Slate-colored Junco, between San Diego and Mexico, were also seen, and nearer home, the white-faced Glossy Ibis, White Pelican, and five Avocets at Bolsa Chica, a California Murre, and a flock of over a hundred Mountain Plovers near Long Beach.

Mrs. O. M. Stultz

ANOTHER PAGE FROM THE WINTER REGISTER

Ferruginous Rough-Leg, known locally as "Squirrel Hawk" is white below - dusky above, feathered to the toes - about as large as our valuable Western Redtail (resident). Seen mostly in open country, but not often on deserts. A most beneficial bird. May be seen from October to March.

Marsh Hawk, is about twenty inches from tip of tail to end of bill, or a little smaller than the Redtail. Slaty blue above and light underparts. Quote from Wyman: "Long tail and snow-white rump are certain recognition marks, as is also its habit of sailing close over the ground while hunting."

Prairie Falcon, is another hawk of about the same size and may be seen in same location, but the flight is very different. Sharp pointed wings and a rapid flyer. Watch other birds scatter when this killer appears.

(In our Audubon Library is a valuable book of Hawks and Owls which members should read.)

Band-Tailed Pigeon, is a resident of the mountains, but comes to lower levels when the food supply is scarce; feeds extensively on acorns in fall and winter in foothill region. Do not confuse him with our ever increasing importation--the Chinese Spotted Dove, which one finds in all parks and gardens. (Continued on Page -15 -)

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 tions - 50¢ per year

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

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

FIELD MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4th.

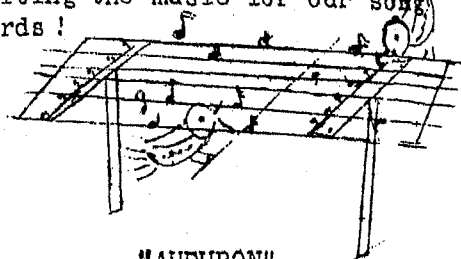
Please be on time to meet with Mrs. Eldridge at 9:00 A. M., on the breakwater at San Pedro. This is an ideal time to observe the Sea Birds. You may expect to see the California, Ring-billed, Short-billed, Herring, Glaucous-winged, Western, and Bonaparte Gulls; Black Turnstones; Eared, Horned and Western Grebes; the Red-breasted Merganser and Lesser Scaup Ducks; Red-throated Loon, Brandt and Farallone Cormorants and also many other birds. Lunch will be at Point Firmin Park.

Regular Board Meeting will be held at 10:00 A. M., February 11th, 1937, at 2820 West Sixth Street.

Indoor Meeting at 2:00 P. M., February 18th, State Building, Exposition Park. Dr. Frank F. Ganders, Superintendent of Nature Study in the San Diego County Schools and connected with the San Diego Museum of Natural History will be the speaker. His subject will be "Growing Up With The Birds." Let us share this fine program with our friends. They are always welcome!

BLACKBIRD MUSIC

Do the birds compose music for you? Mrs. Hamilton says the flocks of blackbirds on the wires look like a musical score, and she is quite sure that with a proper instrument, she could pick out the notes and play a really charming tune. Perhaps they are writing the music for our songs birds!



"AUDUBON"

Miss Charlotte Hamilton presented the Society with Constance Rouke's book "Audubon", which is available to all members through our Librarian, Miss Winchester.

LIFE MEMBER

Mrs. James M. Brennan thrilled the members present by becoming a Life Member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

FIELD MEETING-Jan. 7, 1937
FERN DELL -- GRIFFITH PARK

The outstanding birds identified were the Willow Woodpecker, Western House Wren, Lutescent Warbler, Rufus Crowned Sparrow and the Anna Hummingbird in Nuptial flight.

FEBRUARY						
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7	8	9	10	(11)	12	13
14	15	16	17	(18)	19	20
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	28					

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American Pipit, is a winter visitor to open country in large flocks, yet may be seen singly at the beaches. "Their deliberate walk, gentle 'jerking' of tail, and 'cheep' as they fly, showing the white outer tail-feathers, are quite distinctive". (Wyman) The general color is brown, light underneath, breast streaked, moves its tail up and down constantly.

Cedar Waxwings - "A compact flock of medium-sized birds fly overhead showing light underparts and perch close together in the upper branches of some tree". (Hoffman) Their crests are always visible. The plumage is sleek as if they had just come from a Beauty Parlor. They feed on pepper and camphor berries, Toyon or Christmas berries, and are very fond of cotoneasters. Don't begrudge them, plant a few more next year. The red wax-like tips of the flight feathers of the wings and yellow band at end of tail are only visible at close range.

Mrs. Ruth Forbes Sherry, Poetess of National reputation, gave an enjoyable program at the January Indoor Meeting of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Her comprehensive explanation of modern poetry, its meaning and place in literature of today, stimulated the interest greatly for the readings which followed.

Mrs. E. E. Cobb read, in a very pleasing manner, an article written by Audubon about one of his harrowing experiences while trekking through what was then a wild part of the country.

Mrs. Sherry gave works of local poets, and some of her own, which were delightfully read and were enthusiastically received.

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, who was instrumental in securing Mrs. Sherry, expressed the hope, and it was heartily agreed, that some such program should be planned once a year.

Favorite poems about birds were read by some of the members. Our President, Miss Hamilton, contributed a delightful bit of comedy.

Mrs. Elizabeth Holt, a guest, read one of her own poems, which we take pleasure in printing:

ROBIN RED BREAST

Resting on a snowy carpet
On the corner of a shed;
Is the sweetest little robin
With it's chubby breast so red!

Hover 'round my tiny cottage,
I will look for thee again;
Maybe, thou wilt venture nearer
Close up to my window-pane!



Come again dear little robin
For I love to have thee near,
Dainty, graceful, English birdie,
I've not seen full many a year.

Thy red breast against the snow,
Is a picture gay to see.
Come again, dear little robin;
Come again, and sing for me.

Mrs. Raymond Brennan will be out of the City most of the year and we regretfully accept her resignation as First Vice-President. We are very fortunate to secure our former President, Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, to serve in her place.

DO YOU KNOW *

That the Hummingbird is one of the fastest birds and can fly fifty miles per hour. The largest known species, the Patagona gigas is eight and one half inches long. The smallest one, the Calypte helence, a native of Cuba and is two and one quarter inches long.

That the Golden Plover, a bird about the size of a Robin, is known to fly, non-stop, the two thousand miles between Nova Scotia and South America over a landless route.

That the champion distance traveler known to ornithologists is the Arctic Tern, which nests in cold regions near the North Pole, then flies across the Atlantic to Europe and on down to the antarctic beyond South Africa, an eleven thousand mile trip, twice a year.

That a Thrush sees a worm writhing in grass one hundred yards off. A Sparrow, fifty yards away, sees a dropped crumb or pea and immediately darts to it. The Swallow, skimming along forty miles an hour, marks down gnats a hundred yards ahead. A Hawk poised three hundred feet above a tangled brake detects a mouse through heavy growth. Eagles and Vultures possess super telescopic sight and their vision is even keener.

Editor's Note: The following article should quicken our interest for the treat in store for us on Field Day.

November 14th, was a beautiful, balmy day, fragrant with the sea air, a blue sky and a bluer ocean, with a few soft, white clouds to lend enchantment. On the breakwater was a myriad of birds, chiefly, the Western Gull in all his phases. There were also the California Ringbill, Heermann, Short-bill, Herring and Glaucous Winged Gulls, the California Brown Pelican, the Brandt and Farallone Cormorants. On the rocks beneath us the Surf-birds were in company with the Black Turnstones. A little company of six Surf-birds obligingly took rest to be observed at our leisure; about ten Turnstones and as many Surf-birds were counted. As we dangled our feet from the end of the Breakwater, a Foster Tern and a Royal Tern flew by, and a white headed grandfather of a Pelican smiled by time and again. We sat there watching the sail boats leave the Harbor, like more white birds taking flight for Catalina. By some magic known to the atmosphere, the Island came closer and closer. At our feet the tide dropped lower and lower, until whole pastures of green seaweed were exposed, upon which many small crabs were grazing, really nipping the seaweed with first one giant claw and the other and putting it in their mouths. The Starfish were revealed in orange and purple and pink shades, and a field of purple sea anemones, like purple asters.

No wonder we lingered until our ocean was golden and red with the sunset and old Baldy's white crown was touched with pink. It was warm and very still, with not even the ghost of a breeze. A few Sanderlings paraded on the beach, clinging, as we did, to the last light of a perfect day.

Mrs. O. M. Stultz

