

T H E

## Western Tanager

~~News-Editor~~

VOL. III

MARCH 1937

No. 5

FROM A TRAVEL NOTEBOOK

Mrs. Elsie Humphreys has generously shared the highlights of her trip with us by passing on the following notes.

North on the Redwood Highway, July 7, 1936. Summer sun shining and Lazuli Buntings singing.

Through redwoods in rain and fog, July 8th. Gambel Sparrows songs all the way. Many Warbling Vireos songs, even though raining, but not so generous as the Gambel songs.

Between Eureka and Orick on the Elk River: Two Kingfishers on the lookout; one from a suspended wire near the river, the second member of the species on a post at the watercourse and in accordance with the Poma Indian Myth told by Mrs. Grace Hudson in her home -- \* "The Sun House" - at Ukiah, "he wore the victorious string of white wampum about his neck."

Morning and mist, July 9th, at Orick. Near the cabin, one of the sages at its best blossom-time and a Rufous Hummingbird feeding intently, with no objections to the close observers.

July 13th, at Founders Tree: A butterfly - Not one of those leaves fluttering "mighty lak" a butterfly - but an Oregon Swallowtail flying about the sunlight tops of smaller trees.

July 15th. Petrified Forest, seventy miles North of San Francisco and eleven miles from Santa Rosa. Visitors looked, read markers and wondered about those petrified redwoods, "buried millions of years ago by volcanic action"--more to wonder about at "The Woodpile", Opalized wood in which the finest of opals have been found, then, too, a small bird nest among trailing vines on a veranda constructed partly with finishing and roofing nails.



Fleeting glances from a train in Nevada, Utah and Colorado, September 21-22nd: Kildeer, Gulls, many Hawks, a Western Redtail close enough for identification-- Black-billed magpies, Western Crows, Brewer Blackbirds, Western Meadowlarks, Western Robins and Mountain Bluebirds.

September 22-Oct. 3rd: In the San Luis Valley of Colorado: Mountain Plover, three pairs of Band-tailed Pigeons, Western Nighthawks, Western Robins and Mountain Bluebirds, in beginning, downward migration. Over the meadows Marsh Hawks on the wing. Near Pancha Pass Highway, a family of Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawks at a rabbit breakfast.

Listed on different days: Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-billed Magpies, Mountain and Long-tailed Chickadees--all year residents in sections of Colorado.

Oct. 18th: Gulls and wading birds in migratory stop-over at private and union reservoir lakes in northern part of state, about 50 Ring-billed Gulls and 10 Black-necked Stilts on shore near highway.

Oct. 29th: Homeward bound to Los Angeles, California. Next afternoon, Oct. 30th, in a Lower Sonora area of Nevada; a flock of large Crows near a small (Cont. Page 20)

(Note) \*Wampum -- Poma Indian money.

\*The Sun House -- The name over large door in front of Mrs. Grace Hudson's home in Ukiah, California.

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

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Officers

- President Emeritus.....Mrs. Robert Fargo
- President.....Miss Charlotte A. Hamilton
- First Vice President.....Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon
- Second Vice President.....Mrs. C. Harry Eldridge
- Recording Secretary.....Mrs. Willard Wikoff
- 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 and Transportation.....Mrs. George L. Veatch  
Telephone -- Parkway 6127
- Club Editor.....Mrs. Maud Murphy  
1300 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 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.

| MARCH |    |    |    |      |     |     |
|-------|----|----|----|------|-----|-----|
| 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 | ...  | ... | ... |

at Foothill and Sunland Boulevards. Bring your lunch and be prepared for a happy day.

The regular Board Meeting will be held at 10 A. M., March 11th, 1937, at 2820 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California.

Indoor Meeting, March 18th, 1937, at 2 P. M., in the State Building at Exposition Park.

A program of unusual interest has been planned for the March Meeting. Mrs. E. E. Cobb, who is in charge, has secured Mr. C. F. Bauder, Fish and Game Commissioner of California, as one speaker. Mr. Bauder will talk on traps and equipment. The other speaker will be Mr. James Savage, of the U. S. Biological Survey, who will lecture on the various departments of the U. S. Biological Survey.

FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

We have missed the friendly greeting of our Hospitality Chairman, Mrs. J. W. Mabb at the meetings. She has been seriously ill but we hope she is recovering rapidly and will be there to greet us at our next meeting.

\*\*

Friday, February 19th, 1937:

After a few minute's drive members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society left traffic signals and a hurrying world to find themselves in beautiful Griffith Park, a veritable paradise for nature lovers. It might have been another country with its hills covered with wild shrub on one side and the lofty snow-crested Sierras on the other.

Mr. Frank F. Ganders, Director of the Museum of Natural History at San Diego, was guest trail leader. His explanations and comments pertinent to bird life were closely followed by the enthusiastic group. Some of the birds listed were Red-breasted Sapsucker, Western Bluebird, Ring-bill Gull, Roadrunner, Red shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Say Phoebe. We also saw the breath-taking sight of the Anna Hummer in nuptial flight. Following luncheon, Mr. Ganders told of some of his interesting experiences and also gave some bird calls.

It was with regret that such an interesting day had to come to a close.

\*\*\*

MEETING NOTICES --

Field Meeting March 4th, 1937. Please meet Mrs. Eldridge at 9:00 A. M. Sharp at the junction



BIRD NOTE EXCHANGES

From Mrs. Mary E. Kirsher, Field Committee Chairman of the Colorado Bird Study Club, have come interesting experiences with Rosy Finches. A banding experiment with several of the countless numbers of the little birds roosting in caves of the Red Rocks near Golden, Colorado, gave proof that many miles on a round trip flight to feeding grounds and back to caves, were made in a day.

"It all depends on the weather when they come down to roost in caves of the Red Rocks--usually during December and January. Those about Loveland Pass, if the storm is more or less local, will fly on down the cañon until it is more moderate and roost in old mine tunnels. If the weather is severe and there is considerable snow, they will come as far as the Red Rocks, which are at the edge of the foothills, and the flight would be, roughly guessing, about twenty miles air-line."

Mrs. Kirsher also gives interesting facts of other birds: "The Lewis Woodpecker, I find, is what might be called a resident bird. It may be found in the outskirts of Denver during the winter, just as a few Robins remain, but there are more in the southern part of the state throughout the year, probably about a third of the winter residents remaining in the vicinity of Denver."

Mrs. C. Harry Eldridge  
Chairman-Birds & Wild Life

\*\*\*\*\*

FIELD MEETING -- FEBRUARY 4th, 1937

Thirty-five members and guests found a still, pleasant morning for the bird walk on the Breakwater at San Pedro. Fifty birds were listed for the day by Mrs. Eldridge. Among them being the Red breasted Merganser, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Pintail, Ruddy, Mallard, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, and Buffle-head ducks, the Snowy Egret, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone and the Gulls in immature and full plumage.

The program after lunch at Point Fermin Park included a talk by Mrs. Hamilton on the Tussock Moth, a display and review of the ice-plant and some of the mesembryanthemums, by Mrs. Edwards.

INDOOR MEETING -- FEBRUARY 18, 1937

The Los Angeles Audubon Society was honored by a visit from Mr. Frank F. Gander, of San Diego. His ability to share with us some of his experiences while "Growing up with the Birds" inspired and enriched us. He made us acquainted with many strange birds and added to our knowledge and appreciation of our own.

How fine if we could all have grown up with the birds -- what glorious foundation stones of character!

Mrs. O. M. Stultz

\*\*\*\*\*

NEW MEMBERS FOR 1937

Mrs. Myrtle Wiley  
Mrs. Emma Von Belfort  
Mrs. Ines Fairbank  
Mr. C. V. Duff  
Mrs. Myrtle McCarthy

Miss Mabel Fossler  
Mrs. Jessie Adelle Morain  
Mrs. L. L. Bingham  
Miss Ida Woods  
Mrs. Gladys Stephan

MRS. ROY L. SERGEANT'S BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Our President's idea of our own Society having a Bird Census this year is extremely interesting to me.

I have kept a list of the birds, butterflies and wild flowers seen on all of my trips for the last four years, and also those which were seen in our own near neighborhood. My regular list at home is:

Anna Hummer, Audubon Warbler, Bush-tit, San Diego Song Sparrow, House Finch, English Sparrow, Black Phoebe, Brown Towhee, Western Mocker, Brewer Black bird, Spotted or Chinese Dove, Mourning Dove, Mexican Dove, California Jay, Shrike, Sparrow Hawk, and a pair of Bullock Orioles, who came after the middle of May, spend the summer, and have several babies each year. The nest has been a secret.

I saw a Cow Bird in June, 1936, an Ash Throated Fly Catcher on my feeding tray, August, 1936, a Rufus Hummer, March 7, 1935, on the Japanese Plum blossoms, a Black Chinned Hummer, August 10 and 11, 1936.

The one Audubon Warbler we have had about for four years; comes back for the winter about the middle of October, and is such a joy.

I have seen flocks of from fifteen to twenty five Cedar Wax Wings on the Cotoneaster bushes February 16, 1934, and also February 10th and March 4th, 1935, and this year January 7, 8, 18, 1937, saw them eating very busily in the Camphor Tree next door.

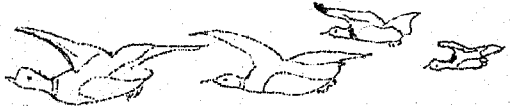
I have noticed that since I stopped putting out bread crumbs daily, the English Sparrows have disappeared and we have fewer House Finches.

"Billee", the San Diego Song Sparrow, is really my favorite of them all. He is such a cheerful, smart little bird, and "Peter", the Mocker, is next in favor. I even love his moonlight concerts.

\*\*\*



WILD GEESE FLYING



There's a whir of wings in the twilight;  
A shadow across the sky;  
A wedge-like shape in the darkness --  
And the wild geese go flying by.

There's a honk-honk-honk from the leader;  
From the others come raucous cries,  
As they dart and swoop, a dauntless troop,  
Where their path to the southland lies.

From the far-off northland winging  
Their flight by night and day,  
They hurry along without rest or song,  
Eager to be on their way.

O, wild geese flying southward,  
Full well we know why you go;  
Soon will this northern country  
Be covered with ice and snow.

The summer has long since left us;  
And autumn, too, must die,  
Since we see in the twilight the shadow  
Of the wild geese flying by.

Anna M. Palmer

\*\*\*

(Continued from Page 17)

station where stop is made. Train starts, a few startled birds fly up and one with ruffled feathers shows a white neck, proving they were not Crows, but White-necked Ravens. This entry checked with my man: "A small raven that might easily be mistaken for a large crow -- neck feathers pure white at base visible only when they are ruffled."

October 31: Morning. Arrived in Los Angeles about 8:30. Glad to hear you singing, Western Mockingbird; you and your songs were missed.