

T H E

Western Tanager



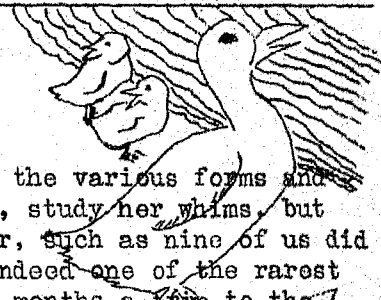
MRS. RAYMOND BRENNAN, *Editor*

MARCH 1938

No. 6

SLOUGHS

By - Otto Steirert



One may travel north, south or east. One may marvel at the various forms and structures of nature both in her peaceful and agry moments, study her whims, but to really enjoy nature and what nature is, one must meander, such as nine of us did last January 11th, from Oceanside to San Diego. This is indeed one of the rarest privileges one may have along life's highway. For several months a trip to the sloughs in and around Oceanside had been contemplated for the study of shore birds but on the above mentioned date came the realization.

Dame Nature smiled on us, giving us a fine day as could be desired for bird study. There was very little traffic to disturb either us or our feathered friends, who seemed to co-operate with us by being on parade. Such a trip called for an early start, but where is the lover of nature who cannot or will not get up before dawn in order to arrive at the desired destination on time for full enjoyment? Leaving by seven o'clock, we arrived in Oceanside somewhat before ten A. M. The ride, with the beautiful, peaceful Pacific on our right, the clear blue sky above and the mountains to the left, beggars description. We arrived at the proper place, at the proper time and saw the proper birds at the proper sloughs but I may add here we also saw some of the rarer birds as well as the proper ones.

We greeted Mr. Gander, naturalist at the San Diego Zoo, on the main thoroughfare and began our quest at once, from Oceanside down through, in and around Carlsbad, Lacosta, Encinitas, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Solana Beach, clear to the midway of the Mission Bay Causway in San Diego. We returned by way of Pacific Beach and La Jolla to Los Angeles and our various homes. Not a slough was passed that showed any possibility of bird life. The only time taken out was at twelve noon, when we lunched on the beach and studied gulls while we ate. We were able to eat, I might add, for the morning ride, the walks and salt sea air gave us very good appetites. Traveling on, we covered more sloughs as will be seen by the number of birds mentioned in our observation.

Having some very well enlightened observers from our own club and sustained and augmented in our observations by our good friend, Mr. Gander, an authentic list of sixty-two varieties of all birds, shore and land as well as water, was compiled. The following is a list of the less common birds which we saw:

American Egret	American Bittern	Red Throated Loon
Snowy Egret	Forster Tern	Red-headed Duck
Long-billed Curlew	Great Blue Heron	Louisiana Heron
Hudsonian Curlew	Royal Tern	Greater Yellow Legs
American Pipet	Snowy Plover	Black Brant
Red-Backed Sandpiper	Kingfisher	Buffle Head
Green Winged Teal	Large-billed Sparrow	Red Breasted Merganser
Black Crowned Night Heron		

(Continued on Page 24)

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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.

--- NOTICES OF MEETINGS ---

FIELD MEETING-March 3rd. 9 A. M., Bolsa Chica Gun Club. So many have expressed a desire for a trip to the shore, and what better place than Bolsa Chica for the shore birds! Be sure and wear heavy shoes. Mrs. Daugherty has arranged for a permit, so let's all take advantage of this opportunity. Bring a lunch! Let's Take the Bus. Bus leaves 8:00 A. M., from 544 South Hill Street - \$1.00 a round trip. An ideal way to go birding, as Mrs. Daugherty will help us identify birds along the way. Make reservations by March 2nd, with Mrs. Grace Hall-Richmond 7078, or Mrs. Lillian Allen, Hudson 5771 (Pasadena). Attention Long Beach Members! Bus will stop in Long Beach at American Travel Bureau, 207 East Ocean Avenue. Fare 50¢ round trip. Make reservations through Mrs. Grace Hall, 2009 Magnolia Avenue, Los Angeles, or telephone Richmond 7078. Trip will be cancelled if it rains hard.

BOARD MEETING-March 10th, will be held at 10 A. M., Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles.

PROGRAM MEETING-March 17th, at 2:00 P. M., State Building, Exposition Park. "The Birds of Lassen Volcanic National Park." Next best to visiting our National Parks is having some of their glory brought to us. We are very fortunate in having Mr. Joseph E. Burgess, Ranger Naturalist of Lassen Volcanic National Park as our speaker. A Whistler Soloist will be an added feature.

Mrs. Mary B. Salmon has listed the possessions of the Los Angeles Audubon Society Room at Plummer Park, viz:
Books
Magazines
Government Bulletins
Port Folios of Wild Flowers
Butterfly Displays
Scrap Books of interesting information
Exhibit of bird's nests.

This collection is for your study and enjoyment. The Audubon rooms welcome you!

Three Hundred and twenty five guests have registered since July 1, 1937.

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		



BITS OF INFORMATION



Mrs. Grace Hall has given to the Audubon Library another one of her much treasured books, "Histories of North American Gulls and Terns", by Arthur Cleveland Bent. The Society acknowledges this gift with grateful thanks.

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California Conservation Week, March 7th-14th. Bird and Arbor Day is March 7th, Luther Burbank's Birthday.

It is pertinent at this time to recall our State Emblems. The California Poppy is our State Flower - its lovely color makes it a fitting emblem for the "Golden State."

The California Dog-face or Dog Head is our State Butterfly. California was the first state to select a State Butterfly. It was chosen in 1929 by vote of the Entomologists. It is a pretty butterfly about two inches across. The male is orange with black border markings. Sometimes it has a rosy overtone.

The California Valley Quail is our State Bird. California has more than four hundred kinds of birds. Let us get better acquainted with them.

The Redwood is the State Tree. The Coast Redwood is one of the finest trees in California. Its name is Sequoia Sempervirens. Sequoia was a famous Cherokee Indian; sempervirens means "always green." The Giant Sequoias (Sequoia Gigantea) are the largest and oldest living things in the world. They grow only in the High Sierra Nevada Mountains.

The California Grizzly Bear was our State Animal. You may see him on our Bear Flag, but you will not see him anywhere else except in pictures. All the California Grizzlies have been killed. Let us protect and cherish our wild life!

** (Excerpt from "State Emblems")

On January 17th, 18th and 19th, the Annual Bird Census is taken all over the United States. Region No. 1 comprises the States of Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California. This work will be done by the co-operation of the Fish and Game Commission, Biological Survey U. S. Navy, United States Coast Guard and the Good Year Blimp.

Mrs. E. E. Cobb

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Bird program - K.E.H.E. Saturdays, 10:45 A. M. to 11:00 A. M. Whistlers and bird talks.

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Study Class March 25th - 10 A. M. to 12 o'clock noon, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard. Mrs. Grace Hall will conduct. Principal subject "Field Identification of Birds."

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ADVERTISING SECTION

LAST CALL!

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The thrill of seeing the Louisiana Heron was alone worth the trip to San Diego. Also worthy of mention was four Snowy Plovers we saw, blending so perfectly with the sand that they could hardly be detected. One noteworthy observation was made by one of our well known members when we were trying to identify a Red-headed Duck in a mixed group. Said member, bubbling over with enthusiasm, asked if it was the one with the head down in the center. Mr. Gander, in his droll way, said that that was usually where the head was.

Stopping along the highway about six o'clock, we attacked the food which remained from our lunch. A tired but happy group arrived home thrilled in the joy of such a delightful, instructive day's outing.

What a fine thing to have had foresight enough to have these sloughs set aside as sanctuaries that birds may be studied in their natural habitat, and given the necessary protection.

ATTENTION!

Through a serious error the notice was published in the February issue of the "Western Tanager" that the nests and eggs donated by Mrs. Shearer to the Audubon Room were from a collection gathered by Mrs. Bicknell. That is another collection entirely. Mrs. Shearer's nests were collected almost entirely at Idyllwild during the years she lived there, except for a few from the desert the two winters she spent at Palm Springs.

The eggs were from an old collection of Mrs. Bicknell's.
(Note: Mrs. Bicknell was opposed to collecting eggs -- these had been donated to her).

HONORED

The title of "Publicity Representative" has been given Mrs. E. E. Cobb, one of our very active members. She has been giving splendid talks before clubs and organizations on the life of Audubon, with the thought of encouraging bird study as a hobby.

PROGRAM MEETING
Feb. 17th, 1938

Two rare treats were enjoyed February 17th. The delicate beauty of the ferns and their strange life cycle told in Mrs. Edwards inimitable way, will long be remembered.

Mr. Josiah Keely's talk on the "Mystery of Bird Migration" gave his personal observations and the results of many years study on that fascinating subject.

Miss Miriam Faddis's talk on "Shore Birds" is a pleasure postponed. A severe cold prevented her speaking.

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Miss Celeste Zizink, who is the sister of Mrs. Irene Roselle.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

The United States Postal Department now has the privilege of carrying and distributing grain to the birds? The lives of thousands of birds have thus been saved!

