

T H E

Western Tanager



VOL. IV

MAY 1938

No. 8



BIRD'S EYE VIEW



By - our Curator

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon

"A garden is a lovable thing," and so is a bird sanctuary. One might be surprised at the variety of birds which visit our Plummer Park Sanctuary! The following is report of interesting observations noted throughout the year.

March, a year ago, brought the Arizona Hooded Oriole, that built the beautiful nest in the Washington Palm and successfully raised its family. The Black-headed Grosbeak built in the small tree beneath the palm. The old barn is gone, but those who saw the Screech-owls sitting on the rafters will regret that their home is wrecked. The Red Shafted Flicker calls and calls now, perhaps for the mate who went to live in Oakgrove Park, after some tragedy overtook her. The Spotted or Chinese Dove has been feeding two nearly grown young ones for over a month.

The Lutescent Warbler is taking care of aphids on the rose bushes. Only a few Audubon Warblers are here now, but many spent the winter here. An Anna Hummingbird sits day after day, the year through, on a telephone wire, where the color of his gorget is like a star, when seen in the proper light. Only yesterday a Rufous or Allen Hummingbird sailed in and refreshed himself on the Nicotine blossoms, where the Black chinned and Costa came last year.

The Cliff Swallows were numerous last April, feeding in the air over the vacant lot. Ash throated Flycatchers, Say's Phoebe, Black Phoebes, Western Flycatchers, Western Gnatcatchers, and a pair of Golden Crowned Kinglets were seen also on this lot.

The California Jays, California Towhees, Linnets and Western Mocking birds call this Sanctuary, Home!

An Alaska Hermit Thrush, a few Robins, a pair of Western Blue-birds have been seen during last winter. One rainy day a large flock of Cedar Waxwings spent the day finding the toyon and lantana berries for a dinner.

On the old wind mill, a Plain Titmouse sang and searched for spiders, and a San Diego Wren peered into cracks in the shingles of the old home looking for food, and singing his gratitude.

The pepper trees and the fern-like leaves of the gravillea have interested the Ruby Crowned Kinglet all winter, but he left about the last of March.

Bushtits have flitted about in the cedar and cypress and eucalyptus trees in flocks of ten to twenty.

Gambel and Song Sparrows have enjoyed the food table and the former are about ready to leave us for the summer. The song of the Willow Goldfinch floats down from the olive trees and Monterey Cypress. The Green-backed Goldfinch is to be seen in the elderberry trees -- yes, trees, for the largest elderberry tree in Southern California grows in Capt. Plummer's yard. A Nuttall Woodpecker found a fine dinner in a walnut tree nearby. A Calaveras Warbler and Meadowlark were our most recent visitors.

Overhead, gulls, vultures and hawks are often seen, but not identified. A California Shrike, a Sparrow Hawk and a pair of cow-birds have been among the uninvited guests.

This makes a list of thirty-nine birds seen through the year in Plummer Park Sanctuary!

THE WESTERN Tanager

Published by the Los Angeles Audubon Society Free to Members. Outside Subscriptions 50¢ per year.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY Officers

At the April program meeting, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

- President Emeritus... Mrs. Robert Fargo
President... Mrs. Alma Stultz
First Vice President... Mrs. Maud Murphy
Second Vice President... Mrs. Caroline Daugherty
Recording Secretary... Mrs. Dan J. McCarthy
Corres. Secretary... Miss Laura Greely
Treas. and Membership... Mrs. O. L. Wait
8972 Dicks Street., West Hollywood
Telephone: OXford 1990
Librarian... Mrs. George L. Veatch
Auditor... Mrs. Grace S. Hall
Curator... Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon

AUDUBON'S "Birds of America" is in our library, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, who worked so diligently to secure the treasure for us and to the following members who contributed to its purchase: Mrs. Oliver C. Edwards, Mrs. Grace Brown, Mrs. O. L. Wait, Mrs. George L. Veatch, Mrs. Mary B. Salmon, Mrs. Robert Fargo and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer. Additional members donated \$3.60 at Bolsa Chica meeting. We would like their names for our records.

Calendar for MAY showing days of the week (S, M, T, W, Th, F, S) and dates (1-31).

MEETING NOTICES

FIELD DAY--Thursday, May 5th. Mrs. Caroline Daugherty has arranged with Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Tucker to let us visit their wonderful bird resort near Modjeska's Home in Orange County. You have all heard of his many tame humming-birds, but few know of the many other species that feed and nest there. Join our sociable bus trip through Whittier, Fullerton, Anaheim, Orange and El Modena and up beautiful Santiago Canyon past the big Santiago Reservoir. The round trip of 100-miles through the groves and green hills, over smooth roads will be \$1.25, in a fine Tanner Bus leaving 544 So. Hill St., at 8 A. M.

Since this is the last issue of THE WESTERN Tanager until Oct. 193 we are giving advance notices for the June meetings:

Calendar for JUNE showing days of the week (S, M, T, W, Th, F, S) and dates (1-30).

Those driving from Long Beach may go through Santa Ana and Tustin to El Modena and thence up Santiago Canyon. Make your reservations at once with Mrs. Grace S. Hall, Richmond 7078, or Mrs. Lillian R. Allen, HUDson 5771. Bring lunch as usual.

BOARD MEETING, Thursday, May 12th. Mrs. George L. Veatch is entertaining the Board at her beach home in Hermosa Beach, 3107 Strand Avenue. Those going by electric car get off at Longfellow Station. A bird walk in the morning at 10 A. M., is scheduled and Luncheon at 12 o'clock noon, served by the hostess. Board meeting will follow. Please notify Mrs. Veatch as to whether or not you can be present. (Telephone Parkway 6127 -- 3730 West 27th Street, Los Angeles.)

PROGRAM MEETING--Thursday, May 19, 2 P. M., State Building, Exposition Park. Dr. John A. Comstock will give us one of his interesting talks on "Butterflies". There will be a Whistler Soloist. Following the program, the installation of officers for the ensuing year will be conducted. (Our Whistler Soloist is a pupil of Mrs. Milton Jeffs)

JUNE FIELD DAY MEETING--Thursday, June 2nd, at 9:30 A. M., Hancock Park. Our Annual Birthday Meeting will be dedicated to our beloved Grace S. Hall, with an appropriate program. The La Brea Pits are located in Hancock Park on Wilshire Boulevard west of La Brea. It is an extremely interesting spot to visit. Take the Wilshire bus direct to the Park. Bring picnic lunch as usual. Friends are always welcome! This will be the last meeting of the Audubon Society until the Fall, so let's make it a 100% attendance!

BE SURE AND CONSULT YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE MEETING DATES!

APRIL FIELD TRIP: Among the sixty-two birds listed were the Long-billed Curlew, Black necked Stilt, Buffle head, Sora Rail, Tule Wren, Forsters Tern, Black Crowned Night Heron, Snowy Egret, American Egret, Lazuli Bunting. Mr. Arthur Roseman gave a fine talk on "Homing Pigeons", bringing a number of birds of beautiful plumage. Three were turned loose and circled above us before taking wing for home. Mrs. Daugherty had a group of Shore birds for our close observation and study. Coffee and a baked dish were served by our Long Beach Members, Mrs. Thomas Squire, Miss Effie M. Tambllyn and Miss Sara Pepple.

APRIL PROGRAM MEETING: Commorating the 100th Anniversary of John Muir's birth, Mrs. Alma W. Mason gave us a review of John Muir's life. Mr. W. A. Kent's lecture on "Condors and Hawks" gave us many fine points in their favor and much valuable information. Mrs. E. E. Cobb reported the excellent work of the Fish and Game Commission in protecting birds. A motion picture of Mr. B. F. Tucker's Hummingbirds was shown through the courtesy of Mrs. Harriet William Myers. Mrs. Elsie Humphreys Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave their report on the officers of the Audubon Society of Los Angeles for the ensuing year, which will be found listed on Page 30 of this issue.

SPRING BIRD CENSUS



Mrs. Caroline Daugherty is making plans to take a census of our birds in Los Angeles County on Saturday, May 7th. Anyone wishing to take part please get in touch with Mrs. Daugherty, in Glendale. Telephone, Douglas 2437 -- 1419 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale. It is necessary to have two qualified bird observers with each machine.

BIRD STUDY CLASS

Field identification of Birds, under the direction of Mrs. Grace S. Hall, 10 A. M. to 12 o'clock noon. Bring picnic lunch if you wish. Remember the date-May 27, 1938.

RADIO PROGRAM

Tune in on KEHE each Saturday at 10:45 A. M. for bird program.

CONVENTION DATES

The Federation of Natural Sciences is holding a Convention at Pacific Palisades from June 2nd, through June 5th. As we are affiliated with this Federation, the following notices will be of special interest:

- Friday, June 3rd, 2 p.m. "Life Zones in the West and their Avian Inhabitants"
Mrs. Alma W. Mason -- speaker.
- 3 p.m. "Economic Value of Birds"
Dr. Adelle Lewis Grant -- speaker.

Field Trips -- Sunday, June 5th:

- 7 a.m. Mrs. Clara Weedmark, Southwest Bird Study Club
Dr. Adelle Lewis Grant, California Audubon.
- 8 a. m. Miss Blanch Vignos, California Audubon.
Mrs. Caroline Daugherty, Los Angeles Audubon.

All events will be held at Pacific Palisades, Sunset Boulevard, two blocks west of Pacific Palisades Business Center.

CONSULT YOUR CALENDAR FOR MEETING DATES

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ANOTHER NEW MEMBER!

We are happy to welcome Mr. W. A. Kent into membership.

See THE A. LIETZ COMPANY, 913 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California,
for BINOCULARS.
Telephone: TRINITY 8542

WHY EXTERMINATE US?

By - W. A. Kent

When the subject of Birds becoming extinct is brought up, a person's mind is perhaps more apt to float back to some time in the remote past or to stories of the Booby Bird which is just a myth now, and of how ancient mariners easily killed these huge clumsy birds for food until the last one was dead. A head or a foot in a London museum is about all there is to tell of its fate.

Then in the last few generations we have seen the Great Auk, though millions of Passenger Pigeons all disappear and but yesterday the last Heath Hen died in a New York Zoo. And still many people seem to think such tragic things cannot happen today.

Many of us remember when every Egret that could be found was promptly shot during the breeding season for millinery purposes as that was the only time of the year they possessed their beautiful plumes, so when the old birds died the young starved in their nests. By the time the public woke up the Egrets were thought to be nearly extinct. Only a few that lived in remote parts of Florida's everglades had escaped the slaughter. And, friends, much to our delight during this winter we counted 87 American Egrets and a few Snowy Egrets on a slough adjacent to Los Angeles.

We all know how our ducks have diminished in numbers since real estate movements have drained our lakes and marshes and of how perhaps nearly as many ducks have died of disease in partially dried up marshes, as were shot by hunters.

Our California Condor situation is especially vivid in our minds today. Every person should feel that it would be about as great a crime to destroy the nest or one of these birds as they could commit.

But let us get to our slough situation -- they are being drained, one by one! And also the water is being drained into a narrow channel with the sides cemented or rocked up. Tell me how the 54 different species of birds we counted wintering and feeding on our sloughs are going to live so as to be able to go back north and procreate after we have robbed them of their winter feeding grounds. There are several species of birds right now bordering so closely on extinction that it makes one tremble to think about it.

If they had bills like bayonets they could fight their own battles, but they have not, so it is up to all of us to fight their battles for them. Are we going to do it? Yes! We must preserve their sloughs, enforce our laws and create many more sanctuaries for their future protection.

* * *

ADIOS!

Well, Dear Audubonites, since this is the last issue of THE WESTERN Tanager until October, I wish to extend to you all my sincere thanks for your very fine cooperation. Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!

The Editor.

