

# Western Tanager



VOL. V

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## BIRDS ACROSS THE SEA



Far out in the North Atlantic, while lazily watching the white-crested wavelets, our attention was caught by a swiftly-moving black speck which, nearing us, resolved itself into a small dark bird which every now and then seemed to tread the water with both feet as though walking the wave-crests. A storm petrel; yes, but which one? Not much larger than a towhee, but as he circled closer, we could see the white rump, and upon consulting the ocean bird book, we decided he must be Leach's petrel. Several more of these brave little ocean rangers were sighted before we reached English waters.

On slowing down for the channel entrance, great numbers of gulls and terns swarmed about the boat, among them the black-backed gull whose acquaintance I was glad to make. Another gull, unknown to us, was seen on the way home near the coast of Labrador the Ivory Gull, quite the handsomest of his tribe, it seemed to me.

After a busy day in London, we were off for Scotland by motor, going via the English Lake Country. On our first stop, Stratford-on-Avon, while wandering about the Anne Hathaway garden, we heard sweet little notes in a tree above us, and upon appealing to an English lady who looked as though she might like birds, we were told it was the English chaffinch. His song was reminiscent of our linnet, but his dress much more colorful, the reddish markings being set off by blue and white trimmings. His cousin, the bullfinch, we met for the first time in a little glade near Lake Windermere, and decided that his outfit was even handsomer, as he sported more glossy black. According to an English writer, the bullfinch mates for life, and the pair remain together after the nesting.

Fortunately, one of our fellow travelers was an Englishman interested in bird-life, chiefly game-birds, and he kept us informed as to the field birds we passed on the way. Motoring is not the most satisfactory way to see unknown birds, but we managed to get fairly good views of flocks of grouse, partridge, pheasant and golden plover. On the way southward two weeks later, the open season on game birds had begun, and men, dogs and guns were in evidence in the open fields. No doubt the English and Scotch ladies were well supplied with pheasant feathers for their hats.

In the central counties, we saw skylarks several times circling upward from the fields, but alas! it was not their season for singing. In the autumn, they gradually work southward to the coastal counties, and eventually numbers of them migrate to France.

At Kenilworth, we made first acquaintance with rooks - and a noisy tribe they are. Their insistent cawing drowned out the scholarly discourse of our guide, and he gave up in disgust, muttering some uncomplimentary remarks anent rooks and their relatives.

Of the smaller birds, those we saw most often in country gardens and parks, were the yellow-hammer, a sweet little songster with buffy-yellow head and neck; the English robin, smaller than ours, but quite as pert; the omnipresent starling (may he never reach our coast!); the lovely song-thrush with his beautiful spotted breast and friendly manners, and the funny little pied wagtail, a study in black and white with a long tail which he exercises dutifully. We found one hopping about the lawn at Windsor Castle, and his queer jerking gait caused us to follow him when we discovered he had but one leg. However, he was busily engaged gleaning a living, and true to English tradition, had made up his mind to "Carry On".

Mrs. Thomas Shearer

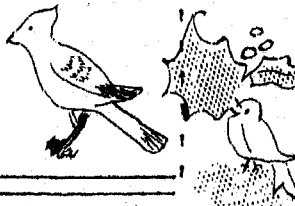
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The Los Angeles Audubon Society holds two regular meetings each month - the first Thursday being Field Day, the third Thursday, a program meeting held in the State Building at Exposition Park, at 2 p.m. The annual dues are \$1.25; Life Membership, \$10.00 and Patron, \$100.00.

DATES						
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



Brown leaves falling tell the "hour of the year", and "now in November" comes the Gambel Sparrow to sing his wistful song early and late. The Audubon Warbler is here for the winter as energetic and cheery as ever - a lovely Alaska Hermit Thrush flits his wings and dips into the geraniums to hide, while a San Diego Wren scolds and a Ruby crowned Kinglet seems to answer with his wren-like note. The Brown Towhee that Mr. Duff banded in July is here again. A Flicker comes for an avocado under the table. So far only one Western Robin has put in its appearance, calling lustily from a tall tree and many Bush-tits sift in and out of the cedar trees. A Plain Titmouse keeps very busy about the wind-mill. Mockingbirds, a few Black Phoebes and Anna Hummingbirds are at home, however. The Gulf Fritillary Butterfly is wafting its silver spangled wings into and over the lantana bushes - a late Annis sips nectar from its blossoms while only a few Monarchs are seen on warm days. The crickets, those fiddlers in the grass, are silent since the vacant lot adjoining the Park was burned. While the appearance of the neighborhood has been improved, it has played havoc with many small "tenents" of the field. Plummer Park is really a lovely serene spot, tucked away from a busy hurrying world, where many birds come to nest and find food and safety. - Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon ...

NOTICES OF MEETINGS

BIRDS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL - Thursday, December 1st - 10 a.m., to 2 p.m., 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard. There has been much singing and chirping among the birds for some time and now the secret is out. They are having a Christmas tree to honor those who have been members for eight years or more - a very lovely way to express their appreciation for such fine friends! For the enjoyment of the members and friends, there will be a program, with exhibits arranged by our Curator, Mrs. Salmon, and a birds Christmas garden. Bring a lunch as usual. Mrs. Grace Brown, hospitality chairman, will provide the coffee. There is shelter. We can picnic if it rains! It isn't often that the birds give a party, so be sure to come!

BOARD MEETING - December 8 - 10 a.m., at the beach home of Mrs. George L. Veatch, 3107 Strand Avenue, Hermosa Beach. Those going by electric car will get off at Longfellow Station. Bring a lunch. Mrs. Veatch will provide hot coffee. Don't forget - meeting at 10 a.m. - Birding in the afternoon.

NOV. 25th - STUDY CLASS. Mr. Duff's very fine study class was attended by 23 members and guests. The subject was Sparrows. Mr. Duff bands birds for the Biological Survey. During class he caught and banded two Brewer Black Birds, a San Diego Wren, a Song Sparrow and Gambel Sparrow. (Note: A brush pile in your garden will attract Gambel sparrows!) There will be no Program Meeting nor Study Class during December, due to the Holiday Season.

BIRDS' CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

FOR CHILDREN

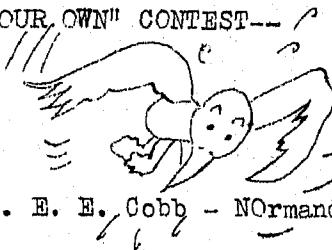
Sponsored by the Los Angeles Audubon Society

Plummer Park  
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles  
Entertainment

December 3rd, 1938  
11 A. M.  
Bring Picnic Lunch  
Program at 2 p.m.

--- "BUILD YOUR OWN" CONTEST---

Bird house - Bird bath  
Prizes and awards will be given. All entries must reach Plummer Park by 10 a.m.



Feeding Tray for garden - Feeding Tray for Window Ledge  
For further information

Call - Mrs. E. E. Cobb - Normandie 0480

NOVEMBER FIELD DAY

The meeting was held at Whittier Woodland Park on a perfect fall day. Mrs. Daugherty listed fifty birds. Following the luncheon, Mrs. Morain, tree chairman, gave a talk on the Judas and Sassafras Trees. Mrs. Hamilton brought some Jerusalem Crickets, about which she had many interesting things to tell. Miss Hamilton spoke on some of the flowers and shrubs found in our washes. Over fifty members were present.

NOVEMBER INDOOR MEETING

Close to one hundred members and guests enjoyed a delightful talk on "Birds of South America", by Miss Ruby Curry, travel-lecturer, who brought out some interesting comparisons. Nature in all its beauty was expressed in the unusual color pictures, an outstanding one being the rainbows seen at Iguazu Falls. Very delightful whistling interpretations were given by Miss Louise Turner, pupil of Mrs. Milton Jeffs.

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to the following new members:

Mrs. Mary Lorentzen  
Mr. James O. Dowker

Mrs. James E. Weston  
Mrs. Isabel Upham Hirsh  
Rev. Sylvia M. Wheeler

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Fuller  
(Mrs. Bertha Fuller)



VACATION NOTES OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON MEMBERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

(Continued from November, 1938, issue of THE WESTERN Tanager, Page #8)

One day we visited Wilbur, ten miles north of Roseburg, Oregon, and Robins were feeding grown young in the yard. One of a brood of three had the white tail-tags of the Eastern Robin.

Leaving Roseburg, we started for Walla Walla, Washington by way of McKenzie Pass- this took us up the beautiful McKenzie River and through the lava gorges of the cascades. We ran into Black-billed Magpies and saw Catbirds before we reached Washington. Our journey took us north into Spokane, then east through Idaho.

As we stretched out on the vast Montana plains to the east, we began seeing the Lark Buntings, all doing flight songs. Arkansas Kingbirds and Mourning Doves seemed to follow clear across the prairies. A Golden-shafted Flicker was seen near the North Dakota line. Perhaps our greatest surprise was in the Bowdin Lake region. In one little slough and scattered along within a few miles were: Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Godwits, Willets, Sandpipers, Yellow-legs and Avocets, all with broods either in sight or concealed. One old Godwit stood right on the highway squaking, while two young peeked from the grass. One hid away as bidden, but the other shamelessly disobeyed to see what the excitement was about.

At Crystal Falls, Michigan, we learned of a white Robin that was to be seen about town, and located it in less than an hour. It was pure white with the usual rosy breast. The eyes were normal, so not a complete albino and it was feeding two normal young. In the northern peninsula at Blaney Park we visited the cabin of the bird bander for the Biological Survey, Dr. Karl Christoffsen, five miles back

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NOTICES OF THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Harriet Williams Myers  
President

Mrs. Merta White  
Secretary - Telephone  
CLevland 66702

Evening Lecture, Central Library, 5th and Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, on December 8th, at 7:30 p.m. Subject: J. Allen Hancock's films of Tropical Birds and Bird Islands of Peru. All who are interested are invited.

Field Trip: December 24th - 8:30 to 10 a.m., Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park.

Weekly broadcasts over KEHE each Saturday at 10:45 a.m., in "The Junior Audubon Bird Club of the Air."

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SWIFTS OF CAPISTRANO

While at the Mission San Juan Capistrano on the afternoon of October 22nd, 1938, waiting for the return of the Cliff Swallows, I saw a most spectacular going-to-roost of the White-Throated Swifts. The sun had set behind the hills, no Swallows had returned, and none had been seen by our party, when about five ten, the cry went up by onlookers, "There they come", and looking up into the sky, we saw a large flock of birds circling about. Many thought they were the returning Swallows, but we knew that they were Swifts. In about fifteen minutes the whole flock swooped downward, and darted into a small crevice in the old wall of the Mission, coming rapidly as if they had been shot from a gun. After counting 50, I stopped, but many went in afterwards.

It was a sight never to be forgotten by a bird-lover, and one worth going far to see!

Harriet Williams Myers

VACATION NOTES OF LOS ANGELES AUDUBON MEMBERS FROM NEAR AND FAR

(Continued from Page 11)

in the woods. He gave us the afternoon, taking us to his bird traps and for a two-hour bird study hike through the woods. He has banded over ten thousand birds and over a hundred species.

(Excerpts from a letter to Mrs. Hall from Mr. and Mrs. Keely, as they gypsied east to Huntington, New York.)

These notes will be continued in our next issue.

CHRISTMAS NOTES

Mrs. Dan J. McCarthy, our Recording Secretary, will be glad to take any magazine subscriptions for you. Telephone: BLanchard 71992 --- address: 1955 Meridian Avenue - South Pasadena.

LEST WE BE TOO LATE!

Order your Western Tanager Christmas Cards as early as possible. They are going fast. Place your order with Miss Laura Greely (BLanchard 71849) or secure them at the meeting in Plummer Park on December 1st. Attractively priced at 7¢ each or 15 for \$1.00, while they last.

The Southwest Bird Study Club meets Monday of each week. Mrs. Alma W. Mason, President. Call CApitol 3441.

Very Merry Christmas and for the coming year, Peace and Contentment to all and loads of grand days for birding!

The Editor.

