

T H E

Western Tanager



APRIL 1939

No. 7

A SUMMER IN MOJAVE -- THE RETURN OF THE SWALLOWS

On a ranch about forty miles north of Missoula, Montana, IT happened -- 'Twas April 19th, a few years ago. The cries of the Kildeer were all about us as this was a popular breeding ground for them. The Bluebirds (Rocky Mountain species) were already domiciled in their box on the east side of the little brown bungalow. Then darting, dipping, wheeling and flashing their pearly breasts and iridescent coloring "they" came - six of them. "Our Swallows have returned! I must remove that plug", called sister excitedly. Following closely, I watched as she removed the huge paper wad from the door of a tiny brown box on the north side of the bungalow. It was decidedly "no admittance" to other tenants.

Other eyes were watching also, and very soon a pair of English Sparrows, denied the right of "squatter sovereignty" about the barnyard decided on a coup d'e tat. They certainly were wily; first, noisily asserting their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of bird happiness; then finding their plans blocked they would steal in silently. Exasperated by the little rascals, sister took a pot-shot at them.

Meanwhile the Swallows would light on the brown post nearby, one at a time, watching the show and evidently confident that 'foster mother' would win. At last after a few days of skirmishing, the field was cleared -- no scalps were in evidence and the old pair took over their own while the others moved on. We never tired of observing the pair building up the nest and taking turns lighting on the post. The pearly white breast and beautiful iridescent coloring of purple, blue, green and bronze captivated us.

About the fourth of July the four young birds were not only out of the nest but apparently "on their own" as they had outgrown the tiny quarters. My brother-in-law, who was also interested, decided to place a box on the post, thus providing a new home for them. To our great surprise they set up housekeeping and in due time brought forth a family of six. I failed to mention that one of the four was found dead near or below a wire clothesline. As it bore no marks of violence we decided it had flown against the line. What became of the others we did not know, but two became the parents of the six which, when they began to fly, used to sit in a row in the wire fence. We took note of the coloring of the young and also the number. The four young birds of the old pair were a beautiful dark blue and lustrous; the six grandchildren were duller, almost blackish. Hoffman says of the immature - Upper parts gray, under parts whitish. The old birds began to rear another brood. The mother bird was sitting on the eggs, and deciding to study them more closely, my brother-in-law very carefully removed the tiny brown box. To our amazement, the faithful mother stayed on the nest until he had taken it down, then flew out of the opening, but returned after he had replaced the box. We enjoyed the happy visitors until the time came for them to say good-by.

Ora K. Sabin

(Mrs. Sabin checked very carefully the coloring and the eggs of these interesting Swallows and with the assistance of another very fine student proved beyond question that these were Northern Violet Green Swallows.)

(Poem on Page 26)



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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.

APRIL		CALENDAR					1939	
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	23	24	25	26	27	(28)	29	
	30							



MEETING

NOTICES

FIELD MEETING-Thursday-April 6th-9 a.m., "Rancho Santa Anita" near Arcadia. The old home of Lucky Baldwin-noted for its historical interest, fine old trees and many birds. Directions-Colorado Boulevard to "Old Ranch Road". Turn right at Rancho Santa Anita Tract Office. Lunch at Arcadia Park, corner Santa Anita Avenue and Huntington Drive. Carefree transportation via fine Tanner bus leaving 544 South Hill Street at 8 a.m. Round trip, 80¢. Make reservations with Mrs. Grace Brown, York 1308 or Mrs. Kane, at Michigan 4653, by April 5th. Carry your lunch.
BOARD MEETING-Thursday, April 13th, at 10 a.m., Plummer Park. Carry a lunch if you wish.

PROGRAM MEETING-April 20th, Thursday, 2 p.m., State Building, Exposition Park. Springtime and some of its loveliest creations of wild flowers and butterflies and two of our most charming and delightful speakers-Mrs. Mary V. Hood, noted for her work on the wild flowers of Yosemite, will speak on "Botanical By-paths" and Miss Charlotte Hamilton will give her inspiring talk on "Butterflies in the Garden". You will be proud to bring a friend.

IN THE VALLEY OF MOIESE
(Continued from Article on Page 1)



Montana, "land of shining mountains"
May our memories never cease
To recall the gorgeous sunsets
As reflected in Moiese.

Bordered on the east by Mission Spur of Rockies boundless range
Where the peaks were crowned with glory
Such as mortals ne'er have seen.

As the sun reclined toward setting
'Neath the mountains to the west
Salmon pink appeared on Mission
Growing deeper on the crest.

While below as shadows deepened
Cobalt blue shone deeply hued
And our souls to Heaven were lifted
As the glorious scene we viewed.

In the land of shining mountains
In the Valley of Moiese.

Ora K. Sabin

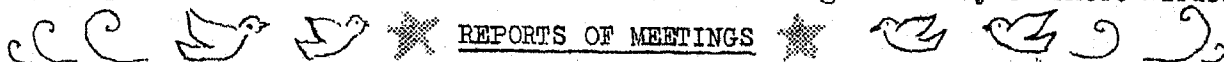
BIRD NOTES

Wishing to know more about crows, we are asked to cooperate with the National Audubon Society and Biological Survey by reporting any nesting spots observed. Please call Mr. C. V. Duff, at TRinity 1127.

A plan has been proposed by Miss Charlotte Hamilton, and heartily endorsed by the members to study very closely our Southland birds-compile records on their dispositions, habits, choice of food and nesting. More information will be given as the plan takes shape.

MEETING NOTICES (CONTINUED)

STUDY CLASS-Friday, April 28th, 10-12 a.m., Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Mr. C. V. Duff will conduct, continuing the study of Shore Birds.

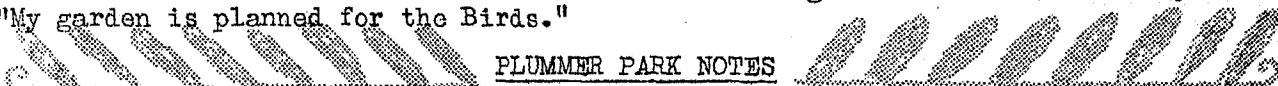


REPORTS OF MEETINGS

A lovely day was spent at the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, with sixty-six species listed by our Field Leader, Mrs. Daugherty. A Sora Rail was trapped and banded by Mr. C. V. Duff. It seemed completely at ease as the members gathered about to observe this interesting bird. Mr. C. H. Woodruff, of the Long Beach Schools, spoke on the derivation of the names that have been given many of our birds. Mrs. Thomas Squires, of Long Beach, was our hostess at luncheon.

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING - Members and guests completely filled the lecture hall to view the pictures of beautiful Catalina Island and hear Mr. D. L. Mobley, Superintendent of the bird park, talk on some of the interesting and rare specimen gathered from all over the world. Jimmy, the talking Mynah bird, and Sir Rudolph, the Kooka-burra from Australia, were the stars of the afternoon. They showed off to perfection, with little urging, both during the meeting and for the many who stayed afterward to enjoy these unusual birds.

On March 8th, of Conservation week, Mrs. Harriett Williams Myers gave an illustrated talk on birds and Miss Helen Pratt, using slides, had as her subject "My garden is planned for the Birds."



PLUMMER PARK NOTES

Several gifts have been received in the past month. A framed engraving of Audubon was given by Mrs. Charlotte Edwards, San Diego - A beautiful mounting of aigretts, from the Snowy Egret, framed and sent by Mrs. Grace Brown - a Red-tailed Hawk from Mrs. Alma Mason, and a Scott Oriole from Mrs. Mary V. Hood to add to our specimen - five birds nests from Mrs. Arthur J. Mix, a Cactus Wren's nest sent in by Mr. R. A. Powell - "Nature Book for Nature's Sake" by Van Dyke, for Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon (Many Thanks) and an Audubon Calendar from Mrs. Mabel Sergeant.

Two new books have been purchased for our library -- Hoffman's "Birds of the Pacific States" and Ritter's "The California Woodpecker and I".

Over two hundred persons have visited Audubon House during March, and two classes for bird study were held.

The Robin was the "bird of the month". Several visited the food tables and bathed in the pool and fountain. The Hermit Thrush has sung its thanks for winter food and protection. Two Thrushes have wintered in Plummer Park, and just recently a Lawrence Goldfinch was observed. A lovely Junco sang its farewell before taking off.

Four bird houses, gifts of Mr. B. F. Tucker, have been placed in the trees, with the hope that permanent tenants will make them their happy home.

On Friday, March 24th, a group of thirty school children from Burbank, were brought by bus to Plummer Park for a visit.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Florence Scott and the generosity of a very fine artist we have a lovely background for our habitat, painted by a real artist.

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon
Curator

The Emblem of the Southwest Bird Study Club is the Canyon Wren, and the President received the following verses at Christmas time: (Mrs. Alma Mason)

Dear President of the Bird Club
A Complaint I make to you.
I'm sure you do not realize
The awful things you do.



You tiptoe through the meadow
And along the woodland path,
You watch me at my dinner-hour
And even in my bath!

You spy upon my courting,
And laugh with ghoulish glee
When Wife and I are quarreling
And a lively fight you see!

In Summer and in Winter
In Springtime and in Fall,
Where'er your Bird Club wanders
I've no privacy at all.

Yours Truly,
Canyon Wren
(By June Pelham)

NOTICES OF THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Harriet Williams Myers
President

Mrs. Merta White
Secretary - Telephone
CLevland 66702

April 13th, 1939, at 7:30 p.m., in the Los Angeles Central Library, 5th and Grand Streets, Los Angeles, there will be a lecture, illustrated by color motion pictures, by James S. Fassero, of Pasadena, on "Nest Life of the Golden Eagle." Films will also be shown of the Bald Eagle and young of Catalina Island.

Field study of wild birds - Fern Dell - Griffith Park, April 22nd, 8:30 to 10 a.m., led by Miss Blanche Vignos.

Junior Audubon Bird Club of the Air-Saturdays-10:45 a.m., over radio station KEHE - Audubon Whistlers under the direction of Mrs. Bertha Caroline Stockwell. Listen in.

"SAVE THE CONDOR" FUND - BENEFIT

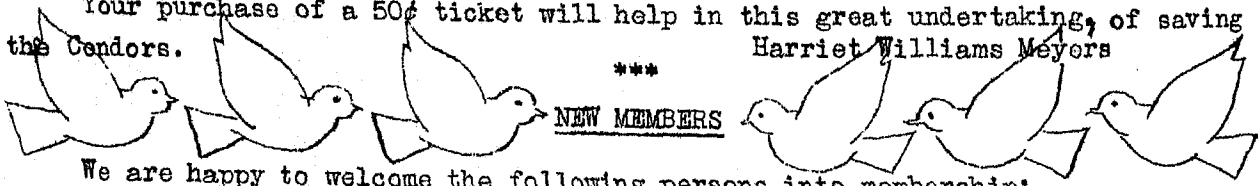
The National Association of Audubon Societies, 1006 Fifth Avenue, N. Y., have created a Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, to study the habits of the Condor and get a complete life history of these rare birds, to better determine the causes for their small numbers, and in the hopes of being able to check their losses before too late. The sole known habitat of these birds now is Los Padres National Forest, in California.

"FLAMING WILD LIFE IN NORTHWESTERN MEXICO"

Benefit Lecture --- Under the auspices of the California Audubon Society, assisted by other Audubon and bird groups a lecture will be given Wednesday, April 19th, 1939, at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., at 8 p.m., on "Flaming Wild Life of Northwestern Mexico" by Robert T. Moore, Vertebrate Zoology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. In 1927 Mr. Moore made his first zoological excursion to the Aquadorian Andes. A few years later he came back from another expedition, bringing some five thousand specimens, which included rare birds, animals batrachians and insects. The supposedly extinct mountain tapir (Tapius roulini) was rediscovered, and an unknown tiny hummingbird, the "Marilynn Wood Star" and a golden tanager were described by Mr. Moore in the "Auk". From 1933 to 1938, Mr. Moore supervised the work of five expeditions in northwestern Mexico, to secure material for a report on the Ornithology of this little-known region.

In this lecture he will tell of a nesting colony of Roseate Spoonbills found on an uninhabited island on the eastern shore of the Gulf of California. Besides other water birds, such as the Frigate Birds, Oyster-catchers, Herons, Egrets, Terns and Gulls, he will show color moving pictures of the Dusky-eared Ptilogomys, a bird distantly related to our Phainopepla, and still more remarkable, the Tufted Jay, a beautiful bird found nesting in a small habitat on the top of the Sierra Madre mountain range of Sinaloa, at an altitude of 6000 to 7000 feet. Mr. Moore is so extremely busy with these expeditions and this wonderful research work he is doing that this will be his only presentation of this lecture, and the only time to see his wonderful color films of these rare nesting birds.

Your purchase of a 50¢ ticket will help in this great undertaking, of saving the Condors.
Harriet Williams Meyers



We are happy to welcome the following persons into membership:

Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Mrs. Sadie P. Burr
Mrs. M. E. Warner

Mrs. E. L. Badgley
Mrs. Harriet C. Damert

Mrs. Flora B. Bennett
Mr. M. Sigsbee Dunlop
Mrs. W. Scott Lewis

A HAPPY AND JOYOUS EASTER TO YOU ALL!

