

Western Tanager



VOL. VI

OCTOBER 1939

No. 1

To Fellow Members - Greetings:

Our summer playtime has come to a close and a new year lies before us, in which to further the purpose of our Society and make new friends for it, and thereby for the birds. The Society, now in its thirtieth year, has a fine record of achievement. To further that record, perhaps to add to it a contribution of our own, will be a privilege in which each of us may share. I anticipate a year of happy activity and pleasant association, and I look forward to seeing all of you in the near future.

Laura Greely

CALIFORNIA CONDOR PICTURES

About three years ago, Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Audubon Societies, suggested to Dr. Joseph Grinnell, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, that some study be given to the possible conservation of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) and that a suitable student be employed to study this great bird in its restricted range for a period of three years. This student was to move into the breeding haunt and by careful observations make a thorough study of this bird which is thought by some to be on the way to extinction.

Dr. Grinnell was very enthusiastic about this plan and at once suggested Mr. Carl B. Koford, who was particularly well qualified for this study, and at the present writing Mr. Koford has spent this spring and summer in the comparatively inaccessible spot where these birds live. In order to finance this study it was necessary to appeal to people who were interested in bird study and conservation. Some substantial gifts have been received but in order for this most important study to go forward, a considerable amount of money is still needed. The local Audubon Societies raised some money through the showing of the remarkable pictures taken of the Tufted Jay and other interesting birds in Mexico, by Dr. R. T. Moore, who very generously gave of his time to show his pictures in the interest of the Condor Fund.

During the time Mr. Baker and Dr. Grinnell were planning the Condor study, Mr. U. R. Pemberton, a prominent member of the Cooper Ornithological Club, had been taking some very interesting Condor pictures. With considerable expense and trouble Mr. Pemberton had hauled carcasses of animals into the Condor country and deposited them near blinds where it was hoped that he could secure the pictures he desired. For those who believe that the Condors are dying out because of lack of food it may be said that Mr. Pemberton experienced great difficulty in enticing them to his blinds. Drawing on his vast experience of photographing wild life through the past years he was finally successful in securing some very unusual pictures.

When Mr. Koford set up his camp this spring he discovered a Condor's nest and Mr. Pemberton built a blind across the canyon that resembled a rock. From this point he has been able to photograph the hatching of the egg and the feeding and raising of the young bird. Most of these pictures are in color and Mr. George Willitt, of the Los Angeles Museum, states that they are the finest bird pictures he has ever seen.

Mr. Pemberton has expressed a willingness to show the Condor pictures before groups at which time an appeal will be made for contributions to the Condor fund. He has already shown his pictures before a few prominent groups in Southern California, and has many more showings lined up for the future. Mr. Lee Chambers, Business Mgr. of the Cooper Club, has given unstintingly of his time and has offered many valuable suggestions for the successful raising of the funds for the Condor study. It is to be hoped that all Audubonites and persons interested in conservation of wild life will have the opportunity of seeing Mr. Pemberton's pictures as well as the opportunity of participating in this fine work by contributing any amount they feel they can give.

C. V. Duff

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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.

MEETING NOTICES

FIELD MEETING - Thursday, Oct. 5, 1939 - Cabrillo Beach. Bus leaves 544 S. Hill St. Los Angeles for Cabrillo Beach at 8 A.M., arriving at Cabrillo Beach about 9:15 a.m. Those wishing to take Harbor Boat Trip must be at Boat Landing at Cabrillo Beach promptly at 9:30 for the two-hour trip, returning to Cabrillo Beach at 11:30 a.m. Lunch at the picnic site adjacent and short program. At 1 p.m. those wishing to go through the Museum are scheduled to appear there where Dr. William Lloyd will be waiting with his interesting lectures. The bird walk will start at 2 p.m. from outside the Museum doors for those wishing to go birding out on the Breakwater, returning at 3:30 p.m. Our bus leaves immediately after 3:30 p.m. for Los Angeles. Separate reservations must be made for bus and boat trip. Please telephone or write Mrs. Jesse L. Morain, 1041 S. Gramercy Drive, Los Angeles, 'phone Parkway 0339 as soon as possible.

BOARD MEETING - October 12th, 1939 - 10 A. M. - Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles.

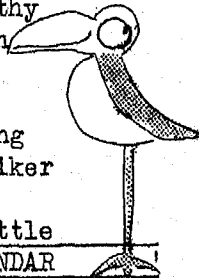
Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon and her new committee have kept open house each Friday through the summer. Over 200 interested visitors have registered. Three Warblers, the California Yellow, Macgillivray and Dusky have been observed and added to our bird list. Loans of Butterfly cases and mounted birds to groups for study and gifts of books, bird nests and eggs have been received. Credit goes to Miss Harriet Damert for the beautifully printed signs and notices for the Audubon rooms.

FIELD TRIPS

The following Field Trips have been planned by our Field Leader, Caroline H. Daugherty, for the coming Audubon year, subject to change: San Pedro & Cabrillo Beach, Woodland Park, Chatsworth Reservoir, Bolsa Chica Club Grounds, Sunland Park, McGroarty Home and Grounds, Buena Vista Lake (beyond Tejon Pass) Birds and Wild Flowers, also.

A HEARTY WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

- Mr. Dan J. McCarthy
Mrs. C. Llewellyn
Miss Vera Betts
Mrs. E. H. Crane
Miss S. Edith King
Mrs. Florence Walker
Mrs. Merta White
Mrs. Emily E. Kettle



Calendar table for October with columns S, M, T, W, Th, F, S and rows of dates 1-31.

PROGRAM MEETING - October 19, 1939, 2 P. M., Exposition Park, State Building, Los Angeles. Miss Ruby Curry will show color motion pictures of and talk on birds seen at North Coronado Islands, Mexico, and Mount Lassen National Park. We will also hear some interesting vacation experiences by several of our members.

BIRD STUDY CLASS - October 27, 1939 - 10 to 12 a.m. To be held at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles. Mr. C. V. Duff will again conduct the class, which is welcome news!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

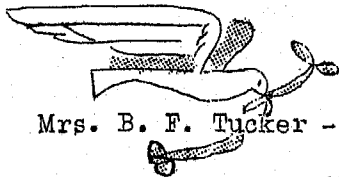
Early in the summer a Scout Master, Mr. A. H. Spencer, of Troop 400, South Gate, California, learning of our interest in birds, questioned me regarding having someone talk with his boys upon this subject. I was delighted as this was just what I had hoped for, because "boys" are the potential friends or enemies of birds and scout work can and should be of so much benefit in bird protection.

Miss Helen Pratt, of the Junior Audubon Club, was contacted and kindly gave them a very interesting evening with her lantern slides and talk on birds. The boys were much enthused and appreciative. A little later a Field Trip was planned to the beach, to further their bird interest. Mrs. O. M. Stultz and I were their guests and field leaders, going down in the Troop's own bus with 14 scouts.

Upon asking how many birds they might see, their Scout Master suggested, possibly 15 species. We promised them 40 or more, which nearly floored them. They were skeptical of such a list but on returning, every boy had his full scout quota and more. The boys were jubilant and now, numbers of the other boys are asking for a similar trip.

Mr. Spencer's Senior Employer Unit of Troop 400, South Gate, has been in past years and is this year, putting on a Scout Exhibit at the Pomona Fair. For this year's theme, they chose "Bird Study" and worked up a very interesting exhibit with the help of our Plummer Park Headquarters loan of 17 mounted birds and Mrs. Salmon's (our official curator) fine help and cooperation in packing them for safe transport.

The Exhibit was given high Honorable Mention in Scout Inspection and the Scout Master and boys are planning a visit to our Plummer Park Headquarters soon.



Carolyn H. Daugherty

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. B. F. Tucker - who passed away August 19th, 1939.

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AS WE ROLL ALONG AND HIKE THE TRAILS

From a Travel Diary

By - Elsie Humphreys

Starting out from Los Angeles at an early hour July 2nd, 1939, we find fog and mist in command of the morning and the weather somewhat cool. At Indio the time is right for birds, but only Western Mourning Dove and Western Meadowlark are listed. The temperature increases. Three Turkey Vultures fly from the highway and back again after car passes.

At Blythe it is almost too hot for anything to be moving. Travelers, like ourselves, are looking forward to reaching a cooler place.

The heavy rains ahead, from all appearances, are downpours. Out from Wickenburg, Arizona, several miles we are in the edge of the storm; water is rushing in rivulets with all low places filled. We enjoy the lower temperature. Later, ascent of mountain pass brings a change of vistas. Car is stopped; we identify a pair of little brown birds, Mexican Ground Doves. On the way again, within a few miles we see: Cassin Kingbirds, an Ash-throated Flycatcher and Say Phoebe. Near top of pass Woodhouse Jays and Gray-headed Junco fly about.

Morning, July 3rd - Texas Nighthawks are listed when near Ashfork, Arizona. As we drive onward Gambel Quail are new to our list. In mountains, elevation 7,500 feet, Chestnut-backed Bluebirds are flying here and there. Another bird, we guess

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NOTICES OF THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Harriet Williams Myers
President

Mrs. Merta White
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VACATION NOTES ILLUSTRATED

Meeting - October 12th, 1939 - 7:30 P.M., in the Los Angeles Central Library, 5th & Grand Avenues, Los Angeles. Talks on vacation experiences will be heard. Mr. W. A. Kent will speak on the birds of North Coronado Island, Mexico, and Miss Ruby Curry will show colored motion pictures of the Island. Mrs. O. M. Stultz will speak on the "Birds of Bolsa Chica" and show illustrated slides.

Field Day - Fern Dell in Griffith Park, Western Avenue entrance, October 28th, 1939, at 8:30 to 10 a.m.

California Audubon field checking list for birds now available - 2 for 5¢ or 1¢ each for 25 or more. Available through Mrs. O. M. Stultz, 2223 Sunset Blvd. Los Angeles - telephone FITzroy 7537.

New reprint of leaflet #6 - "The State Protects Wild Birds" now ready for distribution.

JUNIOR AUDUBON CLUB OF THE AIR

On Saturday, September 18th, 1937, the Junior Audubon Club of the Air came into existence. And through the facilities of Radio Station KEHE, continued for 98 consecutive Saturdays. Then, in July, of this year, Mr. Poska, genial program director, called Miss Pratt, and advised her of the purchase of KEHE by KECA, and the sad news that all sustaining programs would be discontinued.

The Club and those assisting have appreciated the friendly atmosphere at KEHE, its efficient technicians and able announcers who did so much to make the broadcasts successful.

Mrs. Harriet W. Myers and Miss Helen Pratt were in charge of the broadcasts with Mrs. Erna Comby replacing Mrs. Myers for several months. Mrs. Arthur Mix, Mrs. E. E. Cobb, Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Mrs. Bland Ross, Mrs. Legarge Elliot, Mr. W. A. Kent, Robert Salyer, Elliot Lacey, Donald Moore, and Zoe Adele capably assisted.

Guest speakers were Mr. Bert Harwell, Park Naturalist of Yosemite, and Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director of the National Audubon Society.

Those contributing fine entertainment were "The Audubon Whistlers", pupils of Mrs. Bertha Caroline Stockwell, and Jimmie Mallon, throatwhistler.

An average of ten requests a week for memberships were received and during July, of this year, 37 members were enrolled, making a total of 400.

All agree that the experience has been great fun, and are signing off until arrangements can be made for another spot on a new station.

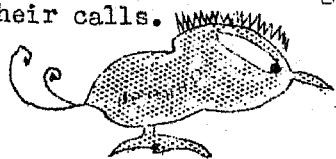
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AS WE ROLL ALONG AND HIKE THE TRAILS

(Continued from Page 3)

a baby Flicker, peeps to a pine bough with utmost unconcern. Identification is made from Wyman: "Arizona Woodpecker, a brown Woodpecker, the only one in North America, answering this description."

July 4th - From Gallup, New Mexico, to Cortez, Colorado, we list for the first time, American Magpies, the Black-billed Magpies. Afternoon - Mesa Verde National Park. On Nature Trail in Spruce Tree canyon, White-throated Swifts and Violet-green Swallows are on the wing; while a Traill Flycatcher darts after small insects then back again to its twig perch. Loud and unfamiliar calls are heard, explained by Mr. Don Watson, Park Naturalist, to be "the young of a family of Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpeckers beginning their early flights and vociferous calls." On the rim we observe: Mountain Chickadees - residents; Western Robins, Mountain Bluebirds and Audubon Warblers, all, summer residents. Evening - On the Trail to Campfire Circle we watch Nighthawks soaring high above a deep canyon, too high to hear their calls.



(This article will be continued in the NOVEMBER, 1939, issue of THE WESTERN Tanager. Watch for it!)