

Western Tanager



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NO. 1

A YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Condensed from Annual Reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen

For the year 1939-40, thirtieth in its history, the Los Angeles Audubon Society carried out its usual schedule of a field trip the first Thursday, an indoor meeting the third Thursday, and study classes the last Friday of each month, October to June, except December, when its one activity is a Christmas party.

The year opened October 5, 1939, with a boat trip around the harbor and closed June 6, 1940, with a day in Charlton Flats in Angeles National Forest, at an elevation of approximately 5500 feet. This in itself indicates the wide range of territory available for birding in this vicinity. Two field trips were lost because of rain, but for the seven taken there was an average attendance of 59, an average bird list of 51 species, and a cumulative total of 154 species. For six of the seven trips a chartered bus proved a popular mode of transportation.

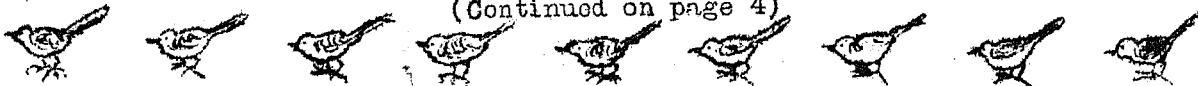
The indoor meetings in Exposition Park, with an average attendance of 162, had excellent programs, usually illustrated, on the subjects of birds, trees, wild flowers, butterflies, national parks and sanctuaries. The Program Committee provided fine entertainment also for the Christmas party in Plummer Park.

Headquarters in Plummer Park was the scene of many interesting gatherings. The House Committee kept "open house" one day a week throughout most of the year, with some 500 visitors, including many groups of children. Study classes in birds and botany, led respectively by Mr. C. V. Duff and Mrs. Mary V. Hood, attracted appreciative groups of members, the average attendance being close to 30. The park was dedicated as a bird sanctuary Dec. 2, 1937, and the number of birds identified there has now reached 55. Trees and shrubs within the park enclosure were named and listed. Many gifts for headquarters were received this year. They are too numerous to list here, but we cannot refrain from mentioning the four-volume set of Wm. L. Dawson's Birds of California, which came to us through the generosity of the Cooper Ornithological Club. A deeply appreciated addition to our library, which now numbers 110 volumes and many pamphlets. The books were recatalogued this year and a new lending system installed.

The Committee on Trees planted six trees in Plummer Park this year, one each in honor of former presidents Mrs. Warren J. Holden, Mrs. Leonard S. Hall, Mrs. James M. Brennan, Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Miss Charlotte Hamilton and Mrs. O. M. Stultz. The committee also relabeled eight memorial trees formerly planted by the society in other parks. Another event in Plummer Park was an evening program Nov. 29, 1939, on "The Inter-Relation of Trees and Birds."

The interest in butterflies continues. To aid members in recognizing the more common forms and to encourage the study of them, the Committee on Butterflies is compiling a glossary, giving pronunciation and translation of scientific names, to which Miss Ruby Curry is contributing scientific and common names of larval food plants. The address by Mr. Donald Meadows at the May indoor meeting, a gallery talk at Los Angeles Museum by Dr. John A. Comstock, Director of Science, and lists

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SUNDAY MORNING WALKS. Mr. A. L. Berry, 540 Ferris St., Los Angeles, is leading interesting Sunday Morning Bird Walks. If you can go, write him for information.

DOORYARD BIRDS. Do not fail to bring in, or send, the list of birds identified in your own doorway since November, 1939.

OUR NATIONAL EMBLEM. Bird Lore (July-August, 1940) reports that a war which has been waged these many years has been won,-the American (Bald) Eagle, emblem of the United States, yet the object of prejudice and subject to persecution in many parts of the continent, is now protected by Federal law.

HEADQUARTERS. For information, call or write Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, 1117 N. Fuller. GRanite 9312.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

FIELD DAY. Thursday, Oct. 3, 1940. Our first field meeting will be down along the shore in private grounds the owner of which has kindly given us permission to spend the day there. This large estate borders on both the ocean and an inland stream, and we shall have a fine opportunity to study ducks, shore birds and land birds. Our regular Tanner Motor Bus will leave 544 South Hill St., Los Angeles, 8 A. M., for our stop on Roosevelt Highway (#101) and Malibu Creek, about 30 miles from Los Angeles. Bus will pick up passengers at Cahuenga and Hollywood Blvds. at about 8.20. Take lunch and a coat. It may be cool along the shore. Bus fare, 75¢ round trip. Make reservation PLEASE if possible, by Oct. 1, with Mrs. J. L. Morain, 1041 South Gramercy Drive, Parkway 0339.

BOARD MEETING. Thursday, Oct. 17. 10 A.M. State Building, Exposition Park.

PROGRAM MEETING. Thursday, Oct. 17, 2 P.M. State Building, Exposition Park. Address by Mr. Gordon G. Thilt, Long Beach, on "Bird Conservation in Public Schools,"

Illustrated with kodachrome slides of nesting birds. Also, Members' Vacation Experiences, and Bird Imitations, presented by Mrs. Bertha Caroline Stockwell.

STUDY CLASSES. Friday, Oct. 25, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Botany, at 9.30 A.M., led by Mrs. Mary V. Hood. Review of the Pinos and discussion of text books. Birds, at 10:40 A.M. Leader, Mrs. Salmon. Subject, Flycatchers.

BIRDING ON THE OCEAN. Early Saturday morning, August 24, forty-eight members and friends of L.A.A.S. set out to sea from San Pedro in quest of birds which frequent the ocean flyways at this time of the year. The weather was perfect and there was a gratifying absence of high waves. Under the expert guidance of Mr. George Willet, Senior Curator of Ornithology, Los Angeles Museum, the party soon sighted a flock of the rare and beautiful Sabine's Gull; then a Black Petrel; the three cormorants of this region, Farallon, Brandt's and Baird's, and those tyrants of the ocean, a Pomarine Jaeger and a Parasitic Jaeger. ~~Two of the Shearwaters were found, the Sooty and the Pink-footed; then a Xanthus Murrelet.~~ And as though this were not enough excitement for one day, there came sailing across the waves, in the full beauty of their long, narrow wings, five Black-footed Albatrosses. Was it the great can of suet that Mr. Comby had taken along that lured them?

There were gulls - Western, Ringbilled, Bonaparte's and Heerman's; a Common Tern was seen, and a Common Loon regaled us with his weird cry. ~~On the return trip along the breakwater, great Brown Pelicans made fine silhouettes against the sky, and there were Black Turnstones, Spotted Sandpipers, a Wandering Tattler, and a Western Belted Kingfisher.~~

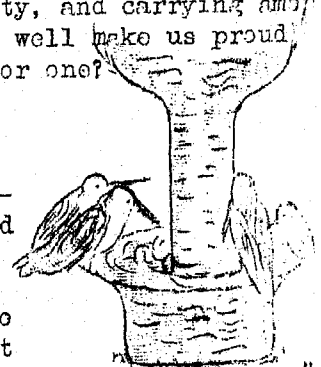
Altogether, about fifty miles on the Ocean, twenty-two birds identified, and day long to be remembered. Our grateful thanks to Mr. Willett for his leadership and the inspiration of his presence.

AT BUENA VISTA LAGOON. Mr. F. F. Lockwood, writing Mr. Willet under date of August 19, 1940, reports seeing a fine flock of 69 Wood Ibis at Buena Vista Sanctuary, in San Diego County. In the same vicinity, he adds, were 65 American Egrets, 35 Browster (Western Snowy) Egrets and 4 White-faced Glossy Ibis.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SANCTUARIES. Have you read the inspiring article on "Southern California Sanctuaries" in the July-August Bird Lore? Written by Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Mrs. Erna Comby and W. A. Kent, all members of Los Angeles Audubon Society, and carrying among other illustrations a fine picture of our headquarters, it may well make us proud and happy. Mrs. Stultz has a few reprints. Why not ask her for one?

A DISASTROUS FIRE. Included in the above mentioned article in Bird Lore is this paragraph relating to the Dorothy May Tucker Memorial Bird Sanctuary, which has been the scene of many a delightful gathering of bird students: "Bird lovers were stunned this July as tragedy struck this sanctuary and it was largely destroyed over night by raging fire. As the blaze roared through the mountain home, hundreds of Hummingbirds dashed into the flame. Mr. Tucker, with rare fortitude, has announced that he will rebuild the home and replace destroyed feeding facilities for his charges."



HEADQUARTERS. August 20 was a gala day in Plummer Park. Our headquarters had 129 visitors. A Phainopepla has been added to the bird census there.



COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB. A cordial invitation comes from Mr. George Willet, Secretary, to attend the meetings of the Cooper Club, at Los Angeles Museum, 8 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month.

CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY. The society announces an illustrated lecture by Mr. A. H. O'Connor, Manager Australian National Travel Assn., 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Los Angeles Central Library, Fifth and Grand.

of butterflies identified on field trips were the committee's contribution to the year's activities.

The Committee on Wildflowers reports field trips, exhibits, formal and informal talks, the botany class previously mentioned, a front-page article in THE WESTERN Tanager on California Wildflower Carpets, a cumulative list of Wildflowers identified on field trips (in all, 193 species, representing 53 families). Such activities as these can but enhance our knowledge and appreciation of California's wealth of wildflowers. Members of the committee assisted in installing the wildflower exhibit in Los Angeles Museum in May and in the accompanying program.

As members of the National Association of Audubon Societies we participated in its annual Christmas bird census, sending in a record of 121 species and 12,325 individual birds identified Dec. 21, 1939. The report was published in full in Bird Lore. Members of the California Audubon Society, we are officially represented on its Sanctuary Committee, and we joined with it in the dedication of San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary Nov. 2, 1939, and Chatsworth Reservoir Sanctuary March 7, 1940. We are affiliated with the Federation of Natural Sciences of Southern California and took part in its 1940 meeting. A small donation to the fund for the study of the life habits of the California Condor and another toward the maintenance of the Buena Vista Lagoon Sanctuary near Carlsbad were made.

On invitation, members of the Committee on Education addressed other organizations on various nature subjects, principally birds, during the year. These talks, to the number of 51, were given to such groups as Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, business, professional and service clubs and church organizations. Ten field trips were led for other organizations by the Committee on Birds and the Committee on Wildflowers.

In the interest of conservation we worked for a favorable vote on the bill, which afterward became a law, making Kings River Canyon a national park, and we protested against H.R. 9559, a bill still pending in Congress, designed to permit the use of up to 15 live decoys in the hunting of waterfowl. This is recognized as an effective means of increasing the kill.

The society is interested in the Western Bird Banding Association's plan of studying gull migration, each member having been supplied with a copy of the association's identification chart. A few color-banded gulls have been identified and reported to the association.

At the close of the year, the society was in receipt of an invitation to appoint one of its members to serve as nature guide for the Glendale Girl Scouts at their summer camp. Needless to say, the invitation will be accepted.

A considerable amount of routine business comes before the Executive Board in the course of a year. Nine meetings were held during 1939-40, the seventeen members maintaining an average attendance of thirteen. The committees on publicity, hospitality and transportation did valiant service. The historian's committee collected a vast number of clippings, which were made into a valuable scrap book and added to our library. The chairman presented at the May indoor meeting a condensed account of the year's work. Eight numbers of "The Western Tanager," our monthly publication, reached the members promptly. Dues were collected, bills paid, books audited, letters written, and minutes carefully kept. Thirty-two new annual members were added to the membership roster.

This, then, in much condensed form, is a report of the year's activities, an indication in its way of the intangible values which come from ever-increasing knowledge and enthusiasm for the purposes for which the society exists.