

T H E

# Western Tanager



VOL. VII

MAY, 1941

No. 8

## THE OAKS

By Mrs. Maude McKnight, Chairman, Committee on Trees, Los Angeles Audubon Society

Henry Ward Beecher said, "Of all man's works of art, a cathedral is greatest, but a vast and majestic tree is greater than that."

We speak of the Ash as "Venus of the Woods." The Birch has been christened "Lady of the Woods." The Beech is called "Mother of Forests," but the title given to the Oak is "Monarch of the Woods."

Approximately 300 species of oaks are known in the world. About 53 species occur within the United States. Fourteen inhabit the Pacific region. All of these enter or wholly belong to California. With few exceptions they grow rather slowly. They adapt themselves to dry sterile soils as well as to moist fertile ones, and to cold as well as to warm climates. In altitude they range from near the sea to far up mountain slopes to several thousand feet elevation. All species belong to the genus *Quercus*. They were called *Encina* by the Spanish Californians.

However we may delight in the peace and quiet of the forest, with its softened light and cool fragrant air, still it is the individual trees that give the most pleasure to the lover of the out-of-doors,— the little cluster of birches that springs from the ferns and moss of the hillside, the lonely pine that grows in rugged grandeur on the edge of the cliff where its seed was planted in the crevice by the wind, the oak that grows outside the forest, where a squirrel or a jay dropped the acorn, and where the young tree had room all its life to throw out its arms as it would.

The two broad classes of our oaks, the white and the black, are popularly distinguished by the color of the wood and bark. Technically they are determined by the different habits of producing acorns. The white oaks produce their acorns in one season, the black oaks in two seasons. (I believe there are some exceptions to this classification,— one in the Atlantic and three in the Pacific regions.) The leaves occur singly on the branches, never in pairs, one opposite another. Some oaks shed their leaves in Autumn of each year; others have evergreen leaves which are shed the second or third year.

The fruits, or acorns, are distinctive in having a separable cup partly inclosing the smooth, thin-shelled nut. The acorn of the white oak is sweetish and very palatable while that of the black oak is yellowish and bitter with tannin. The acorns germinate in spring. The seed-leaves do not form the first green leaf-like organs, but remain in the split shell and furnish nutriment to the growing stem and root until their supply is exhausted, when they become black; later they fall from the stem. The oaks produce a very large long taproot that grows at the expense of the stem which gains but little in height meantime. This enables seedlings to survive ground fires which kill the short stem. A new shoot may be formed many times and the little tree finally establishes itself. The oak does not produce an acorn until 60 or 70 years old, and even then it is not mature. Not till a century and a half have passed over its head is its timber fit for use, and as a rule it is not felled under two hundred years.

Two states have honored the oak. Illinois, by a legislative act in 1908, declared the Native Oak to be its state tree, and the emblem of Texas is a white star of five points on an azure ground, encircled by Live Oak branches.

THE WESTERN Tanager

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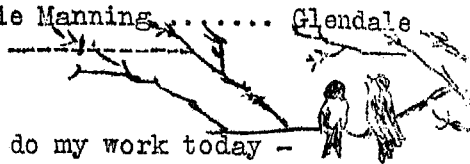
THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY Headquarters in Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. or 1156 North Vista Street.

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Membership Dues Annual \$1.25 Life \$10.00 Patron \$100.00

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

Mrs. Florence M. Browne ..... Los Angeles Miss Christine Kemp Mrs. Helen G. Russell Mrs. H. B. Conklin Mrs. Isabelle Manning ..... Glendale



"I meant to do my work today - But a bird sang in the apple tree And a butterfly flitted across the field, And all the leaves were calling me. And the wind went sighing over the land Tossing the grasses to and fro. And a rainbow held out its shining hand. So what could I do - but laugh and go!" ---Richard LeGallienne.

Note particularly the enclosed announcement regarding the first State Convention of the National Audubon Society and its California affiliated groups, at Asilomar.

CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE

- THURSDAY, May 1. Field Trip. Charlton Flats, up Angelus Crest Highway. Mountain birds, pines, flowering shrubs and wild flowers! Our Tanner Motor Bus will leave 544 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, 8 A.M. sharp. Will stop for passengers at Glendale Avenue and Los Feliz Road in Glendale at 8:15, Honolulu Ave. and Verdugo Blvd. in Montrose at 8:25, and Haskell Ave. and Foothill Blvd. at 8:30. Round trip fare, 90¢. Returning to Los Angeles about 4:30 P.M. Take lunch. Please make reservations EARLY with Mrs. Jesse L. Morain, 1041 S. Gramercy Drive, Los Angeles; Telephone, Parkway 0339. WEDNESDAY, May 7. 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. and each succeeding Wednesday throughout May. Open House at headquarters in Plummer Park. Hostess, Mrs. Maude McKnight. WEDNESDAY, May 14. 1 to 4 P.M. Mrs. Donald C. Meadows and Mrs. W. L. Humphreys, hostesses at the Bird Section, Los Angeles Museum. THURSDAY, May 15. 9:45 A.M. Board meeting, State Building, Exposition Park. THURSDAY, May 15. 2 P.M. Program Meeting, State Building, Exposition Park. Speaker, Dr. W. Dwight Pierce, Senior Curator of Entomology, Los Angeles Museum. Subject, "The Beauty of Insects," dealing with the coloration of butterflies, moths and beetles, by projection of the actual specimens. FRIDAY, May 23. Out-of-doors Study Classes, at "Cuddle-Inn", the delightful cabin home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon S. Griswold, No. 631 Woodland Drive, Sierra Madre Canyon. Take Pacific Electric car, Sierra Madre Line, leaving station at 6th and Main Streets, Los Angeles, at 7:51 A.M. Go to end of line, arriving there at 8:46. Fare, 30 cents one way, 55 cents round trip. Members having autos, please meet this car and take "autoless" members to Cuddle-Inn, approximately one-half mile distant. Birding in the morning. Lunch at 12. Take own sandwiches. Our hostess, Mrs. Griswold, will serve coffee and dessert. After lunch, Miss Ruby Curry, chairman of Committee on Wildflowers, will talk on "Beach Flora". This will be followed by informal discussion of the morning's bird lists. THURSDAY, June 5. Field Day at Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens and Museum of Natural History. Destination point: Parking space in front of the Museum, just beyond Santa

(Continued on page 31.)

Barbara Mission (built in 1786). A trip combining study of birds, trees, shrubs and flowers. Bird walk in morning following arrival; lunch in beautiful "Rocky Nook" picnic grounds; trip through the Botanical Gardens and the Museum in the afternoon. Our Tanner Motor Bus will leave 544 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, at 7:30 A.M. sharp returning to Los Angeles about 6:30 P.M. Will pick up passengers at Sunset and Vine, in Hollywood, about 7:45 A.M. Round trip fare, \$2.25. Take lunch. PLEASE make reservations on or before June 3rd with Mrs. Jesse L. Morain, 1041 South Gramercy Drive, Los Angeles; telephone, Parkway 0339.

#### FEEDING HUNGRY PELICANS

Mrs. Laura C. White, Redondo Beach

We are a small group of bird-student-beginners at Redondo Beach (two of us are members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society), but it was Mrs. O. M. Stultz, living twenty miles away, who called our attention to a tragic situation among the brown pelicans here. Scores of the huge birds, forgetting their distrust of mankind, had flocked to the fishing pier, frantically trying to reach the tempting fish for sale there behind glass windows, and pleading, like children, for food.

Our group sent out scouts for an accurate report, for some thought the birds were just lazy beggars, while others suggested that a pelican-epidemic was raging, for ten or twelve of them were dying each day. From their emaciated appearance and the existence of an unprecedented fish famine, we concluded it spelled starvation, not laziness or disease. Tourists and fishermen were feeding them scraps, but some of the poor creatures were choking to death from too large pieces. We bought thirty pounds of mackerel and concentrated on twenty-five pelicans lined up on the shore, too weak to fly. Small pieces were thrown to them or placed in their bills and their heads tipped back, before they could swallow.

Then we called on the local Humane Society. They had no funds, but were willing to bring cheap fish from Wilmington and undertake a daily feeding. The California Audubon Society and the Los Angeles Audubon Society each gave us \$5.00 and we appealed to the Redondo Woman's Club and the general public for donations. The Humane Society has done a splendid job. The first day they bought seventy pounds of frozen fish, spent hours thawing it, then fed over one hundred pelicans, many by hand. Ninety pounds were used the following day. The normal "running" of fish has begun, near shore, and we hope that before our funds are exhausted the birds will regain strength to do their own fishing. More have died, but we estimate that half of the weaker ones were saved, and that the rest will survive,- thanks to the Audubon societies.

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY is happy to have had even a small part in the relief of the pelicans at Redondo Beach. It was Mrs. Leo Calderwood, of Bakersfield, visiting at the beach, who first brought their sorry plight to our attention. We made a second donation (over \$10.00) through a collection taken at the Program Meeting April 17. A contribution was sent by Mr. George Willett, Senior Curator of Ornithology at Los Angeles Museum, whose work for the protection of all birds is well known, but who feels a special interest in Brown Pelicans. And Mr. C. A. Harwell, California representative of the National Audubon Society, here on other business, learned of the situation and is lending an effective helping hand. How encouraging it is to find sympathy for suffering birds so easily aroused!

TWO BANDED WESTERN GULLS were found on the pier at Redondo Beach April 14 by two members of our society and promptly reported to Mrs. M. C. Sargent, Director of the Pacific Gull Project, La Jolla. The birds had been banded in 1939 at North Coronado Island, Mexico. As Mrs. Sargent said in her article in the April Tanager, it's fun to watch for banded gulls. It is easy to distinguish their markings. Study the color and position of the brightly colored bands and report to Mrs. Sargent any that you may find.

NOTE PARTICULARLY the program for Saturday, May 17, on the enclosed announcement of the annual meeting of the Federation of Natural Sciences.

THE CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers  
President.

Mrs. Merta White, Secretary  
Telephone: Cleveland 6-6702

May Meetings

THURSDAY, May 8, 7:30 P.M. Central Library, Fifth and Grand, Los Angeles. Speaker, Mrs. Margaret Di Vivio. Subject, "Visual Tools for Nature Study." Illustrated with kodachrome slides.

SATURDAY, May 31, 8 A.M. Field Day. Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park. Leader, Miss Blanche Vignos. Visitors welcome.

EDUCATIONAL LEAFLETS. Write to Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers, President, 311 North Avenue 66, Los Angeles, for copies of the leaflets published by the California Audubon Society. All are free, except in large quantities. Order by number.

6. The State Protects Wild Birds. A Digest of the Law.
7. The Value of Birds. Economic Value, with Incidents.
12. Our Fish-eating Birds. Status of pelican, cormorant, kingfisher and heron.
13. The Quail. Our State Bird.
14. The Dorothy May Tucker Memorial Bird Sanctuary.

Also postcards of the State Bird, 2 for 5¢, and checklists of the birds of Southern California, 2 for 5¢ or 1¢ each for 25 or more.

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY is now the proud possessor of an Eastman slide projector, with an automatic slide carrier and a portable beaded "Da-lite" screen. A library of slides is being collected. All this came about through the fore-sight and the splendid generosity of Mrs. Mary V. Hood, one of our own members, who last winter presented a series of nature lectures at Plummer Park, turning the entire proceeds over to the Society. The purchase was made, with Mrs. Hood's helpful cooperation, by a committee composed of Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, chairman, Mr. Shearer, Miss Ruby Curry, Mr. O. M. Stultz and Mr. Howard L. Jones, to all of whom the Society is deeply indebted for time and thought and expert opinion. The equipment will be most helpful.

WEDNESDAYS AT HEADQUARTERS. Mrs. David Watkins, hostess during April, reports delightfully friendly gatherings, the number of visitors increasing from week to week. The venerable Capt. Plummer called one day and chatted entertainingly of old-time Spanish hospitality in that very house, the first to be built in what is now Hollywood. Mrs. Watkins is convinced that the spirit of that gracious hospitality still lingers about the rooms.

THE PROGRAM MEETING of April 17, with an attendance of 250, was an enjoyable occasion, though the announced speaker, Prof. C. H. Woodruff, was unable, because of illness, to be present. Mrs. Bertha Caroline Stockwell was there, with her delightful whistling of bird songs, and the sound-motion picture of "Flowers at Work" thrilled us with its beauty and instructive interest. Then our resourceful Program Chairman produced other motion pictures, among them the dedication of the Mickey Bishop Bird Fountains and, especially interesting, a story of hummingbird home-life. Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon described the field day at Stone Canyon, Mrs. David Watkins reported on Open House at headquarters, Mrs. Donald C. Meadows outlined her forthcoming Study Class on Butterflies and Miss Ruby Curry's Study Class on Desert Flora, illustrated with her own motion pictures, was announced. Mrs. Laura C. White, of Redondo Beach, told a moving story of distress among the pelicans at the beach, a fuller account of which appears on another page. Three new members were received, bringing the number of new members for the current club year to 35. Let's double it before the year is out!

SIX LOS ANGELES AUDUBONITES spent a day in Santa Barbara recently, visiting the wonderland called the Botanic Garden, and an indoor wonderland nearby, the Museum of Natural History. The party was graciously escorted around the garden by Dr. Woodhouse, well-known botanist, and through the museum by the director, Dr. Coggeshall. To describe adequately the pleasure and inspiration of the day is impossible. A similar trip for the entire society, planned by our Field Leader, is announced herein.

*Reservation Slip*  
STATE CONVENTION

of the  
National Audubon Society and its California  
Affiliated Groups

ASILOMAR, PACIFIC GROVE, CALIF.  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10-11, 1941

*Room Reservations will be made in the order they are received.  
Send this in promptly and avoid disappointment.*

ASILOMAR HOTEL, Pacific Grove, California

My party will total \_\_\_\_\_ Men \_\_\_\_\_ Women \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

We will arrive \_\_\_\_\_ A.M. \_\_\_\_\_ P.M.

Below are indicated 1st and 2nd choice of accommodations:

FACILITIES	Daily Rate (Check here)
Private bath _____	1 in a room . . . . . \$5.50 _____
	2 " " " . . . . . 5.00 _____
	3 " " " . . . . . 4.75 _____
Connecting toilet & shower _____	1 in a room . . . . . 4.50 _____
	2 " " " . . . . . 4.25 _____
Connecting toilet _____	1 in a room . . . . . 4.25 _____
	2 " " " . . . . . 4.00 _____
Running water _____	1 in a room . . . . . 3.75 _____
	2 " " " . . . . . 3.50 _____
	3 " " " . . . . . 3.25 _____

Plus California State Sales Tax on meals—6c a day.

If double room (twin beds) is indicated, roommate will be \_\_\_\_\_

Please check (\_\_\_\_) if you wish to take the boat trip early Sunday morning.

Rates quoted include overnight and three meals. For a longer stay these rates will be prorated accordingly.

We are staying \_\_\_\_\_ days. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

	Send programs to	
Name		Address
_____		_____
_____		_____

*Announcement*

OF THE  
FIRST STATE CONVENTION

OF THE  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY AND ITS CALIFORNIA  
AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

You are cordially invited to participate in the FIRST Convention of the National Audubon Society and its California Affiliated Societies to be held at Asilomar on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 9, 10 and 11, 1941.

The Program will include:

1. Get-acquainted dinner meeting, 6:30, Friday evening, May 9. Wildlife motion pictures in color.
2. Morning and afternoon sessions Saturday, May 10 for presentation of papers and reports and Round-table discussions of organization and conservation problems, with Mr. John H. Baker, National Executive Director and other authorities. The first session will begin at 9:30 A.M.
3. Dinner Meeting, Saturday evening, May 10.
4. Early morning boat trip, Sunday, May 11, a short distance out to sea to study oceanic birds, especially the Black-footed Albatross.
5. Motor field trip, Sunday morning, May 11, to observe the rare Sea Otters and shore birds. Visit Point Lobos State Park.
6. Closing luncheon at Asilomar, Sunday, May 11.

All accommodations and facilities of beautiful Asilomar are being reserved for our exclusive Convention use. Full information appears on back page.

C. A. HARWELL, California Representative  
2630 Hilgard Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

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## Wildlife Photography Exhibit

### *A Call for Entrants*

Suitable prizes and awards are offered for:

1. The best enlarged, mounted photographs of birds and other animals. These will be exhibited in the Lounge during the Convention. Winners will be announced Saturday night.

2. Kodachrome 2" x 2" slides to encourage wider use of natural color photography in the study of bird and other wildlife.

Each entrant is asked to submit his ten best Kodachromes clearly labeled. The prize-winning slides will be shown Saturday evening.

3. Enlarged snapshots of bird subjects by members of Junior Audubon Clubs for special exhibit and award.

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All pictures should be sent to Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon, The Women's Faculty Club, Berkeley, California, to arrive before May 4. *Important—Write to her for simple rules and entry blanks now.*

This competition is open to all photographers of the Pacific Coast. It isn't necessary to attend the Convention to enter pictures.

All Audubon members and their friends will be welcomed indeed. A most interesting and stimulating meeting is planned. The announcement is being mailed to all members of the Societies listed below and to Officers of Affiliated Groups. Please send names and addresses of others to whom programs should be sent on Reservation Slip or to Mr. Harwell. This advance notice is a reminder to save the dates.

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The National Audubon Society  
Mr. John H. Baker, Executive Director

### *Member Societies*

Audubon Association of the Pacific  
Mr. James Moffitt, President

California Audubon Society  
Mrs. Harriet W. Myers, President

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Miss Laura Greely, President

Pasadena Audubon Society  
Miss Effie R. Gaylor, President

Sacramento Audubon Society  
Mrs. W. Wallace, President

Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society  
Dr. Gayle Pickwell, President  
Yuba-Sutter Audubon Society  
Mrs. Gertrude Cable, President

### *Affiliated Groups*

California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Mrs. Frederick Scatena, President

Marin Conservation League  
Mrs. Albert J. Evers, President

San Diego Society of Natural History  
Dr. Clinton G. Abbott, Director

Southwest Bird Study Club  
Miss Alma Mason, President

Tentative Program  
of the  
Federation of Natural Sciences of  
Southern California  
to be held at  
The University of Southern California

May 15, 16, 17, 18, 1941

Thursday, May 15:

8:00 p.m. "Explorations in the South Seas", motion pictures of investigations by the G. Allan Hancock Foundation.

Friday, May 16:

10:00 a.m. "The Sub-tropical Horticulture of Southern California", a symposium under the leadership of Dr. Wm. H. Chandler, Dean of the Dept. of Agriculture, U. C. L. A.

2:00 p.m. "The Fungi as Related to Man",  
"The Fungous Diseases of Man," Dr. O. A. Plunkett, Asst. prof. of botany, U. C. L. A.  
"The Edible and Poisonous Fungi", Miss Bonnie Templeton, Curator of Botany, L. A. Museum.

8:00 p.m. ~~"The Geology and Resources of Southeastern Europe"~~  
"Geological Travels in Asia Minor"  
Dr. John H. Maxon, asst. prof. of geology, California Institute of Technology.

Saturday, May 17:

Early morning field trips in Botany, Ornithology, etc.

10:00 a.m. "The Animal Oeconomy of Whales", Dr. Elmer Belt, Director, Belt Urologic Group.  
"The Sardines of California"; Dr. Francis N. Clark, Senior Fisheries Researcher, California State Fisheries Laboratory.

2:00 p.m. Lectures on Ornithology under the direction of the Audubon Society of California.

8:00 p.m. "The Flamingo and Other Birds of Southeastern United States", C. A. Harwell, Field Secretary, National Audubon Societies.

Sunday, May 18:

All day "The Geology of the San Fernando Valley. Flood Causes and Methods of Flood Control", an all-day excursion under the leadership of Mr. Alfred E. Livingston, Chairman of the Dept. of Earth Sciences, L. A. C. C. Members are asked to bring basket lunches.