

# Western Tanager



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## THE ANNUAL REPORT

Complying with constitutional requirement, each member of the Executive Board of Los Angeles Audubon Society has filed a report for the year 1940-41. From these reports the following notes are taken. Lack of space prevents publication of the reports in full.

With but one interruption, the usual schedule of indoor meetings, field trips and study classes was carried out. Lectures teeming with interesting information, arranged for the indoor meetings by the Program Committee, Mrs. O. M. Stultz, chairman, attracted audiences ranging from 47 on a February day of torrential rain, to 400, when the speaker was Mr. C. A. Harwell, California representative of the National Audubon Society. Average attendance, 161. For the Christmas party with 77 members and friends attending, the committee presented a program which made it a festive occasion. These meetings were held in the State Exposition Building, Los Angeles Museum and Plummer Park Club House, and the society is indebted to their managers for this privilege.

Seven field trips, average attendance 67, were led by Mrs. Caroline Daugherty Second Vice-President and Field Leader, bird identifications averaging 56 species per trip; accumulated total for the year, 155 species. Trees, butterflies and wildflowers also were studied on these trips. For the longer trips a bus was chartered, reservations being taken by the Committee on Transportation, Mrs. Jesse L. Morain, chairman. A special trip to ocean flyways was taken August 24, 1940, under the inspiring leadership of Mr. George Willet, Senior Curator of Ornithology, Los Angeles Museum. For a full account, see THE Tanager for October, 1940, also THE LOS ANGELES TIMES for Oct. 6, 1940.

To Mrs. Daugherty we are indebted also for the compilation of the Christmas bird census (126 species, 12,303 individuals), published later in full in BIRD-LORE, and for a "season" report, an account of which appears in this issue of THE Tanager.

The Study Classes, now in their fourth year, were attended usually by about 35 persons, but this number doubled in May when they were held at the Sierra Madre Canyon home of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Griswold. To the chairmen of the four nature study committees, Miss Ruby Curry, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Mrs. Maude McKnight and Mrs. Donald G. Meadows, and to the many members of the society who assisted them in leading the classes, the society is indebted for what is one of its most helpful activities. To Miss Curry and to Mrs. Mary V. Hood, special thanks for the use of their Kodachromes and motion pictures, and to the Los Angeles Museum for mounted specimens and skins.

The extension Committee, Mrs. Thos. R. Shearer, chairman, reports 36 talks on bird life and conservation of wild life given by its Speakers Bureau on invitation from groups other than the L.A.A.S. Many of these were given groups of children. During the year, also, the committee supplied hostesses at the Bird Section of Los Angeles Museum one day each month, this with the approval and support of the head of the Science Department, Dr. John A. Comstock. The hostesses met and talked with visitors, hoping to interest them in our local bird life.

Mrs. Daugherty and Mrs. Stultz led 17 bird walks for outside groups, from one of which we later received five new members. Mrs. Maud Murphy, First-Vice-President, has again been invited to serve as Nature Supervisor to the Glendale Girl Scouts at their camp in the San Bernardino Mountains, where she held the same position last summer.

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., or  
1156 N. Vista St., Los Angeles

President Emeritus...Mrs. Robert Fargo  
President and Editor...Miss Laura Greely  
904 Kendall Ave., So. Pasadena  
Telephone: BLanchard 7-1849  
Treasurer.....Mrs. O. L. Wait  
8972 Dicks St., West Hollywood  
Telephone: CRestview 6-1990  
Curator and Librarian.....  
.....Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon  
1117 N. Fuller Ave., Los Angeles  
Telephone: GRanite 9312

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

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FIELD TRIP, THURSDAY, July 3. 8:30 A.M.  
Fern Dell, Western Ave. entrance to Griffith Park. Leader, Mrs. Daugherty. Take "R" or "S" car to Third and Western Ave.; transfer to Western Ave. bus going north; go to end of line. Ten minute walk north on Western Ave. to Fern Dell. Why not come early and have breakfast together? Picnic tables have been reserved for 7:30 A.M.

THE MAY INDOOR PROGRAM was arranged by the Committee on Butterflies, Mrs. Donald C. Meadows, chairman. The speaker, Dr. W. Dwight Pierce, Senior Curator of Entomology, Los Angeles Museum, presented "The Beauty of Insects" in a new and intensely interesting way by projection of the actual specimens. At this meeting, also, reports of the State Convention at Monterey were given by Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Mrs. T. G. White, Mrs. Mary V. Hood and Mrs. Josiah Keely.

THE MAY STUDY CLASSES were held out-of-doors at the delightful Sierra Madre Canyon home of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Griswold, with some 70 members and friends attending. The morning was spent birding. At noon Mrs. Griswold supplemented our pocket lunches with coffee and dessert. Then the Committee on Wildflowers, Miss Ruby Curry, chairman, presented a carefully prepared program on "Desert Flora," with many specimens of the plants. There followed an informal discussion of the morning's bird lists, led by Mrs. Daugherty and highlighted by Miss Miriam S. Faddis, who led a quiz in her inimitable way, on some fifteen mounted specimens of birds. The program, the beauty of the surroundings, -above all, the gracious hospitality of Mrs. Griswold, made the day one long to be remembered.

FOR THE LAST FIELD TRIP of the year, June 5, the 90 Audubonites and guests who followed the trail up Angeles Crest Highway to Charlton Flats were richly rewarded. The weather was perfect, and the various groups, returning from bird and tree and wildflower walks, reported fine results. Following the picnic lunch, Miss Curry read a list of 69 wildflowers identified, Mrs. Daugherty reported 51 birds, and Mr. Geo. T. Hastings gave a helpful talk on the trees of the locality. Then came the installation of officers for 1941-42, our beloved former president, Miss Charlotte Hamilton, officiating in a way to inspire all who heard her. It seemed peculiarly fitting that the group, before leaving beautiful Charlton Flats, with its "rocks and rills and templed hills," should sing "America", - the happy suggestion of Mrs. Veatch. The newly-elected officers are: President, Miss Laura Greely; First Vice-President, Mrs. Warren J. Holden; Second Vice-President and Field Leader, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Harriet C. Damert; Recording Secretary, Mrs. George L. Veatch; Treasurer, Mrs. O. L. Wait; Auditor, Mrs. Grace S. Hall; Curator and Librarian, Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon.

THE SEASON. By request, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, Los Angeles Audubon Society's Field Leader, collected data on birds of Southern California noted during February and March, for the information of the National Audubon Society. Beginning with a

statement of weather conditions and their effect on bird life, the report, necessarily condensed, gives the following observations:

"A flock of 200 cranes in the Salton Sea area near Niland, seen by Mr. C. A. Harwell on various days between March 17 and 31. He reports seeing two different-sized cranes also hearing two differently pitched calls, one high, one lower. In the same area a flock of 104 cranes was seen March 30 by Stultz and Daugherty. These observers question whether or not there might have been Sandhill with the Little Brown. A Treganza Heron rookery seen March 1 near Niland (Mr. Harwell) and herons nesting in numbers March 28. R. L. Reedy reports Treganza Herons building nests Jan. 10 and young herons in nests March 9; also, Farallon Cormorants starting to build nests Feb. 15. "Observations March 30 by Stultz and Daugherty, Imperial Valley State Game Refuge: Baldpate (300) still on lagoon, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Fulvous Tree Duck, White-faced Glossy Ibis, Avocet, Long-billed Dowitcher and flights of Long-billed Curlew and Marbled Godwit. The little flaming jewel, Vermillion Flycatcher and its mate and 5 Gila Woodpecker were seen, both species nesting there later. March 30, Verdin, male and female, were observed near Coachella, also numbers of Phainopepla nesting throughout that area.

"Along the Los Angeles shore area, S. D. Platford reports Black Brant, Geese and coastal ducks suffering greatly from lack of their important food, eelgrass, which is being harvested for various uses. Black Brant particularly affected. The fact that the American Coot is increasing rapidly in number does not help the geese and duck food situation.

"Spring departures from Bolsa Chica Gun Club marshes were: Intail, Canvas-back and Gadwall, last seen Feb. 15. Baldpate left about Feb. 28. Pintail and Shoveller increasing in number (D). Mr. Kent reports Baldpate in much larger numbers this winter, also Black Brant from few to several hundred Feb. 4-14.

"Shorebirds observed wintering Feb. 13 by Stultz and Daugherty in B.C.G.C. vicinity: 8 Buffle-head (rare), large flocks Long-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Western and Least Sandpiper, numbers of Western Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Black-bellied Plover, 2 Red-backed Sandpiper; 3 Wilson's Snipe, Hudsonian and Long-billed Curlew, Western Grebe, 2 American Bittern, 1 Caspian Tern. Mr. Kent reports Glaucous-winged Gull (flock of 287) in flooded flats near Long Beach Mar. 14. First year any number of this species have been observed in this locality. He saw also Light-footed Rail nesting and unafraid Mar. 17, and Wilson's Phalarope in winter plumage Mar. 14.

"The following arrivals are reported: Tree Swallow, Long-tailed Chat, Feb. 2. (B): Rufous Hummingbird Feb. 23 (D): Allen Hummingbird Feb. 24 (M): Lutescent Warbler Mar. 15 (K): Macgillivray's Warbler Mar. 12 (M): Arizona Hooded Oriole March 26 (H). Swallows began arriving in March. Cliff Swallow seen in city park March 7 (Stultz) and nesting at Devil's Gate Dam Mar. 23 (Michael); also, Roughwinged Swallow at Brookside Mar. 15 (Michael). At Balboa the Western Purple Martin arrived Mar. 9, making the 24th consecutive year for the usual flock of 40 to 50 to arrive on schedule (S-D).

"For the first time in years Lewis's Woodpecker and Northern Varied Thrush have been seen through the winter season, due to the reported acorn failure in Kern Co. Calif. (Kent). Last seen in any number Mar. 27 (M). Band-tailed pigeons in flocks (50 to 100) were present all winter; less numerous Mar. 15 (M). Migratory flocks recorded: Swainson Hawk, Turkey Vulture, White Pelicans.

"Winter visitants, Pasadena area: Cabanis's Woodpecker, Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsucker, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Bailey's Chickadee, large flocks Western Robin, Cedar Waxwing (scarce this year), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (numerous), Alaska Hermit Thrush and Western Bluebird (both species much less numerous this year), Audubon's Warbler, California Purple Finch, Cassin Purple Finch, Northern Pine Siskin, Thurber's Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow (Michael).

"A most unusual record, a Glaucous Gull in third year plumage, on Los Angeles Echo Park Lake, seen and closely studied by several observers, March 8-10."

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An outstanding event of the year was a series of six nature lectures by Mrs. Mary V. Hood in the Plummer Park Club House, illustrated with her own Kodachromes and accompanied by appropriate exhibits. The entire proceeds from a small admission charge were given us by Mrs. Hood and used in the purchase of an Eastman projector and necessary equipment. Our grateful appreciation to Mrs. Hood!

The Report of Mrs. Maud Murphy, who represents us on the Sanctuary Committee of the California Audubon Society, calls attention to the dedication Sept. 1, 1940, of seven Los Angeles City parks as bird sanctuaries, and the dedication March 7, 1941, of five bird fountains given the parks in the name of "Mickey" Bishop, Canary. The society made a small contribution toward the maintenance of warden service at San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary.

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Curator and Librarian, reports the gift of Peattie's "Audubon's America," from a friend who prefers to remain anonymous. She adds: "Not many books have been circulated this year (10)." Eight showcases loaned by Los Angeles Museum will make possible better protection for our specimens. "Open House" at headquarters one day week for six months of the year brought many visitors. Habitats arranged this year included one each for the six evening lectures mentioned above, one for the Hollywood Garden Club, one for the Federation of Natural Sciences.

Besides participating in most of the society's activities, members of the Committee on Wildflowers, Miss Ruby Curry, Chairman, made a number of nature talks before outside groups, usually illustrated. Mrs. Maude McKnight, chairman of the Committee on Trees, had a special program in recognition of Arbor Day, and she compiled a list of memorial trees planted by the society in past years. The Committee on Butterflies, Mrs. Donald C. Meadows, chairman, did much to stimulate interest in butterflies and encourage the study of the more common forms. Mrs. McKnight, Mrs. Meadows and Mrs. Daugherty contributed front page articles to THE Tanager.

From minutes and old records, Mrs. Carl P. Smith, Historian, compiled a valuable outline of the history of the society from its origin in 1910 to date. The eight members of Mrs. Smith's committee collected clippings as heretofore, and these were made into a fine scrapbook by two of the members, Mrs. C. Worth and Mrs. Grace Brown.

The work of the Hospitality Committee, Mrs. Grace Brown, chairman, did much to create a friendly atmosphere at all the meetings, and it fell to Mrs. Brown, also, to represent the society, through cards and flowers, in expressions of sympathy to members ill or bereaved.

Business meetings, nine regular and two special, were held by the Executive Committee, the seventeen members maintaining an average attendance of thirteen. To five members goes the credit of 100% attendance. Careful minutes of these and of the Program Meetings were kept by Mrs. George L. Veatch, Recording Secretary. Miss Harriet C. Damert, Corresponding Secretary, wrote 98 letters. Mrs. Warren J. Holden handled publicity in a way to bring the society favorable attention. The report of the Treasurer, Mrs. O. L. Wait, is summarized as follows:

Cash on hand beginning of year.....	\$ 68.33
Receipts.....	277.19
	<u>\$345.52</u>
Disbursements.....	272.42
Balance June 12, 1941.....	\$ 73.10

There may be some slight modification of these figures before the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1941. The books will be examined by Mrs. Grace S. Hall, our official Auditor. Mrs. Wait, as chairman of the Membership Committee, reports 54 new members received the past year, bringing the present total to 206.

Nine issues of THE WESTERN Tanager were distributed to members and a growing list of subscribers and exchanges. A complete file is kept at headquarters. The editor is grateful for the many fine articles contributed to its pages by members of the society.

This report cannot close without our tribute of respect to Mr. C. A. Harwell, California representative of the National Audubon Society, whose work to further the Audubon cause in this state began Nov. 1, 1940, and is progressing auspiciously. Two examples are found in his "Wildlife Tours," several of which were attended by one or more of our members, and in the State Convention at Monterey May 9-11, on the program of which our society was pleasantly recognized. We wish again to assure Mr. Harwell of our desire to cooperate with him in every way in our power.