

Western Tanager



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THE ANNUAL REPORT

Compiled by the President from Reports of Members of the Executive Board.

June 30, 1942, brings to a close the thirty-second year in the history of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, - a year of happy activity, with steadily growing interest and a gratifying increase in membership. No doubt exists that the growing interest here in Los Angeles is simply a part of that which is spreading throughout the state as a result of the work of Mr. C. A. Harwell, California Representative of the National Audubon Society. He has helped us with his advice and has been generous of his time at our meetings, while the State Convention, bringing together representatives of all the Audubon societies in California, has inspired us all. Thirty-three of our members attended this year's meeting at Santa Barbara January 23-25, and a full report was brought back to the society by our Historian, Mrs. Carl P. Smith.

There was no interruption this year to the regular schedule of monthly field trips, indoor programs and study classes, October to June. We enjoyed, also, the annual Christmas party, we had three outdoor programs during the summer of 1941, and celebrated Bird and Arbor Day with a Tree Walk led by Mr. George T. Hastings and a dedication of another, the tenth, "Mickey Audubon Bishop" bird fountain, Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers, president of the California Audubon Society, presiding.

Military restrictions closed certain favorite birding places this year and many shore and mountain birds are missing from our lists. Other interesting places were available, however, and the field trips, under the guidance of Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty, brought out an average attendance of 69. Mrs. Daugherty again organized and compiled the annual Christmas Bird Count in the Los Angeles area, - result, 118 species and 10,440 (estimated) individual birds. Sixteen observers, representing the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon societies and the Southwest Bird Study Club, participated in this count. Another, taken in the San Bernardino Mountains by a group led by Mr. Howard L. Cogswell, resulted in listing 65 species and 45,283 individuals. Both counts were published in full in AUDUBON MAGAZINE and our own TANAGER. Mr. Cogswell is now compiling the "Season" reports for Southern California, an activity carried on by Mrs. Daugherty until prevented by pressure of other duties.

The afternoon meetings in the State Building in Exposition Park, arranged by Mrs. O. M. Stultz, chairman of the Program Committee, attracted an average attendance of 203. At several of these meetings our own members were the speakers; we had the privilege of listening also to two representatives of the National Audubon Society, Mr. C. A. Harwell and Mr. Allan D. Cruickshank. Other guest speakers were Dr. and Mrs. T. D. A. Cockerell, Mr. Victor von Hagen, Mrs. Dorothy Dean Sheldon and Mrs. Laurel Reynolds. The Program Committee joined with the House and Hospitality Committees in arranging the Christmas Party in Plummer Park. Attendance, 90.

The Study Classes have been most helpful. For the Bird group, the leaders were Mr. W. Scott Lewis, Miss Edith Newton, Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, Mr. Josiah Keely, Miss Ruby Curry and Mr. George Willett, and there was also an outdoor study class at Redondo Beach, for the study of gulls, at which Mrs. T. G. White was hostess. For the Tree

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and Wildflower, or Botany section, Mr. George T. Hastings presented an outstanding series of talks and led two Tree Walks. There was an interesting study of shells at the home of Mrs. John Q. Burch. The final classes were held in the educational Division of the Los Angeles Museum, where Mr. Russell Smith, director of the division, gave a gallery talk on Los Angeles County wildlife and Mr. George Willett, Senior Curator of Ornithology, discussed "Mountain Birds."

The Committee on Protection, new this year, was active in the protection of birds and other forms of wildlife wherever violations of the law were reported or potential dangers seen. The committee, through its chairman, Mrs. Warren J. Holden, urged a closed season against hunting, as a means of conserving both ammunition and wildlife; raised its voice against the proposed open season for Wood Duck, "sludge dumping" at Laguna Dominguez, and an advertisement appearing in a certain magazine which it felt would lead to exploitation of the so-called "Elephant Trees" in Anza Desert State Park, for the preservation of which the society had previously made a small contribution. Within the purview of this committee comes also the society's interest in bird sanctuaries. Small contributions were made for equipment at the Dorothy May Tucker Memorial Bird Sanctuary and at the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, operated respectively by the California Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society. At the latter place, the society, since February, 1942, has sponsored bi-monthly Sunday morning Bird Walks, with an average attendance of 25. Mr. Arthur L. Berry and Mr. Howard L. Cogswell served alternately as leaders, and it was a happy privilege to have as guests on two of these walks Mr. Guy Emerson, president, and Mr. C. A. Harwell, California representative, of the National Audubon Society.

The society contributed to the fund raised by the National Audubon Society for use in its campaign against the commercial use of wildbird plumage in the manufacture of fish flies, and it renewed its membership in the Save-the Redwoods League, believing with Mr. John C. Merriam, the League's president, that "in these days when the world is ridden with hate and distress, mankind needs more than ever before the healing value of contact with Nature in its sublimest form, as exemplified in these Redwood forests."

Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, curator and chairman of the House Committee, reports that many visitors have come to our headquarters in Plummer Park, and that on the occasion of the annual fiesta there, when the House and Hospitality committees had 80 callers, our society was presented with a "Certificate of Merit," expressing the appreciation of the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation for "outstanding community service." Our collection of books, pictures and mounted specimens, the projector and slides, all have been extremely helpful to study groups. A quantity of duplicate material was sent to soldiers' camps. Mrs. Salmon reports that the Plummer Park bird list has now reached 61,- remarkable for a small park within the city limits.

Members of the society, through the Extension Committee, Mrs. J. H. Comby, chairman, have by invitation given 32 formal and a number of informal talks before other organizations and have led a number of bird study and tree walks for groups other than our own. Many Boy and Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls and school children have been helped in their bird and nature studies. Mrs. Salmon gave a group of ten Boy Scouts an intensive course in bird study, and Mrs. Mary V. Hood, with the help of Messrs. Berry and Cogswell, Mrs. Shearer and Mrs. Stultz, organized a class for twenty Scouts. (See the Tanager for May, 1942.)

The Botany Committee (formerly Trees and Wildflowers) had a busy year with Mrs. Mary V. Hood as chairman, in spite of the fact that some of their planned activities had to be abandoned on account of the war. Her report lists the study classes and tree walks mentioned above, for which she gives full credit to Mr. Hastings, a valued member of her committee. Mrs. Hood gave two programs at indoor meetings, illustrat-

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ing them with her own Kodachromes. It is a pleasure to report in this connection that the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has accepted, for its new library, Mrs. Hood's herbarium and a number of her paintings and slides of California plants. To our own library of slides we have added Mrs. Hood's pictures of the three abandoned California Woodpecker nestlings, "Donald," "Woody" and "Peck," rescued by her and Mrs. Willis (See THE Tanager, November, 1941.)

The Committee on Butterflies, Miss Charlotte A. Hamilton, chairman, added "Small Wildlife" to its official title this year, thereby opening to the society a field of absorbing interest, as manifested by the rapt attention given Miss Hamilton's talk at the May indoor meeting on "Little People of the Garden," and by the gallery talk of Mr. Russell Smith, already mentioned.

Mrs. Carl P. Smith, Historian, has made a scrapbook of the year's clippings and has brought up to date an outline of the society's history since its organization in 1910. The Hospitality Committee, Miss Martha C. Gilbert, chairman, has had hostesses at all our meetings, has participated in several events at Plummer Park, and has sent cards to members ill or bereaved. The Transportation Committee, Mrs. J. L. Morain, chairman, worked faithfully to provide transportation for members wishing it. As in other years, a chartered bus proved a great convenience for the longer field trips.

The editing and mailing of our club paper, THE WESTERN Tanager, was ably carried on by Mrs. Wm. T. Shelford, who expresses her thanks for the many contributions to its pages. Her report shows nine issues during 1941-2 and an average monthly distribution of 250 copies. Miss Alberta Hodge, Publicity Chairman, obtained much valuable press cooperation and other helpful publicity during the year. Many letters were written by the Corresponding Secretary, Miss Harriet C. Damert. The minutes of the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Geo. L. Veatch, assisted in her absence by Miss Damert and Mrs. Holden, indicate that the Executive Board held ten meetings during the year for the transaction of business, the seventeen members maintaining an average attendance of thirteen. On the Board's recommendation, the society adopted a revised Constitution and By-Laws May 7, 1942.

Financial statements, fully itemized and submitted to the Executive Board each month by the Treasurer, Mrs. O. L. Wait, have invariably been found correct and have been approved. At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, a complete report will be filed and will be available to any member desiring to read it. The following statement covers only eleven months:

Balance on hand July 1, 1941.....	\$ 74.25
Receipts to May 31, 1942	423.38
	<u>\$497.63</u>
Disbursements, 11 months	322.62
Balance on hand May 31, 1942.....	\$175.01

As chairman of the Membership Committee, Mrs. Wait reports 56 new annual members received during the year, and a total membership of 227 of record at this writing, as follows: Paid members (Annual 179, Life 34), 213; Honorary, 9; Complimentary, 5. The members come from 35 different California towns and cities.

Much of interest and value has been omitted from this summary for lack of space. Members are urged to acquaint themselves more fully with the Board's work by reading the complete reports on file at headquarters.

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Isabel Ames

Mrs. Carrie Steere Ellis

Miss Nettie Chase

Mrs. Grace S. Hall

Mrs. Ora K. Sabin

Mr. Charles Michael

"To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die."

(Campbell)

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NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED OUR RANKS

Monrovia:

Miss Ruth M. Price, 315 El Nido

Los Angeles

Miss Wynona Clements, 4023 Griffin Ave
Miss A. Graves, 6400 Hayes Drive.

Mrs. Lanette Kidson, 4150 S. Normandie Ave.
Mrs. J. L. McSwiggen, 608 S. Westlake Ave.

Hollywood:

Mrs. Pepita LaMone Watson, 2775 Outpost Dr.

Manhattan Beach:

Miss Harriet E. Culver, 211 Fifth St.

Glendale:

Miss Lyda M. Cox, 1646 Santa Barbara Ave

NOTES FOR THE CALENDAR

SUNDAY, June 28, - 9 a.m., San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary. Meet at the entrance, 2578 Durfee Road. Take lunch. Leader, Miss Georgie Ware.

THURSDAY, July 2, 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park. Picnic tables #1, south. There will be a talk by Mr. W. Scott Lewis and a display of minerals essential to our war efforts. This exhibit will show the source of such important metals as beryllium, magnesium, aluminum and many others which are helping to make our forces invincible. The bird walk will be led by Mrs. Daugherty.

THURSDAY, August 6, 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park. Picnic tables #1, south. Mr. W. Scott Lewis and Mr. R. E. Bullard, Superintendent of Park Maintenance, will speak.

Mrs. Salmon reports gifts as follows:

Mrs. Bertha Davis Martin,-

"Game Birds," Forbush

"Game Birds," Grinnell

"Ornithology," Nuttall (over 100 yrs. old)

"Key to North American Birds," Coues

"List of California Birds," Grinnell.

Mrs. Zulema Parcell,-

"Birds of America," Audubon

Several copies of Bird Lore.

Miss Georgie Ware,-

50 mounted birds in glass cases.

Also the addition to our library of "Out of Doors," written by our own Mr. Hastings.

Mrs. Salmon also reports a pair of phainopeplas nesting in Plummer Park.

THE MAY FIELD TRIP was held at the Tucker Memorial Bird Sanctuary with 70 members attending. The new revised constitution and by-laws was adopted and the committees report on nominations was read. The bird list numbered 70 species.

THE MAY PROGRAM MEETING was unusually interesting. Mr. Geo. T. Hastings gave a short illustrated talk on acacias. Miss Charlotte Hamilton acquainted us with animals, insects as well as birds that we may find in our own gardens if we will but look for them and Mrs. Hood showed some latest additions to her collection of gorgeous kodachrome slides. There was an election of officers. Mrs. Humphreys as chairman presented each with a patriotic nosegay of red, white and blue flowers.

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The newly elected officers are: President, Mrs. J. H. Comby; First Vice-President, Mrs. O. M. Stultz; Second Vice-President, Miss Maude Walker; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Laura Greely; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Belle H. S. Maguire; Treasurer, Miss Bonnie Green; Curator & Librarian, Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon; Historian, Mrs. O. B. Pratt.

MAY STUDY CLASSES were held in the Los Angeles Museum where Mr. Russel Smith gave us a gallery talk in the Division of Education. Afterwards Mr. Willett talked to us about the birds we were most likely to see at Charlton Flats.

OUR LAST FIELD TRIP on June 4 was to have been held at Charlton Flats but because of inability to secure bus transportation it was held at Fern Dell. More than 50 members were present and Mrs. Daugherty listed 34 birds seen. After lunch Mr. W. Scott Lewis talked of the many kinds of minerals which could be found in our local mountains without going great distances to find them. Mrs. Willis brought "Donald", the woodpecker, in his cage and told us stories of his behavior.

SUNDAY BIRD WALKS at San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary were well attended. Led by Mr. Berry and Mr. Cogswell they have been enjoyed by many clubs, scout groups, nature study groups as well as individuals. Bird students who gathered for the walk on June 14 had as guests Mr. C. A. Harwell, California Representative of the National Audubon Society, and Private Arthur T. Skopec, of New York City, president of the Queens County Bird Club, temporarily stationed at Camp Young near Indio. Then at noon came a delightful surprise. Mr. Guy Emerson, president of the National Audubon Society, arrived and was proudly introduced by our president-elect, Mrs. J. H. Comby. Mr. Emerson spoke informally of the work of the national society and of some of his own birding experiences.

Bird walks will be continued throughout the summer, on the second and fourth Sundays, meeting at the entrance, 2578 Durfee Road, at 9 a.m. There will be qualified leaders. For desired information, telephone BLanchard 7-1849

THE BELL BIRD

A recent visit to the San Diego Zoo proved a most delightful experience. Five condors are now flying about, two adult and three young ones, in the new flying cage. After hearing Mr. Von Hagen's lecture on the capture of the Quetzal and its safe transportation to the U.S. I looked with keen intent at the bell bird brought from the jungles of Ecuador, S.A. The bird is about the size of our Chinese spotted dove but its tail is short. It is pure white except for a turquoise or greenish throat patch. It opens its black beak very wide and "rings the bell." As I stood before the cage I counted 18 "strokes" - the sound is like a blacksmith striking his anvil or a small mission bell ringing. The sound can be heard a mile away.

Mary Barnes Salmon.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR OWN LAURA GREELY

For three years you have been president
Of this society we love so well.
We've been happy in our work together
We love you more than we can tell.

Sweet and gentle and efficient
Beloved by members old and new
Nobility and high purpose
Is manifold in everything you do.

Faithful in the smallest detail
With tact you've sped us on our way
While our club has grown and prospered
Through your work from day to day.

Ever kind and truly courteous
Our loving loyalty you have won
On memory's scroll will be forever
By your name the words, "Well Done."

--Ethel I. Holden