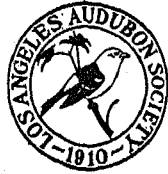


Western Tanager



Vol. IX

November 1942

No. 2

WILD TURKEYS

(*Melaegris Gallopava*)

The wild turkey is a bird of the forest, loves to dwell in the depths of the swamps, in the thick portions of woods far removed from man. There are four recorded species, resembling each other in many ways. The present species is the well-known bird of the eastern United States, north of Florida. From various causes, chiefly too much killing, it has entirely disappeared from many localities in which it was formerly abundant. A few are now left in parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin.

No more wild than other forest creatures, they have been known to approach dwellings and feed among tame turkeys and other domestic fowl.

Nesting season in the south commences in February but farther north, not until June. Males are polygamous and everyone is familiar with their pompous strut and attitude during the courting season. During this time they strut and gobble in display before the hens.

The hen hides her nest very carefully, as well from the gobbler as from other predators, for he would not hesitate to make way with both eggs and chicks if he had the chance. She covers the eggs carefully with grass and leaves when going off to feed and employes the same route when approaching and leaving the nest. The nest is a simple affair, in any well-concealed place near a fallen log or stump.

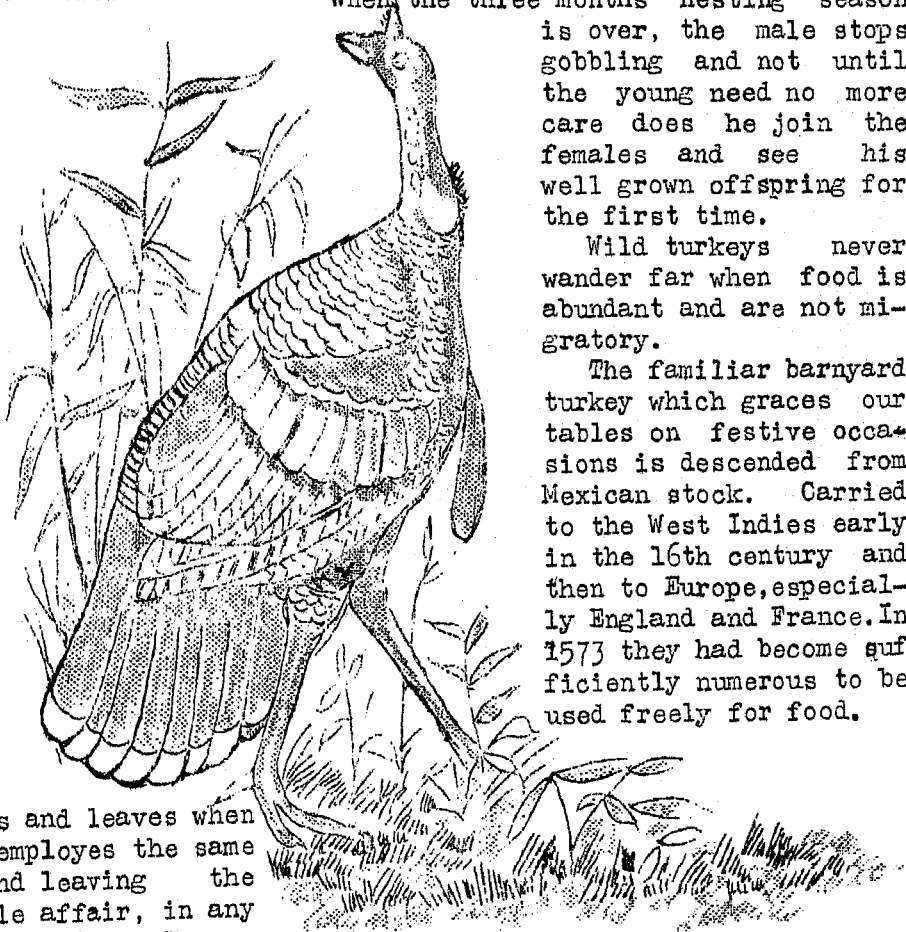
Eggs - eight to fifteen, cream colored, spotted with brown and lilac. As many as twenty-four have been found in a nest and it is supposed that two hens set together.

The appearance of the wild turkey is magnificent as he walks in stately dignity in his native wilds, the sun gleaming from his burnished plumage in flashes of emerald and gold, head held high with an easy carriage, alert to every sound or movement. He is really the noblest and finest game bird in the world.

When the three months nesting season is over, the male stops gobbling and not until the young need no more care does he join the females and see his well grown offspring for the first time.

Wild turkeys never wander far when food is abundant and are not migratory.

The familiar barnyard turkey which graces our tables on festive occasions is descended from Mexican stock. Carried to the West Indies early in the 16th century and then to Europe, especially England and France. In 1573 they had become sufficiently numerous to be used freely for food.



THE WESTERN Tanager

Published monthly except during the summer by THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY Headquarters, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., or 1156 N. Vista St., L. A. Outside subscriptions 50¢ per year Editor.....Mrs. W. T. Shelford 3315 W. 41st St. L. A. AX 0410

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Los Angeles: Mr. Arthur F. Roetken, 2621 1/2 S. Bronson, Glendale: Mr. Arthur J. Mix, 1735 Broadview Drive Pico: Mrs. Elsie May Santa Monica: Mrs. Harlan E. Eckler, Apt. 605, Shangri-la

OFFICERS

President Emeritus....Mrs. Robert Fargo President.....Mrs. J. H. Comby 256 Walnut St., Pico, Calif. First Vice-Pres.....Mrs. O. M. Stultz Second Vice-Pres.....Miss Maude Walker Recording Sec'y.Mrs. Belle H.S. Maguire Corresponding Sec'y...Miss Laura Greely 904 Kendall Ave. So. Pasadena Telephone: BLanchard 7-1849 Treasurer.....Miss Bonnie C. Green 774 N. Heliotrope Dr. L. A. Telephone: MO 1-5537 Curator & Librarian..Mrs. Mary B. Salmon 1117 N. Fuller Ave., L. A. Telephone: GRanite 9312 Historian.....Mrs. O. B. Pratt

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Birds.....Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty Extension.....Mrs. Mary V. Hood Hospitality.....Miss Martha C. Gilbert House.....Mrs. Mary B. Salmon Membership.....Mrs. O. L. Wait Nature Study.....Mrs. Anna B. Young Program.....Mrs. Warren J. Holden Protection.....Miss Dorothy E. Groner Publications.....Mrs. W. T. Shelford Publicity.....Miss Alberta Hodge Transportation.....Miss Christine Kemp

According to the REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS of the Society presented at the indoor meeting, April 16, 1942 and adopted May 7, the fiscal year begins July 1. Therefore, this year's membership cards are dated July 1, 1942 to July 1, 1943. Many members have been very prompt in payment of dues and we wish to acknowledge our appreciation. MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual \$1.50, Sustaining \$5.00 annually, Life \$25.00 Patron \$100.00.

WE HAVE PURCHASED the four double-disc phonograph records made by Dr. Loye Miller of U.C.L.A. They are based on material which he presented to his classes in biology and are called "Music in Nature." They are the songs and calls of 39 birds and 7 small animals, and will be exceedingly valuable to us in the study of birds and wild life. The Society is offering sets of these records for sale at the price of \$4.00. Also the Brand Bird Song records at \$1.25 each or \$3.50 for the set of 3. See Miss Greely regarding these.

MEMBERS will be pleased to hear of the return of Mrs. Veatch after an absence of ten months. Also that Mrs. M. Deuprey is going to be with us for a while. OUR LIBRARIAN reports the gift of ten mounted birds from Mr. A. W. Elder.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

FIELD TRIP, Thursday, November 5, 1942 - Sunland Park and vicinity. Take Pacific Elec. Motor Bus in Pac. Elec. Station, 6th & Main Sts. L.A. Gate #2. Bus leaves at 8:25 a.m. Round trip fare 70¢. Take lunch. Bird walks will start at 9:30 from west end of park. Lunch in Sunland Park at 11:30 followed by program. The Pacific Electric Co. has promised an extra bus if there is sufficient number of passengers so please make reservations not later than Nov. 3, with Mrs. W. T. Shelford, AXminster 0410.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP - Thursday, November 12, 1942 at the Miller Estate, 10659 Bellagio Rd. Bel Air. Take Sunset Bus at Subway Terminal Bldg. 423 S. Hill St. L.A. at 8:45 a.m. Get off at Stone Canyon Rd. which is the second street beyond the east gate of Bel Air. Bird walk will start from there at 9:30. Those living near Beverly Hills can take bus at Santa Monica Blvd. & Canyon Drive. Bring picnic lunch. If you plan to attend, notify Mrs. Shelford, AX 0410 so that our hostess, Mrs. Miller can arrange accommodations. John J. B. Miller will be one of the speakers after luncheon.

BOARD MEETING - Thursday, November 19, - 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Warren J. Holden, 2802 So. Western Ave., L. A.

(Calendar continued on page 7)

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

V for Victory! Wild waterfowl have long used this symbol in their flight formation as they have struggled since the time of Columbus for survival. Their fortunes have gone up and down but indomitable perseverance has been their great source of strength in an age-long contest. From the frozen tundras of the far North, southward over the whole of North America they wing their way. Who has not thrilled to see their silhouetted forms against the sky! Today they share their trailways with human harbingers of hope. We look again and again to these celestial trails with the faith that the same courage and strength will bring to a watching world, survival of those things we hold so dear.

Musing thus we recall these lines from William Cullen Bryant's "To a Waterfowl,"

"There is a Power whose care
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast,-
The desert and illimitable air,-
Lone wandering, but not lost."

NOVEMBER CALENDAR (Continued from page 6)

PROGRAM MEETING - Thursday, November 19, 2 p.m. State Bldg. Exposition Park. Guest speaker will be Mr. C. A. (Bert) Harwell, Calif. Representative of the National Audubon Society. He will speak on California birds, show some of his latest bird pictures and give some of his inimitable bird imitations.

STUDY CLASSES. Tuesday, November 24, at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., L. A.

Nature Study - 10:00 a.m., Subject: "California native plants adapted to garden use," led by Miss Ruby Curry.

Birds: 11:00 a.m., Subject: "Feathers," led by Miss Miriam Faddis.

Please note the change of date. Because of the last Thursday being Thanksgiving classes will be held on Tuesday.

WE ARE indeed fortunate in having the leadership of Mr. George T. Hastings for our study classes. Mr. Hastings is a graduate of Cornell University, received his M.A. degree from Columbia, taught school for many years in New York, was chairman of the Biology Department of one of the larger high schools for fifteen years. For several summers was on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State College Nature Camp. An active member of the Torrey Botanical Club for forty years and for twenty years editor of the club's "Journal of Botanical Notes and News," -Torreya, only resigning from the editorship after resigning from his teaching position two years ago. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

WE HAVE LOST two members in the passing of Miss Mary Hazard on September 17 and Miss Lyda M. Cox on October 11.

IT SEEMS perfectly natural and logical that members of an Audubon Society are interested not only in birds and allied subjects such as wildflowers, trees, butterflies, and small animal life. Naturally, the principal interest of an Audubon Society is in the study of birds; but it adds to the interest of that subject when those who are so inclined have the opportunity to learn something of the habitat, and sources of food for birds, and it does not detract from the study of birds to find that these topics are interesting and important in themselves.

Heretofore, there have been study groups for each of these different subjects. This year, however, it is planned to combine the groups engaged in the study of subjects other than birds, into one group entitled "Nature Study." This seems to be a logical thing to do since the study of trees, wildflowers and ferns, for example, is the study of botany. The study of butterflies and small animals is the study of certain branches of zoology. Botany and zoology are the two branches of biology, the study of which is important in understanding nature's balance and the work of conservation. Consciously, or not, conservation is our ultimate objective since fundamentally, all bird lovers are conservationists and actively promote this important work as they have the opportunity.

Mrs. Anna B. Young, Nature Study Chairman.

IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY. Now serving with the armed forces of the United States are the following members:

Mr. Francisco Holguin
Mr. Leonard Bacon

Capt. M. Sigsbee Dunlap
Mr. A. W. Elder

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, there will be a bird walk at the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary. Mr. W. A. Kent of the Southwest Bird Study Club will be the leader. Meet at entrance, 2578 Durfee Road at 9 a.m. Bring lunch.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in active field study of birds? Then join the Field Group, especially designed for working folks, teachers, students, scouts. Get together with us on SUNDAY MORNING bird trips; second Sunday of each month at San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, fourth Sunday to various areas near the city, to be chosen by group. We start at dawn and cover our areas on foot in small groups; old clothes are advisable as terrain is often rough or wet. For further information write H. L. Cogswell, 3807 Sierra Grande St., Pasadena (Telephone SYcamore 6-5563).

WEAR YOUR NAME PIN AT ALL MEETINGS AND SAVE ALL DAY DEC. 3 FOR OUR ANNUAL XMAS PARTY.

A TALK ON BIRDS given recently by Mrs. Jesse L. Morain at the Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church received much favorable comment. She was assisted by Mrs. Bertha C. Stockwell, bird imitator and whistler.

Extension Chairman, Mrs. Mary Hood would like reports from members on any talks given.

MR. W. SCOTT LEWIS who recently climbed Mt. Whitney found many things of interest. He saw only one bird at the summit, a rock wren. The mountain's walls being steep and bare there is little food for birds. He will tell of his trip at 3 p.m. Sunday, November 1, at the Southwest Museum. Everyone is welcome.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP. Dull skies did not dim the enthusiasm of the fifty-five members who journeyed to Redondo Beach for the first field trip of the year. We had an opportunity to study at close range many gulls and other water birds. Especially thrilling was the black turnstone who obligingly made himself conspicuous. After luncheon in the park, Mrs. O. M. Stultz, in the absence of our president, who was in the north, conducted the meeting. With the aid of mounted specimens (brought from the museum through the generosity of Mrs. Stultz) several members gave interesting talks which included terns by Miss Greely; plovers, sandpipers, dowitchers and sanderlings by Miss Faddis who also recited in her inimitable way, "One Little Sandpiper and I," by Thaxter. Mrs. Daugherty chose the surf scoter as her subject; Mrs. Wait, the ruddy duck; Mrs. White, the common loon, and Mrs. Salmon, other shore birds.

AT THE OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING, Dr. John S. Garth, Research Associate of the Allan Hancock Foundation, U.S.C., took us via pictures on an enchanted voyage from the Farallones to Chile, stopping at all the bird islands to see the oceanic birds in their natural habitats. There were Red-tailed Tropic Birds, Man-o-War Birds, Galapagos Penguins and the Peruvian Guanayes, also the fantastic dances of the Albatross. Dr. Garth's interesting manner of presenting his talk added to the pleasure of the 115 members and guests who were present.

Mrs. Comby presented Mr. Donald B. Brooks, Research Statistician for 6th District Agricultural Assn. who greeted us warmly and expressed the pleasure of the Department at having our Society hold its meetings there.

Mrs. T. G. White and Mrs. Eckler told of vacation experiences.

Many will be interested to know that the "Save the Azaleas" fund has been oversubscribed and the thirty acres of these beautiful shrubs in Humboldt county will be made a part of the California State Park System, to be safeguarded always.