

Western Tanager



Vol. IX

December, 1942

No. 3

UNLIMITED SHOOTING?

The suggestion has recently been made that all game laws should be suspended because of the meat shortage so anyone could kill all the deer, duck, doves and other creatures he could, thus leaving more food available for our soldiers.

This suggestion is so idiotic, short-sighted and hysterical that we would not consider it worthy of notice if we did not know that idiotic suggestions have a great appeal for a large number of our citizens. It is certainly unfortunate that so few people can see six inches in front of their noses! How often we find that the preservation of our natural resources is considered of no importance as compared with the chance for selfish pleasure or temporary gain. When we have upheld the right of future generations to enjoy the same beauties of nature that delight us, we have been met with the retort, "I am not going to worry about future generations, they never did anything for me."

It does not seem to enter some people's heads that we are the custodians of an enormous natural treasure. This treasure does not belong to us in any true sense of the word. It belongs to the Creator of all life, although man has a large degree of management over it. If man exercises that management properly, this treasure can be enjoyed by generation after generation. Unfortunately selfishness has often led to losses that can never be restored, and even today some of our most interesting birds and animals are threatened with complete extinction.

Nature lovers should be constantly on the alert, especially in times like these when there is an increasing tendency to consider life of little importance and to think of such virtues as kindness and gentleness as almost undesirable qualities. This war is only temporary and we trust it will be followed by a permanent peace. The human race will presumably go on for ages, but the better world of tomorrow will be sadly lacking if we permit the destruction of our wild life today.

W. Scott Lewis in "Mineral Bulletin."

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"There is a vast resource of materials in nature which has stimulating, enlightening and healing qualities for all mankind."

---Dr. John C. Marriam, President, Save-the-Redwoods League

THE WESTERN TanagerWELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual \$1.50, Sustaining
\$5.00 annually, Life \$25.00, Patron \$100.

THE REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
state that the fiscal year shall begin
July 1, and if the annual dues are not
paid between that date and December 31,
the member so in default may, at the des-
cretion of the Executive Board be dropped
from the rolls.

Miss Linnian Blind gave a talk on
the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary and
other sanctuaries on November 17, before
the P. E. O. Chapter N of Alhambra.

Suggestion for a Bird Chaser's
Christmas: A copy of Hoffman's "Birds
of the Pacific States," Peterson's "Field
Guide to Western Birds," Stebbin's "What
Bird Is That?", or Lyman & Hood's "Calif-
ornia Wild Flowers in Verse and Picture."
Or a set of phonograph records of bird
calls by Dr. Loye Miller, or the Brand
series. See Miss Greely regarding these.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Annual Christmas Party, Thursday, December 3, 1942 at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Open house at our newly-decorated headquarters, Audubon House at 11:00 a.m. where you may view exhibits, examine the library and listen to the beautiful bird call recordings recently purchased by our society.

Picnic luncheon at noon in the Clubhouse Auditorium at which time Miss Miriam Faddis will be honored for her long and valuable service in the Society.

Bring your lunch. A short program of games and music at 1:30 after which a new member, Mrs. Harlan Eckler of Santa Monica, will show some of her beautiful pictures of eastern birds.

Come and let us make this, our only December meeting, a truly "Merry Christmas" party, and don't forget food for the birds.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

"One wonders what Christmas will mean in lands where festivals have been observed for many years; where in the Yuletide season warmth and cheer were wont to be extended to birds and beasts, and where for centuries the trees of the forests symbolized life and hope in the spirit of Christmas. Deep in the hearts of all peoples are ingrained those simple yet fundamental practices where man feels himself akin to all other forms of life. Where is this more evident than in festivals of the Yuletide, where the lowly oxen and the birds of the air share with man in joyous festivities? This year there may be no sheaves of wheat to top the poles for birds, no joyous festivals in village streets. Children may not steel away at midnight to see if animals are kneeling in the stables. Yet this we know: that to hopeful hearts looking forward to peace for all mankind the spirit of Christmas will never die."

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NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP:

Forty-six different persons and forty-two different birds -- was the count at the Sunland Field trip, November 5. The weather was entirely perfect; the blue Verdugo hills and the distant mountains never seemed closer. A pine siskin was the most unusual bird seen; nests of the cactus wren were found in yucca and cholla. After lunch the group sat in the ball park bleachers in the sun, while our president, Mrs. Comby, spoke a few words of appreciation. Mrs. Stultz announced coming events, introduced some old friends and some new members and then produced mounted bird specimens she had brought from the museum. These were thoroughly discussed, Mrs. Dougherty taking the doves, Miss Gilbert the varied thrush and western robin, Mrs. Pratt the wren family, and Mrs. Hood the different woodpeckers. Mr. Quattlebaum spoke of the native trees found in the park and offered his services as a guide among them, while Mrs. Shearer brought specimens of the tinder-dry vegetation which makes up the chaparral. Mrs. Hood then displayed a chart of different gulls, graphically showing their differences as to size and plumage; easy to transport and hang, it was ingeniously constructed from an old window-shade. Members are requested to save these humble household effects, which may thus come to glory as more study charts.

Laura C. White

One of the outstanding events during the month was the talk given by our president, Mrs. J. H. Comby at the Broadway Department Store on November 7. Mrs. O. M. Stultz was in charge of arrangements and Mrs. Mary V. Hood showed her kbdachrome slides to a delighted audience. Much interest was shown and many people expressed a desire to learn more about our Society.

SPECIAL FIELD TRIP on November 12, at the Miller estate in Bel Air was attended by 50 members and friends. Starting at the entrance to Stone Canyon Mrs. T. E. Reynolds led one of the field walks while Mr. George Hastings and Mrs. Mary V. Hood, aided by John Miller led the other. The bird count was 26. Tables were set on the terraces of the lovely Miller home and our hostess served refreshing cold cider. Our president, Mrs. Comby, was present and gave a brief talk and John Miller gave an account of Black Phoebes who nested in the vines near the house.

NOVEMBER STUDY CLASSES were well attended to hear Miss Ruby Curry describe California native plants adapted to garden use, assisted by Mrs. Mary V. Hood with her colored slides. Miss Miriam Faddis chose "Feathers" for the subject of her talk and described vividly, as only Miss Faddis can, the construction, use and purpose. Those who were so unfortunate as to miss these talks missed a rare treat.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING: The popularity of Mr. C. A. Harwell, California Representative of the National Audubon Society and former Park Naturalist of Yosemite was indicated by the number of members and friends who gathered to hear his lecture in the State Building on November 19. His lecture featured accurate and thrilling bird imitations, some of them with piano accompaniment, and his colored motion pictures titled "From the Sea to the Sierras" showed exciting close-ups of Western Gulls, Shearwaters, a Costa Hummingbird nesting in a cactus, Ashthroated and Vermillion Flycatchers, Egrets, and the rare Black-chinned Sparrow bathing in a desert water-hole.

On the same program Mrs. Humphries told of finding the Lucy Warbler; Mrs. Wait, her experience with the Crossbills, and Mrs. Young told of the Willow Woodpecker.

Wonders Never Cease

There are many types of minds with varied interests. Audubon Club members favor birds, rocks and flowers. After Mr. Harwell's lecture and pictures of birds a man with a beaming countenance remarked to one of our members, "I enjoyed this program very much, could you tell me when your society will have a program about dogs?"

Leave it to the clever little Chickadee to show us that birds have a sense of fun and like a little play sometimes, too. About 3500 feet up on a hot dry slope I came across a small pipe laid under a road and carrying the merest trickle of water through it. It must have been a Mecca for hot, thirsty birds all day long, as it was the only water for miles around. It was almost dark but I spotted Titmice, Wren-Tits, Hummingbirds, Warblers and Chickadees flying to and from this spot. From a hidden closeby position I watched proceedings. The birds came and went, one right after another until this one cute Chickadee thought he would have some fun. After hanging on the lower edge of the pipe and slowly quenching his thirst to the evident displeasure of the impatient birds flying all around him, he managed to climb inside, turn around and head out. Then, every poor thirsty bird that tried to perch on the pipe edge for a drink of the precious water would be pecked and actually shoved off the pipe, and our Chickadee would survey his conquered world wearing such a pleased look. This went on until it was so dark I could just see him flying off to his home. Oh! that I had sufficient riches to install a few such pipes with running fresh water in those hot dry places.....wouldn't the birds have fun?

Caroline H. Daugherty

This fall, a small Oriental elm at our home was visited daily by a red-naped sapsucker. He usually arrived very early in the morning, staying sometimes an hour. He would sip the sap from the holes, sometimes quietly waiting for them to refill but often he would occupy the interval with carving new holes. The sapsucker was not the only visitor to these fountains. Ants and flies were constant visitors while the mourning-cloak, Gulf fritillary, and painted lady butterflies delighted in this sweet liquor. The Audubon Warbler, Ruby crowned kinglet and Anna hummingbird were attracted by both sap and insects, hovering before the holes or clinging to the bark with their claws while investigating the openings. The Gambel Sparrow, Mocking-bird and others have been much interested but are apparently unable to feed from the holes. It has now been several weeks since we have seen the sapsucker. He will return next fall but meantime a slight "ooze" still continues to attract the visitors.

Charlotte Hamilton