

Western Tanager



Vol. IX

January, 1943

No. 11

NEW SANCTUARY DEDICATED

Nestled among the Verdugo Hills south of Sunland, a little sanctuary for birds of the chaparral was placed under the sheltering wing of the Los Angeles Audubon Society on November 28, thus adding one more to the list of refuges sponsored by the Society.

All of the buildings planned for the canyon could not be built on account of the freezing of building materials, but it was decided to dedicate the acreage and complete the building program after the war. About forty members and friends gathered under the oak trees on this beautiful autumn day and after a short bird walk in the vicinity, grouped themselves around the picnic tables for luncheon and a social hour.

We were very happy to have among our guests the California Representative of the National Audubon Society, Mr. C. A. Harwell, of Berkeley, who was spending the weekend in the city. Other guests who added to the enjoyment of the occasion by pleasant words of greeting were Mrs. Harriet Myers of the California Audubon Society, Mrs. Anna Young, President of the Pasadena Audubon, Miss Helen Pratt of the Junior Branch of the National Audubon, and Mrs. Alma Mason, President of the Southwest Bird Study Club. Our president, Mrs. J. H. Comby, presided at the dedicatory ceremony in her customary charming manner, and accepted the guardianship of the refuge on behalf of the Society. Mrs. Shearer explained the reasons for the establishment of such a sanctuary in that locality - the need of protection for the chaparral birds, especially quail; abundance of natural food, toyon, acorns, elderberries, chamise seeds, wild cherry and various seed-bearing plants, and the extended hill acreage to the south which will doubtless remain a primitive area for many years.

Mr. Harwell gave a most interesting account of Audubon work in the middle and northern part of the State and of the results accomplished by the Portland, Oregon Society. At the conclusion of his talk he unveiled the official sanctuary sign which reads:

THE ALMA STULTZ BIRD SANCTUARY
Dedicated Nov. 28, 1942

This feature of the program was in the nature of a surprise for most of those present and all were delighted that the name chosen was an acknowledgement of the debt we all owe to our beloved Mrs. Stultz for her arduous labor in bird protection and sanctuary work and unremitting zeal in arousing enthusiasm for bird study.

Mr. Harwell concluded the program by whistling the beautiful "Indian Love Call" in his most exquisite manner, and then explained and demonstrated the Indian method of dedication of ground by returning to the soil a portion of what is taken from it. Each guest scattered a portion of ground acorns on the soil symbolizing the return to Mother Earth of a part of her gifts.

The sanctuary with its outlying trails and the picnic ground is open at all times to bird lovers and may be reached by the Sunland bus. Disembark at Scoville and Foothill Bivds., and walk south to McGroarty Ave. and Chapin Way.

THE WESTERN Tanager

Published monthly except during the summer by

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

Headquarters, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. L. A.

Outside subscriptions 50¢ per year.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual \$1.50, Sustaining \$5 annually, Life \$25, Patron \$100.

Last call from the Treasurer - members who have not paid annual dues for 1942-43 please remit at next meeting or become delinquent.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Glendale:

Mr. James Murdock, 311 Irving Ave.

The Society has conferred upon MR. GEORGE WILLETT honorary membership in the organization for the valued association which has existed over a period of many years. Always ready to help with identification or to provide material for an exhibit, Mr. Willett has given generously of his time and knowledge to the Society. By his genial manner and friendly interest he has inspired confidence in many of those who have embarked upon a study of nature.

For many years Mr. Willett has exerted a beneficial influence toward conservation, and his name is associated with some of the most important activities in the preservation of bird life. One to be mentioned among the many that might be recorded here was his commission to Laysan in 1913 by the Biological Survey to investigate the depletion of the Albatross.

Mr. Willett is Senior Curator of Ornithology of the L. A. County Museum. Among his published works are "Birds of Southwestern California," as well as over a hundred articles in scientific publications. He has made other important contributions to ornithology.

It is a pleasure to pay tribute to Mr. Willett and the Society is proud to have his name upon the roll of Honorary Membership.

JANUARY CALENDAR

FIELD TRIP: Thursday, January 7, 1943 - 9:15 a.m....Griffith Park. Meet at Picnic Grounds near Zoo. Bird walks will start 9:15 and 9:30. Take lunch. Take Griffith Park bus which runs north on Vermont Ave. to Los Feliz to Park, starting from City College, Monroe and Vermont Ave., at end of "V" car line, at 7:35 a.m., thence hourly 8:35, 9:35 and so on. Get off at Zoo picnic grounds. Meet for lunch 11:30 at picnic grounds.

BOARD MEETING: Thursday, January 21, 10 a.m. at the home of Mrs. Holden, 2802 South Western Ave.

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, January 21, 1:30 p.m. State Building, Exposition Park. "Wildlife of the Mountains" will be presented with story and picture by our own Mrs. Charles Michael, an honorary member of our society, elected for outstanding service to the Audubon cause. For the past twenty years Mrs. Michael has been a Ranger Naturalist in Yosemite National Park, and has had direct charge of the two-acre wildflower garden maintained there by the Yosemite Museum of Natural History. Countless are the persons who have gone birding with her and who have visited her garden; beyond measure is the love of Nature she has inspired. Come early and bring your friends. NOTE PARTICULARLY THE CHANGE IN TIME: 1:30 p.m. INSTEAD OF 2 p.m. AS FORMERLY.

STUDY CLASSES: Thursday, January 28, at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., L. A. Nature Study: 10 a.m. Subject - "Making a Garden," by Mr. Russell K. Hart of Santa Monica, well known plant dealer who is much in demand by garden clubs and other groups for his interesting and instructive talks. Birds: 11 a.m. Subject - "Nestlings" by Mrs. Mary V. Hood, illustrated with her beautiful kodachrome slides.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

"With the New Year we turn to a fresh page upon which to record our annals. Although much has been gained from experience of the past, this time of year inevitably brings with it a desire for new achievements, for the accomplishment of plans and ideals particularly desirable to fresh viewpoints and hopes. Our forward look may well find its inspiration in the realm of Nature. In California, Nature experiences only a brief period of dormancy, but she is nevertheless preparing her various phases for an ever-new, ever-thrilling tomorrow. We have only to look around to see that her processes are going on; always holding out a promise for the future. As we enjoy the beauty of the leafless trees against the winter sky, we are conscious that tomorrow will bring a miracle of bud, leaf and bloom. We are certain that brown hills will soon be clothed in the verdure of renewed life, and that from stored vitality will come again those enchanting calls and songs from the creatures of the world of Nature. With the desire to carry on those duties which are privileges in such a land as ours, let us write upon our new page with inspiration and an ever widening vision."

* * * * *

THE FIELD GROUP will meet Sunday, January 10, at San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary. Come early and we'll cover the whole area. Wilson's Snipe, Pigeon Hawk, Lincoln's Sparrow and other birds not often seen have been there this winter. Then on January 24, this group of real active "birders" will have a field trip to Pasadena Glen Wash and the nearby pasture on the mesa west of Sierra Madre. Take Sierra Madre Pacific Elec. car from the Main St. station, L.A. and get off on Sierra Madre Blvd. at Sierra Madre Villa Ave., right in the middle of our area to cover, which is exceedingly rich in bird life. For further information call H. L. Cogswell, 3807 Sierra Grande Street, Pasadena, Telephone: SY 6-5563.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The muffled whirring of mechanical wings of an occasional "war-bird" flying high above the peaceful enclosure of Plummer Park, was a potent reminder that December 1942 was unlike any of the previous times of the annual Christmas festival of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. But neither war nor war conditions prevented the successful carrying out of the delightful program arranged by the Program Chairman, Mrs. Warren J. Holden.

Although Mother Nature, after endless weeks of "Sunny California" weather, chose Dec. 3, to wrap herself in cold, grey fog in anticipation of approaching winter, her chilly air was soon forgotten in the warmth and cheer of the big entertainment hall where Miss Martha Gilbert, Hospitality Chairman and committee had decorated the lunch tables with berries and greenery and small containers with growing parsley plants - a contribution from Mrs. Hood - who was regrettably absent on a lecture tour.

After inspecting the redecorated Audubon House where Mrs. L. O. Wait and the House Committee presided in the absence of the Curator, Mrs. Salmon, the 98 members and guests repaired again to the auditorium to enjoy the indoor picnic and program.

The president extended a gracious welcome, and after the Doxology and Pledge to the Flag, presented the guest of honor, Miss Miriam Faddis, with an orchid corsage and John R. May's "Hawks of North America," in appreciation of her many years of helpful educational service to the Society.

Mrs. Florence Lewis Scott, Executive Hostess of the Park spoke briefly, and then Mrs. Holden opened the program with the singing of carols accompanied by Miss Sarah Ellen Barnes at the piano. Next came an amusing quiz game with everyone participating, and then Miss Barnes played a sequence of tone poems- "The Entrance Into the Forest," "Hark, Hark the Lark," and climaxed them with a vivid interpretation of Tennyson's "The Eagle," by Edward MacDowell.

From these soaring heights of poetry with music, a gentle descent to earth was effected by a series of bird studies in color presented by Mrs. Harlan Eckler. A panorama of pastoral beauty unfolded via the camera and the audience shared in the joys and triumphs - with none of the inconveniences - of Mr. & Mrs. Eckler's adventures in bird photography in their 1500 acre private sanctuary near Buffalo, N. Y.

Many thoughtful friends brought packages of food for the birds.

AN OHIO BIRDER IN CALIFORNIA

This summer I looked over my records of five years of active birding in Ohio and decided it was time to see the western birds.

Three days on a train clicking over ribbons of steel connecting Ohio and California were scenically exciting but somewhat trying too, being constantly reminded that in each bush and tree there might be some new bird I'd never seen. But I did identify fourteen species from the coach window, four of which were new to me; Ferruginous Rough-legged Hawk (1 in Nebraska), Swainson's Hawk (8 in Nevada), Brewer's Blackbird and American Magpie (both common).

Arriving in Oakland on September 18, I spent three days there with Milton Siebert. The rest of my two and a half months' residence has been in Los Angeles. To date (Dec. 1) I have made sixteen field trips and have seen 193 species of birds in California (87 new to me) in spite of the fact that I came too late to see many of the summer residents.

I wish I could tell you all about my experiences - Pomarine Jaegers chasing Terns on the Santa Monica beach; Sooty Shearwaters and Scripp's Murrelet swimming around the pier at Point Mugu; Harris's Hawk, 1200 Avocets, Wood and White-faced Glossy Ibis at Carlsbad; Hooded Mergansers (common in Ohio) and Knots on the Seal Beach trip; more than 60 Mountain Plovers in a field; Vaux's Swifts, 3 Goldeneyes and a Pigeon Hawk which forced a Spotted Sandpiper to dive under water at Malibu Creek; White-tailed Kites, MacGillivray Warblers and Lincoln Sparrows; Clark's Nutcracker and White-headed Woodpeckers at Charlton Flats; Slate-colored Junco (common in Ohio) and Cactus Woodpeckers at Big Bear Lake.

Western Meadowlarks and Canyon Wrens are the two best singers I've heard thus far. Our eastern Meadowlarks are rusty songsters. The five White-tailed Kites were out and away the most beautiful birds I've seen here. You readers will be amused to learn that I have not yet seen a burrowing owl!

The excellent introduction I have had to California bird life would certainly be far less complete, I must add, were it not for the fine hospitality shown me by my many friends here. It makes me want to take them all back to Ohio of a May morning to show them eighteen or twenty species of warblers - one thing California does not have.

And speaking of Ohio, I must confess that for all the birds here I miss the Tufted Titmouse, disconsolately calling through the white winter woods - just a little.
Don Eckelberry

WE POINT WITH PRIDE-----From the "St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin"---"You have often heard the expression "To charm the birds off the trees." That's the kind of charm that C. A. Harwell brought into the St. Louis University Auditorium on the night of October 23.....The exquisite MacDowell rendition by "whistler" Harwell brought a rapt silence to the big throng of 1100 people who packed the auditorium to see and hear "Music of the Out-of-doors," and from that point on it was indeed a feast of Nature in its most fascinating aspects."

For many years there was a scarcity of bird life in the Hawaiian Islands but in 1930 the Hui Manu (Bird Society) was formed and it was thought that the introduction of birds noted for their songs and brilliant plumage would add to the many other charms of the Islands. This was done with the cooperation of the Board of Agriculture. Now one may see Kentucky Cardinals, Brazilian Crested Cardinals, Sky Larks, Ring-necked Pheasants, Robins, Mocking Birds, Indigo Buntings, Dayal and Shama Thrushes, the interesting Mynah, and many others.