

Western Tanager

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STUDENT MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

By Erna Comby, President

The addition of Student Membership to the types in existence is the most recent enterprise of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. This membership is open to young people from the ages of 12 to 18 years, with dues of seventy-five cents per year. Subscription to the Society's publication, THE WESTERN Tanager, and access to its library and Nature material at headquarters in Plummer Park are included in this. Tentative plans for a monthly indoor meeting and field trip are also in the making.

The old saying, "There is nothing new under the sun," comes to mind as we turn the pages of our Society's history to find that work with young people has been a fundamental interest since its beginning. Individuals and groups in the Society have throughout the years given of their time and effort to further a knowledge of Nature, especially among Boy and Girl Scouts and Campfire groups. The background of the organization is impressive with its activities in this field and is a rich heritage for those who are building for the future.

As our country became involved in war the Society felt the responsibility of using its resources for the furthering of activities vital to the perpetuation of the American way of life. The opportunity for service in this field led to the development of the Youth Leadership department, under the guidance of Mrs. Mary V. Hood and committee. Intensive courses in bird study, including indoor classes and field trips, were most successful and led to the demand for membership in the Society by the interested young people. Working together with these young people of today as they fit themselves for the responsibilities of tomorrow is an undertaking to which we may well give our most earnest effort.

We welcome our Student Members into our organization and look forward to our associations for mutual benefit.

David A. Aylward, President of National Wildlife Federation says, "We adults of today have known and loved nature in all its magnificence. We must work earnestly and tirelessly to assure the youth of tomorrow that these resources will be preserved so that they too may know and love the out-of-doors, and so that these resources may continue to produce annual crops and assure economic security."

When asked, "What does nature study mean to you?" Mrs. Bess Hoffman replied in these five words: "Beauty, Poetry, Humanity, Education, Escape."

Hedda Hopper, in her column "Looking at Hollywood" (Los Angeles Times, May 6, 1944), writes: "There's much beauty here, but loveliest sight I've seen was a hummingbird building its nest just outside a broadcasting studio on one slender ivy vine. Nest straddled a leaf. Twenty-five people left their telephones to peer out windows and watch mamma bird finish her job."

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HEADQUARTERS

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Boulevard,
Los Angeles 46. From downtown Los Angeles
take Santa Monica Blvd.-West Hollywood car,
Subway terminal; get off at Fuller Ave. and
walk one block west to the park entrance.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual \$1.50, Sustaining-\$5 annually, Life
\$25; Patron, \$100; Student, 75¢. Fiscal
year ends June 30. Dues payable at the
beginning of the fiscal year July 1. Those
who pay promptly not only help the treas-
urer but assist the editor in keeping the
mailing list up to date.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Ruth C. Borschell,
135 S. Hobart Blvd. L. A. 4
Mrs. Gladys Perrott,
5775 Bonsallo Ave., L. A. 44
Mr. G. W. Venatta,
616 Meridian Ave., Alhambra
Mr. Arthur Leroy Hinshaw,
606 S. Hobart Blvd., L. A. 5
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422 N. Garfield, Monterey Park
Miss Adelaide Morris,
1243B - 14th St., Santa Monica
Dr. Agnes P. Mann,
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Miss Clara E. Pflager
141 N. Berendo, L. A. 4
Mrs. Chas. D. Field,
1048 Davis, Glendale 1
Miss Elizabeth Schneller,
401 S. Olive, L. A. 13
Miss Hazel Pasco,
444 Westmoreland, L. A. 5
Mrs. Louise F. Kellog,
632 W. 157th St., Gardena

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs.
George Anderson in the loss of her hus-
band and Miss Nora Preisker in the loss
of her father.

Cub Pack 129, McKinley District, made
and presented several bird feeding trays
to be distributed to shut-ins. Some
are being installed at the San Fernando
Veterans' Hospital.

MR. JEAN DELACOUR, of New York City, president of the International Bird Preservation Society, paid the Southland a visit recently. Our president had the pleasure of conducting him through the San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, which he expressed himself as considering a worthwhile conservation project.

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF ANXIOUS WAITING, our English friends, Miss Hickson and Miss Hughesdon, have finally been granted permission to return to their home in London. They were traveling in the United States when the war broke and tourist travel was prohibited. "Please accept our very sincere thanks for all the kindness shown us by members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. We shall have very pleasant memories of the outings spent with you," writes Miss Hickson.

MRS. T. G. WHITE, JR. is in Des Moines training for the W.A.C.

IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND but Stewart Gladstone, Prince Albert, Sask. last fall bagged a duck banded in the U.S. It was a mallard banded at Lake Andes, S.D., in 1936. After seven years the leg band had worn so thin that only a few identifying numerals could be discerned by U.S. Wildlife Service experts.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT -

As another year draws to a close there lingers pleasantly the memory of happy sharing of work. To enjoy together Nature's beauty in a comradely way as we gather on field trips, to work harmoniously on worthy objectives with those who have no thought of self,- these are experiences that mark the year as a monument rather than a milestone.

---Erna Comby

THE PAST MONTH'S PROGRAMS were rich in beauty and information. At the April study class in Plummer Park, which occurred after the last TANAGER went to press, Mr. W. Scott Lewis, with Mrs. Lewis' expert help at the projector, brought before us vividly not only the interest and beauty of the chaparral (our "Elfin Forest" he calls it), but its great value as a preventive of erosion and dangerous floods and the vital necessity of protecting it. Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer followed with an informative talk on the birds of the chaparral, illustrating her talk with mounted specimens from our own collection.....May started off with a trip through the Huntington Library grounds, which abound with birds and rare and beautiful plants and trees. This was "Hastings Day," in tribute to Mr. George T. Hastings who has endeared himself to our members in countless ways. Mr. Hastings, as Leader, gave much interesting information on the trees, shrubs, flowers and 42 species of birds found within the grounds. And to make the trip complete for bird lovers, the Cactus Wren was on his usual perch in the Cactus garden singing his rolling song to his many admirers.At the evening meeting in the Central Library May 11, we were again indebted to Mr. W. Scott Lewis, who delighted us with his intensely interesting kodachromes of insects, giving us astounding facts regarding these other inhabitants of the globe. As a prologue, there was more discussion on the subject of warblers, several members participating informally.....The program at the County Museum May 18 was given by Mrs. Mary V. Hood, her kodachromes giving us new light on "Color Contrasts in California." And what a thrill we had when Staff Sergeant Basil Andrews, of the Army Air Force, stationed in Greenland, told of his birding experiences in the Arctic Circle. Sergeant Andrews is visiting his sister, Mrs. W. Scott Lewis.....The study class May 25, the final one for the current club year, will occur too late for report in this TANAGER, but it is safe to predict an enjoyable talk on "Butterflies" since the speaker, Mrs. Humphreys, is well informed on this subject. There will be also a "treasure hunt" in the park for those things dear to the heart of Nature lovers.....The usual Sunday field trips, one in San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, one in Griffith Park, rounded out the month's program.

OCCASIONALLY there occurs perfect happenings and on Saturday, May 13th, a perfect Birding Trip happened. Alma Stultz, Dorothy Groner and Caroline Daugherty started out in quest of the California Condor; Dorothy and Caroline having yet (up to that time) to see this elusive bird. Nearing the canyons the Phainopeplas were so numerous along the roadsides the three Audubonites almost thought they were traveling along Imperial Valley highways where the Phainos nest in every clump of Desert Mistletoe. Arriving near the Condor country the three were warned away from the rocky steep roads and small chances of seeing Condors, but, intent bird observers give up reluctantly. Finally, they found themselves about 12 miles back in the "back country" when suddenly Alma and Dorothy who were foot scouting (while Caroline held the car on a 20% grade) shouted: "There is one!" Somehow, some place, and quickly, the car was parked on that grade. Within a fifteen-minute period six of those majestic birds sailed over, seemingly flying in pairs - one pair flying directly over near enough for the orange and white coloring to be seen. After that 15-minute period not another Condor was glimpsed. Sixty-one species of land birds were listed for the trip and, while driving through the miles of "Elfin Forest" with the many spots of wild flowers in bloom, especially noted were: Migration of Western Tanagers

filtering through the hillside chaparral; Lazuli Buntings, singing and evidently nesting; Black-headed Grosbeaks nesting, males singing from nearly every tall bush, some of them singing their beautiful flight song; numbers of Ash-throated Flycatchers; a Prairie Falcon on his dashing flight; many flocks of Valley Quail and nearly every ridge had its Mountain Quail sentinel...one ridge was followed especially to hear and see the male give his call...A lovely meadow with its tiny stream running through contained Western Bluebirds with their half-grown young, Chipping Sparrows, and near-by in the trees, nesting House Wrens, a Western Gnatcatcher pair so very busy building their pretty nest; Green-backed Goldfinch nesting and the loveliest nest of the Black-chinned Hummingbird. To complete the perfect day of birding.... as the car rounded a sharp curve, high up on the mountain road...its sudden appearance evidently broke up a fierce battle between two Golden Eagles and one Western Red-tailed Hawk which was then going on only about 100 feet above the road. Thankfully, but apparently triumphantly, the Red-Tail shook himself, then mounted high into the sky, while the Golden Eagles circled below to their nearby cliffs- the afternoon sunlight glinting on their golden feathers. ---Caroline H. Daugherty

CALENDAR FOR JUNE, 1944

FIELD TRIP: Thursday, June 1, 1944 - Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park...meeting at entrance to Fern Dell, at 9 o'clock. Bird Walk will start 9:15 from Meeting Point and group will return to Table Group No. 1 - South...for lunch at 11:30. Officers for 1944 and 1945 year will be installed by Miss Charlotte A. Hamilton, Past President, immediately after lunch.

THURSDAY, June 8. Evening Study Class, 7 p.m. Central Library at Fifth Street and Grand Ave. The discussion of "warblers" will be continued, led by Mr. James Murdock. Mr. Frank A. Shilling, chairman of the Parks Committee, Southern California Chapter of the Sierra Club, and past-president of the Nature Club, will present an illustrated lecture on "The Geological and Human History of Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks," and will discuss the question of opening the National Parks to grazing,- that perennial request of cattle men.

SUNDAY, June 11. Field Trip. San Gabriel River Bird Sanctuary, 2578 Durfee Road, El Monte. Walk will start at 9 a.m. under the guidance of Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum, of the Pasadena Audubon Society. From Los Angeles take any bus or car going east from P. E. Station at Sixth and Main, which connects with the Pasadena-Long Beach bus leaving El Monte at 8:37 a.m. Consult P.E. Information Bureau (TU 7272) for connecting time. Get off at Temple School and walk half block north on Durfee Road. Returning bus leaves Temple School 11:57 a.m., and 4:57 and 6:57 p.m.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS, Fern Dell, Western Avenue entrance to Griffith Park. First Thursday each month (July 6, August 3 and September 7). Leader, Mr. Paul Colburn, former ranger-naturalist at Sequoia National Park. The walk will start at 9 a.m. from the beginning of the Dell, just above Los Feliz Blvd. Picnic lunch and program 11:30 a.m. at Picnic Table #1 South.

EVENING STUDY CLASS, Los Angeles Central Library, Fifth St. & Grand Ave., 7 p.m. each second Thursday (July 13, August 10 and September 14). Program to be announced.

STUDENT MEMBERS TRAINING COURSE. Study classes will be held at the home of Mrs. Mary Hood, 138 S. Wilton Dr. on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., June 7 and 14, July 12, and August 16. Field trips on Saturday, June 17, July 15, and August 19. For admittance and information concerning this new group phone Mrs. Hood- HEmpstead 0974.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT ALL MEETINGS OF THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

For desired information telephone BLanchard 7-1849 or GRanite 9312