

Western Tanager



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NO. 1

THE ANNUAL REPORT

An annual report from the Executive Board to the Society is a constitutional requirement, and as our president, Mrs. J. H. Comby, says: "It is only by taking stock of the past, with its accomplishments and mistakes as well, that one can measure results and set a goal for the future." The following notes have been condensed from the reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, filed by members of the Board. The full reports are available for any member who desires to examine them.

We have felt keenly the absence of members in the Service or in industry or other activities connected with the war effort, and war conditions have made it difficult either to plan or to attend meetings. Nevertheless, our schedule of 56 meetings during the year was carried out with but a single exception,—a field trip in February which had to be canceled because of rain. For the monthly field trips, Mrs. Daugherty, Field Leader, reports an average attendance of 56, an average number of 48 species of birds identified per trip, and a total of 145 species for the year. The Saturday morning field trips for young people, sponsored by the Committee on Youth Leadership, Miss Blanch Unterkircher, chairman, brought out an average of 20 girls and boys, while Mr. R. W. Julian, chairman of the Committee on Evening Programs, reports a similar average for the Sunday trips. Not included in the regular schedule were many field trips with Boy Scouts working for their coveted Bird-Study Merit Badge. The Sunday field trips in the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, operated by the National Audubon Society, were announced each month and many of our members took an active part in them. Mrs. O. M. Stultz is our representative on the local committee for the sanctuary.

There were the usual indoor meetings for young people Saturday mornings, Miss Unterkircher, chairman; for the general membership Thursday afternoons, Mrs. Warren J. Holden in charge; the Thursday morning Study Classes conducted by Mrs. Thomas R. Shearer, and the Thursday evening meetings for those unable to attend day-time programs, Mr. Julian, chairman. For the most part the programs were given by members. Guest speakers included Col. Rupert Hughes, Miss Althea Warren, Miss Dorothy Pinneo, Mr. Ed. Harrison and Mrs. Frances Roberts, Mr. Harold E. Perry (who has since become a member), Dr. John A. Comstock and Mr. J. R. Pemberton. A very special treat was a program given by Mr. C. A. Harwell, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, and a member of our organization. Attendance averaged 85 at the afternoon meetings, 105 at the evening programs, 45 at the Study Classes and 26 at the young people's meetings. The annual Christmas party was an occasion of good cheer. Another happy occasion was the installation of a bird bath and fountain in Plaza de la Justicia August 2, 1944, the gift of "Mickey Audubon Bishop," this making the twelfth time a local park has received such a gift in the name of this beautiful bird, under the auspices of our Society.

The annual Christmas bird count, conducted in the Los Angeles area by Mrs. Daugherty Dec. 27, resulted in a total of 132 species and sub-species, a count which placed this area first in this nation-wide project. There were 30 observers, representing the Los Angeles and Pasadena Audubon societies and the Southwest Bird Study Club. Mr. J. H. Comby conducted the count in the Big Bear Lake area (51 species); he also compiled the "Season" reports for the National Audubon Society, and these and the two bird counts were published in full in Audubon Magazine.

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THE WESTERN Tanager

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
The Los Angeles Branch of the National
Audubon Society

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Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. From
downtown Los Angeles take Santa Monica Bl.
(P.E.) car, Subway Terminal Bldg., or
transfer to it. Get off at Fuller avenue.
Walk one block west. For appointment,
telephone Mrs. Salmon, GRanite 9312.

Membership Dues

Student (12 to 18 yrs. of age), 75¢; Annu-
al, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. Joint
membership with National Audubon Society,
with subscription to "Audubon Magazine,"
\$5 (minimum).

FIELD TRIPS

THURSDAY, Sept. 6. Santa Monica beach.
Take Santa Monica Motor Bus, 5th & Hill
Sts., Los Angeles, 8:00 A.M., to Ocean
and Colorado avenues, Santa Monica. Take
lunch. Meet at pier at 9:30 A.M. for the
bird walk and at north end of Palisades
Park at 11:30 for lunch. Hosts, Santa
Monica members. Leader, Mr. George Has-
tings.

THURSDAY, Oct. 4. Playa del Rey. Take
Redondo Motor Bus, via Playa del Rey,
Subway Terminal Bldg., 423 S. Hill St.,
Los Angeles, 8 A.M. Get off at Playa del
Rey and Vista del Mar St. Take lunch.
After the bird walk, meet at the break-
water at 11:30 A.M. Leader, Mrs. Caro-
line H. Daugherty.

MR. GEORGE WILLETT, Curator of Ornithol-
ogy at the County Museum and an Honorary
Member of our Society, died August 2.
His death means a deep personal loss to
us, to whom he had endeared himself by
his warm friendliness and his unflinching
response to our many calls for informa-
tion and advice. He was a foremost
scientist from whom ornithology had re-
ceived much and could have expected to
receive more. The Society extends sym-
pathy to Mrs. Willett and her family.

THE NATIONAL MONUMENT system is in real
danger if a bill pending in Congress
(S. 664) is passed. Aimed primarily at
the Jackson Hole Monument, it will mean,
if it becomes a law, practically the
scuttling of the entire system. Speaking
of this at the field trip July 5, Paul
W. Colburn urged that letters of protest
be written our representatives in Con-
gress. Read "Your National Monuments,"
by Newton B. Drury, Director of the Na-
tional Park Service, in Nature Magazine,
Aug.-Sept., 1945, p. 370. Mr. Colburn
spoke also of the need for quick action
if the South Calaveras Grove, with its
exceptionally fine Redwoods, is to be
saved as a park. The Save-the-Redwoods
League, 250 Administration Bldg., U.C.,
Berkeley 4, will receive contributions
toward its purchase.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Pasadena Audubon
Society on a successful year under the
leadership of Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum.
Mrs. Ann Young is the newly-elected pres-
ident. Greetings and cordial good wishes.
Mrs. Young!

MEMBERSHIP DUES are payable now except
for those who have taken out a joint
membership with the National Audubon So-
ciety. To them the National will mail
a notice at the proper time,- one year
from the date of joining.

NATURE MAGAZINE subscriptions or renewals
may be taken through Mrs. T. R. Shearer,
8231 Chapin Way, Tujunga. All profit
comes to our treasury.

THE NEW CHECK LISTS, compiled by Howard
L. Cogswell and James Murdock, are now
ready. See Miss Greely.

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(Cont'd from Page 1) Headquarters in Plummer Park was busier than ever. The reading room was in frequent use; 45 of our 155 books were borrowed by members; 17 books were added to the library this year, several coming as gifts. The nature museum received a number of nests and mounted specimens. The Girl Scout summer camp, held in the park during the year, was the occasion for eight classes in bird study, each followed by a walk around the grounds under the guidance of Mrs. Mary Barnes Salmon, Curator. There were also six meetings of Boy Scouts, seven of Campfire Girls and two school groups, all of whom were given talks on birds and shown through our nature museum.

Throughout the club year there was on display in various places the collection of oil paintings of birds and their nests, by Dr. Henry Smith Williams, which Mrs. Williams placed in our care for educational purposes following her husband's death. For a month or more in each place, the exhibits were held in Plummer Park, Hollywood and Roosevelt High Schools, Hollenbeck Junior High School and the Los Angeles Central Library. Mr. Walter Scott, chairman of the committee in charge, reports a marked interest.

There were, as usual, more requests for nature talks than available speakers. However, Mrs. W. Scott Lewis, chairman of the Extension Committee, reports 107 such talks before 50 different organizations, with an approximate attendance of 3600. Representatives of the committee stationed in the bird gallery of the County Museum report talking with some 450 visitors. Mrs. Lewis lists 39 different members as participating in the committee's activities during the year.

In this connection special interest attaches to the report of Mrs. O. M. Stultz, who has charge of the Society's kodachromes and projector, as well as the projector lent us by the National Audubon Society. The slides were used on ten occasions and the two projectors twenty-eight times, the report indicates. The Society has at this time 338 kodachrome slides of birds and their habitats. All but 41 are protected with glass coverings, the work having been done by the committee.

Miss Dorothy E. Groner, chairman of the Committee on Protection, reports numerous instances which called for inquiry, sometimes protest, on the part of the committee. Miss Groner has kept in close touch with local representatives of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Fish and Game Commission, as well as with Mr. Harwell, Western Representative, and Mr. John H. Baker, president, of the National Audubon Society, regarding matters of mutual interest, especially such as have to do with hunting laws and the duck situation in Imperial Valley. With regret Miss Groner reports that the protests of many organizations, including our own, against the bill creating a winter park on Mt. San Jacinto failed of their purpose. The bill became a law. Conservationists have reason to fear for the preservation of the wildlife and the scenic beauty of the area involved.

Miss Charlotte J. Fox, Membership Chairman, reports 134 new members received during the year and a loss of 38; net gain, 96. Total membership June 30, 1945, 410, classified as follows: 11 Complimentary, 9 Honorary, 4 Sustaining, 33 Life, 3 Patron, 13 Student and 337 Annual. They come from 47 different localities in California, four other states and the Territory of Hawaii. There are 102 men and 10 boys (the latter are Student Members). In comparison with the preceding year, there was an increase of 30.5% in the number of members.

The financial report for the year, prepared in minute detail by the Treasurer, Miss Bonnie C. Green, is too lengthy to be given in full here, but it is on file and may be examined by any member desiring to do so. Bills approved by the Executive Board are paid on warrants signed by the president and the recording secretary. Briefly, the year began with \$115.91 in the treasury; receipts, \$764.63; disbursements, \$618.06; balance, \$262.48. While the receipts were composed mostly of membership dues, mention may be made of \$65.08 profit from the sale of bird books and check lists and \$25 contributed to the "Educational Fund." The largest single item under the head of "Disbursements" was the cost of publishing "The Western Tanager," \$180.98. There was a gift of \$25 to the Sanctuary Fund of the National Audubon Society; four subscriptions to "Audubon Magazine" were sent to military hospitals; a small contribution was sent to the Save-the-Redwoods League for the National Tribute Grove.- "The

Eternal Gratitude of a Nation Eternally Expressed."

The "Educational Fund" stands now at \$352.50, of which \$300 is invested in War Savings Bonds. Nothing has been spent from the fund since its establishment Nov. 18, 1943, by the Executive Board.

Our club paper, "The Western Tanager," now in its twelfth year, is on the exchange list of a number of other Audubon societies. Recently added were "The Sanderling," of the Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, "The Elepaio," of the Honolulu society, and "Canadian Nature." Through the cooperation of the Central Library of Los Angeles, we have the privilege of posting reprints of our monthly program on the bulletin board of some fifty branch libraries. This, together with the work of Miss Alberta Hodze, Publicity Chairman, which includes notices sent to some thirty newspapers in the county, keeps our program before the public in a helpful way. Anyone who missed this publicity was doubtless reached by the Telephone Committee, Mrs. W. F. Willis, chairman. Her report shows a total of 763 calls during the year.

Minutes of the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Helen M. Ackley, indicate that the Executive Board held nine regular and five special meetings during the year, with an average attendance of eleven members. Our Historian, Miss Martha C. Gilbert, and our official hostess, Mrs. John P. Churchill, were faithful in the performance of their duties. Through her connection with the County Museum, promoting in the public schools the Museum's junior science classes, Mrs. Mary V. Hood, Second Vice-president, took advantage of every opportunity to emphasize the importance of the study and protection of birds.

Our society renewed its membership in the Santa Monica Mountains Fire Prevention Association and the Save-the-Redwoods League. Our president is a member of the County Museum Patrons Association and of the Natural Resources Committee for the Southern District of the State Chamber of Commerce. She served during the year as state chairman of War Service for the California Federation of Clubs, and she has recently been appointed chairman of the Bird Committee of the State Federation of Garden Clubs. Contacts with other organizations such as these are most helpful to the Audubon cause.

What has been mentioned so far in this report is the year's routine, the pattern of which did not vary greatly from that of the preceding year. The outstanding event of 1944-45 was our vote Oct. 19, 1944, in favor of becoming a branch of the National Audubon Society and our acceptance as such. In the words of Mrs. Comby: "We are now, one year later, beginning to feel at home in that role; but it is not possible to convey adequately in words the deep-seated confidence with which the Executive Board inaugurated the Society into this new venture." There was involved a broadening of our program more in keeping with our new status, and a change in our Constitution was adopted May 17, 1945, to meet the situation. Already pledged "to promote the study and protection of birds and other wildlife," the Society's stated purpose was enlarged to include "plants, soil and water," thus committing us definitely to activities which had heretofore been only implied. A few other technical changes in the Constitution were made.

A basic objective of the branch plan is closer cooperation between the two organizations, hence more effective work for conservation. An immediate result is reflected in the increased membership, mentioned above. Many of our members have taken out the joint membership; many National Audubon Society members living here have been transferred to our rolls; at the close of our fiscal year 31% of our 410 members were members of both societies. A committee headed by Mr. Rolland Truman is working valiantly in the interest of increasing that percentage.

Mrs. Comby, in her dual capacity as president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society and as chairman of the local committee in charge of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, attended the 1944 annual convention of the National Audubon Society in New York. As a result of that experience she reports her earnest conviction that "the Audubon program leads in true conservation of our country's priceless heritage and in the pursuit of a program for youth that has the highest ratio of beneficial influence designed to develop a fine type of citizen for the future." Many ideas were gathered at the Audubon Nature Center, at Greenwich, Connecticut, with the thought that some day we might develop a similar program in Southern California.

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