

Western Tanager



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THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

By SAMUEL AYRES, Jr., M. D.

The Lucky Baldwin Ranch in Arcadia has long been familiar to members of the Audubon societies in Southern California, who have made frequent field trips to this beautiful spot to enjoy the peace and quiet of its jungle-like atmosphere and to study the great variety of birds which make this their home or resting place. On a recent occasion Mr. W. Dan Quattlebaum observed 83 different kinds of birds in this area. This property, comprising the original home-site, with its five-acre lake and 111 acres of ground, is not owned by the State of California and will be preserved for all the people. It will become an arboretum and botanic garden.

Negotiations for the acquisition of this property began over two years ago when the Southern California Horticultural Institute appointed an Arboretum Committee, of which I have had the honor of serving as chairman. Included in this committee were Robert Casanajor, long associated with the Pasadena Flower Show Association; Charles Gibbs Adams and Ralph Cornell, prominent landscape architects; Fred Rowekamp, City Forester of Los Angeles; Howard Miller, manager of the Agricultural Division of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and other well-known and well-qualified men.

After considering a number of possible sites, the Lucky Baldwin Ranch was finally decided upon as being the most desirable from all aspects. Its principal advantages are accessibility, excellent soil, good climatic conditions, historical background, its present beauty as the result of the growth of many varieties of trees planted during the past three-quarters of a century, its beautiful lake and some buildings which with little effort can be made available for immediate use.

The proposition was placed before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors who expressed unanimous enthusiasm. The Supervisors took the matter up with the State Park Commission, and as a result the property was jointly purchased by the State and the County for a total cost of \$320,000, each party contributing half the cost. The State holds the title, but has agreed to make a 50-year lease to the County for \$1 a year, with option of renewal. The Supervisors are now negotiating with the Southern California Horticultural Institute regarding a cooperative program for the development and operation of the property as an arboretum. The County has agreed to assist annually in the cost of basic maintenance, and plans are being formulated to create a non-profit foundation which will coordinate the public in the endeavor.

An arboretum is a type of botanic garden which lays emphasis on woody plants such as trees, shrubs and vines, but it is anticipated that other types of plants will be included in the program. While the purposes of the Arboretum will be primarily horticultural, it will naturally follow that the property will become a bird sanctuary of great importance. With the addition of many types of new trees and shrubs birds will be attracted and there is every reason to expect that the grounds will be as important to those interested in birds as to those interested in plants.

It is difficult to state exactly when the Arboretum will be officially opened, but it is hoped that it may be sometime within the next six months. Much work needs to be done, including fencing, reconditioning the buildings, building roads, providing parking spaces and rest-room facilities, etc.

Mr. W. Dan Quattlebaum was officially delegated by the three Audubon societies in the Los Angeles area to represent these groups on the Advisory Committee. As the organization progresses, this committee will probably be enlarged. All of the Audubon societies and individual bird-lovers are invited to become members of the Arboretum Foundation and in all events, will be welcome to visit the grounds at any time.

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OBSERVATIONS

NATIONAL AUDUBON NEWS

Shore birds in good numbers, with the Western willett in its usual abundance. Field trip, Playa del Rey area, Oct. 2, a warm, sunny day; 67 species, including a flock (16) of the uncommon common tern; many Caspian and Forster's terns; the swift-flying little pigeon hawk; 3 light-footed rails, turnstones, surf-birds and 4 black-necked stilts.

An osprey at Balboa in September (Mrs. Erle Morton); one in Bolsa Chica (Mrs. Bess Hoffman). A wood ibis flying over Laguna Beach (Mrs. Hoffman). Up to about ten years ago wood ibis came up around Nigger Slough, but now men and buildings leave few safe spots for birds.

The settling basins at the west end of Griffith Park, when flooded, are good birding spots. Pintail (18) and cinnamon teal (4) were there Aug. 28; more have come in since then. Oct. 1st, 63 greater and 4 lesser yellow-legs, all resting, evidently having just arrived. Many American and snowy earets along the dikes; black-crowned night herons in nearby trees.

The San Fernando Reservoirs are sanctuary for ducks and shore-birds. Oct 4th, 300-plus pintail, several cinnamon teal and wild Mallard. Two spotted sandpipers just down from their high mountain nesting grounds, feeding along the water's edge. Great blue and Anthony's green herons scattered around the ponds.

Gambel's sparrows welcomed back Sept. 15, Pasadena (Mrs. Young); Sept. 27, South Pasadena (Miss Greely); Sept. 30, Alhambra (Mrs. Parker); Oct. 1, West Hollywood (Mrs. Wait); in other usual haunts around those dates; but up to Oct. 7 few in numbers, whereas in other years at this time large flocks were in evidence.

Audubon's warblers in Burbank's foothill areas Oct. 3; hermit thrush, Oct. 5. A migration flight of Swainson's hawks over Verdugo Hills Oct. 3.

WATCH NOW FOR: Various species of wild ducks, ruby-crowned kinglet, American pipit, purple finch, Thurber's junco, chipping and Fox sparrows.

Are you acquainted with the two magazines published by the National Audubon Society?

Growing out of the old "Bird Lore" and broadening its field to include all aspects of the conservation of natural resources is the well-known bi-monthly "Audubon Magazine," now the foremost publication in the nation bringing to the lay reader an understanding of the balance between soil, water, plants and wildlife. It still contains frequent articles pertaining to bird study as a sport; but the ever-growing demand for more fundamental conservation principles has resulted in publishing the straight accounts of bird observations, breeding-bird and Christmas counts, etc., in a separate magazine, "Audubon Field Notes."

The two publications are well correlated, however. For instance, Dr. John W. Aldrich, one of the committee of nine editing "Field Notes" (which includes also Ludlow Griscom and Roger Tory Peterson), writes in the July-August issue of "Audubon Magazine" of the great problem of setting up a wise wildlife management program with the still largely unanswered question of "how much" wildlife can be accommodated in any particular habitat. His article, "Counting the Birds," tells how, in recent years, even amateurs are making systematic population counts of birds on measured areas of a given habitat to help give the answer; but more is needed. This is the Breeding-Bird Census program, results of which are now published in "Field Notes."

Now, also, in the July issue of "Field Notes", is the announcement of a Winter Bird Population Study, - separate from the big Christmas Count program, and different; it will be a repeated count over measured areas of single habitats during the period in mid-winter when migration is least in evidence.

Here is another opportunity for the amateur and professional alike to contribute worthwhile information to that needed as a basis for sound conservation practices and at the same time enjoy the sports of bird-listing and bird-watching.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Student, 75¢; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. Joint membership, Los Angeles and National Audubon Societies, \$5 (minimum). All members receive, also, "Audubon Magazine." Send membership applications to the Treasurer, at the above address.

SCREEN TOURS DINNER. On request of many members of the Screen Tours Club who are attending the program Monday evening, Nov. 17, arrangements have been made for dinner at the Unique Coffee Shop, 1848 S. Figueroa St. Time, 6 P.M. Price, \$1.30. Only the first 75 to make reservation can be accommodated. Make reservation by Nov. 13 with Mrs. Albert W. Knox, 344 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles 5. Telephone: Exposition 3555.

MR. AND MRS. W. SCOTT LEWIS gave a large part of their summer vacation to telling the story of Nature to a group of crippled and underprivileged children in a camp near Glendale, over a period of ten weeks. Many of the 600 children there had never had any contact with Nature and were ignorant of the simplest facts.

THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Berry, co-chairmen, is forging ahead with plans for helping young people study birds and for the Nature Course for leaders, which has become an annual affair. The Nature Course will be given at the Los Angeles County museum after Christmas.

IF YOU WISH a copy of the Calendar sent to a friend or acquaintance, send the name and address to the Editor.

NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME !

- Mrs. Besse L. Smith 5821 Rimpau Blvd., Los Angeles 43 Miss Zelma B. Dunn 814½ W. 40th Place, Los Angeles 37 Mrs. Ann E. Hendy 3169 Ivy St., Los Angeles 34 Mr. Edward Giffen, Jr. 5819 Ocean Front, Venice. Mrs. Charles Pallos, Jr. 8427 McGroarty St., Sunland Miss Marian Osburn 216 Ave. E, Redondo Beach Mr. Joseph G. Stephens 2101 W. 77th St., Los Angeles 44 Mrs. Grace Harvard Phillips 1355½ Quintero St., Los Angeles 26

MRS. O. M. STULTZ attended the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society, in New York, Oct. 18-22, as a delegate from the Los Angeles Audubon Society and California Garden Clubs, Inc. Mrs. Stultz was recently appointed State Bird Chairman of the last-named organization.

MRS. MARY BARNES SALMON and Miss Harriet Danert, on a recent trip to the Grand Canyon, found their most interesting birds at Kaibab Lodge. There, in a small wooden trough, the birds found water, which in this section is more attractive to them than food. Robins, evening grosbeaks, Townsend's solitaires and Audubon's warblers crowded each other off the edge of the trough. Two red-backed juncos came often for a drink; two red-breasted nut-hatches, very rare there played about the water and even took a bath in the trough. At Point Sublime, on the east rim, Clark's nutcrackers were conspicuous. Looking out of a window in the tunnel at Zion, they saw their first long-crested jay, quite the most stylish and stream-lined member of the jay family. They found also the Woodhouse jay and Mearns' Woodpecker. No pinon jays were seen in the section where they are usually abundant.

THE C. J. PARKERS counted 200 pinon jays near Lake Hemet and a flock of several hundred white pelicans at Lake Henshaw September 21.

THE WILDLIFE SHOW at the County Museum in October broke all attendance records. There were 1009 at the opening Oct. 2.

Mrs. Mary V. Hood, President

Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, Executive Secretary Telephone: Walnut 8937

THURSDAY, Nov. 6. Field Trip, Buena Vista Lagoon (Maxton Brown Sanctuary), near Carlsbad. We have had many requests to repeat this trip of last year, and here it is. Again, we hope to see white-tailed kites along the way and, on the lagoon, wood ibis, white-faced glossy ibis, hundreds of avocet, and many species of ducks and shore birds. Our Tanner Motor Bus will leave Sixth and Olive streets (park side), Los Angeles, at 8:00 A.M., going by way of San Juan Capistrano. Round trip fare, \$2.75 (exact change, please). Dress warmly and take lunch. We will stop at Oceanside about 11:15 for lunch in the picnic grounds by the pier, the same as last year. About 12:30 we will drive down to the lagoon, where we will bird until 3:30, then return to Los Angeles, arriving about 6 P.M. MAKE RESERVATION EARLY with Miss Christine Kemp, 4964 Hartwick St., Los Angeles 41; telephone, Cleveland 6-2526. Unless canceled 24 hours in advance, all reservations must be paid. Leader, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty.

THURSDAY, Nov. 13. 7:00 P.M. Central Public Library, Fifth St., and Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Howard L. Cogswell presiding. Mrs. Harlan E. Eckler, our first vice-president, will show, by request, kodachrome slides of the varied bird life of the Santa Clara Valley, - photographed by Mr. and Mrs. Eckler. The study section will center around plant-animal communities of the seashore and will include 3-minute presentations of "Who eats what" along the rocky shore, sandy shore, mud flat and estuary, and in the salicornia marsh, by various members. To make this even more interesting and valuable, do a little advance study yourself and come prepared to ask or answer questions.

SATURDAY, 2 P.M. and MONDAY, 8 P.M., Nov. 15 and 17. The Screen Tours Club and the National Audubon Society will present Mrs. Laurel Reynolds, of Piedmont, Calif., who will give her illustrated lecture, "With Feathers Flying." C. V. Duff presiding. See special announcement. ADMISSION BY MEMBERSHIP CARD ONLY.

THURSDAY, Nov. 20. 1:30 P.M. Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park. Mrs. Hood presiding. The varied natural phenomena of Yellowstone National Park will be treated by Mrs. Harlan E. Eckler, and illustrated with beautiful kodachrome slides taken by Mr. Eckler the month they spent there. Flowers, animals and birds will be among the subjects of interest. We are happy to announce that Kenneth E. Stager, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Los Angeles County Museum, will take part regularly in this third-Thursday afternoon program.

SUNDAY, Nov. 23. Field Trip, Sunland Park. Leave Pacific Electric Station, 610 S. Main St., Los Angeles, by the Sunland Motor Bus, 8:10 A.M., arriving at Sunland Park (the end of the line) at 9:21. Fare, 79¢ round trip. Take lunch and return to the park at 12 Noon. Bus returning to Los Angeles leaves the park every half hour (at 15 and 45 minutes after the hour).

Leader, Arthur L. Berry;
Telephone Atlantic 4-6575

THURSDAY, Nov. 27. This is Thanksgiving Day. The usual fourth-Thursday-morning Study Class at Plummer Park will not be held.

THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Operated by the National Audubon Society, through a local committee headed by Mrs. J. H. Comby, Route 3, Box 378-F, Whittier. Field trip, the second Sunday of each month, will start from the entrance, 2610 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte, at 9 A.M. For desired information, telephone Whittier 41-4236 or Whittier 6-3748.
