

Western Tanager



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NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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THE NATURE LEADERS' WORKSHOP

By Arthur L. and Genevieve Berry, Co-chairmen, Committee on Youth Leadership

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is again presenting the Nature Leaders' Workshop at the Los Angeles County Museum in Exposition Park, starting Wednesday, January 14, from 7 to 9 P.M. and continuing each Wednesday for ten weeks.

The first part of each evening will be spent studying bird, plant and insect specimens, with emphasis on identification. A talk, illustrated with Mrs. Mary V. Hood's fine Kodachrome slides, will follow. The remainder of the evening will be spent in demonstrating nature handicrafts, games and study methods. Field trips will be announced during the course.

A special invitation to attend is given leaders of youth groups, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Woodcraft Rangers, Boys Clubs, Camp Counselors, etc. Junior leaders of these organizations will be admitted when accompanied by an adult. Members of the Audubon Society who wish to help in youth nature programs will be welcomed. The following will give the talks and assist in various ways:

Mrs. Mary V. Hood, president, and Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods, member of the Executive Board, Los Angeles Audubon Society;

C. V. Duff, president, Southern Division, Cooper Ornithological Club;

Mrs. J. H. Comby, Southern California Representative, National Audubon Society;
A. York Escalante, of the Curriculum Division, Los Angeles City Board of Education;

Mrs. O. M. Stultz, director, and Howard L. Gogswell, of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary;

Mrs. Edith Linsley, Girl Scout Leader;

Kenneth E. Stager, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Los Angeles County Museum;

Mrs. George Shepphard, Woodcraft Ranger guide and Campfire Girls nature leader.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once a year the Program, House and Hospitality standing committees of the Executive Board join forces and give the members and friends of the Society a Christmas party. It is an occasion of good cheer and fine entertainment which is greatly enjoyed. This year's party upheld all the traditions. It was held as usual in the Plummer Park assembly hall, and in spite of threatening clouds was attended by some eighty-five members and guests. In greeting them, our president, Mrs. Hood, invited them to visit our headquarters, adding warm words of praise for the good work done by our House Committee, Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods, chairman, in rearranging our possessions there to better advantage. Delightful indeed was the musical program arranged by Mrs. Harlan E. Eckler, chairman of the Program Committee. Mr. George Hamilton Main, with feeling and understanding, sang two groups of songs written by our members, Mr. and Mrs. George Cossitt White, with Mrs. White at the piano. There was generous response to the insistent request for an encore. Mrs. J.H. Comby, retiring president, read a Christmas story. In her honor the Executive Board placed in our library a copy of Roger Tory Peterson's revised and enlarged edition of his book on Eastern birds, - "A Field Guide to Birds." Tea was served at a beautifully decorated table by Mrs. Ada E. Mangson and her Hospitality Committee.

OBSERVATIONS

NATIONAL AUDUBON NEWS

Chatsworth Reservoir, Nov. 16. One hour's birding resulted in finding 43 species. Outstanding: Many western grebe; white pelican; wild mallard, redhead and canvas-back ducks; 2 golden eagles; 1 prairie falcon; 1 pigeon hawk; Cassin's kingbirds, Townsend's warblers. The Hirscheys report a bald eagle there for the past several weeks. Its coot-catching tactics are to dive at a flock with closed talons, like a fist; knock down a coot, wheel quickly, pick it up, fly over to a sandy beach and eat it right there.

Hansen Dam, Dec. 1: 150-plus pintail, 50-plus canvas-back, several shorebirds. (D.)

Griffith Park pepper tree lane, Nov. 16: The red-breasted sapsuckers are back; also California and Cassin's purple finch and western bluebirds. (S & D)

Sunland Park area, Nov. 23. The Sunday field trip group found 41 species. Uncommon species: Lawrence's goldfinch, rufous-crowned sparrow, and the rare, shy, winter visitors, -northern varied thrush (4). A varied thrush was seen Nov. 28 in a Burbank shrubby yard. The presence of these moisture-loving thrushes presages, we hope, a rainy winter. It has been several years since we have found them to any extent in our lowlands.

Arthur Berry found a Lewis's woodpecker in a Monrovia park Nov. 27. Howard Cogswell reports: "Red-breasted nuthatches are all over; most, if not all, associated with planted conifers." May Wait found band-tailed pigeons numerous in the mountains near Big Bear where oaks abound.

Hundreds of American pipits feeding on lawns of Glen Haven Memorial Park, Upper Kagel Canyon. Green-backed, willow and Lawrence's goldfinches and pine siskins along Eldridge Avenue, in a large sunflower grown area. Golden-crowned sparrows are almost common this year through the foothill areas.

WATCH NOW FOR: Various species of wild geese, ducks and mergansers visiting city park lakes and reservoirs and spotted sandpipers feeding along the water's edge; Northern varied thrush, western bluebirds, cedar waxwings, California and Cassin's purple finch, chip-ping and Fox sparrows.

CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY
Field Leader

It gives me great pleasure, as president of the National Audubon Society, to announce the appointment of Mrs. J. H. Comby, of Whittier, as the Society's Southern California representative, effective at once.

Mrs. Comby will keep in touch with governmental personnel (federal, state, county and municipal) concerned with natural resource conservation in Southern California; with legislators representing Southern California districts; with officers of other organizations, such as garden clubs, women's clubs, service clubs and others interested in wildlife protection and conservation. She will be prepared to give illustrated lectures; will promote organization of branches and affiliates of the Society and interest in development of its varied program, including membership in Audubon Junior clubs, participation in Audubon Wildlife Tours, enrollment in Audubon Nature Camps and Centers.

I am happy to announce simultaneously the appointment of Mrs. O. M. Stultz, of Los Angeles, as director of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, effective January 1, 1948. Mrs. Stultz will receive visitors at the sanctuary; will guide them on the trails, when and if prior appointment has been made; will have at hand in the nature museum a consignment stock of Audubon literature and recommended books, binoculars, stationery, prints, cards, charts and other items. Other organizations will be encouraged to use the museum, by prior arrangement, for their own meetings. Mrs. Stultz will be prepared to give illustrated talks to groups, using both slides and films, and will promote all phases of the Society's program.

Preparatory to occupancy by Mr. & Mrs. Stults, the buildings are being renovated and the grounds attractively planted, with bird attraction primarily in mind. The San Gabriel Sanctuary should increasingly serve as an educational nature center for the greater Los Angeles area.

JOHN H. BAKER
President, National Audubon Society

THE WESTERN Tanager

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NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

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MEMBERSHIP DUES: Student (12 to 18 yrs.), 75¢ annually; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron, \$100. All members receive "The Western Tanager." Joint membership, Los Angeles and National Audubon societies, \$5 (minimum), including "Audubon Magazine. Send applications for membership to the Treasurer, Mrs. C. J. Parker, 821 N. Garfield Ave., Alhambra. Make checks and money orders payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD regrets the necessity of dropping from "The Tanager" mailing list the names of several members who have overlooked sending in their dues for the current club year.

A DELIGHTFUL BOOK, new to our library though published several years ago, is "Bird Watching in the West," by Frances Staver Twining. It is an intimate account of the birds found in the author's garden and neighborhood in Oregon.

SCREEN TOURS DINNER. On request of many members of the Screen Tours Club who are attending the program Monday evening, Jan. 12, 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 Jan. 8 with Mrs. Albert W. Knox, 344 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles 5. Telephone: Exposition 3555.

THE C. J. PARKERS' vacation trip through Imperial Valley and Arizona, starting Nov. 5, netted 102 species of birds. Outstanding were the many flocks of killdeer in every wet field in Imperial Valley, of white-faced glossy ibis near Calipatria and of lark buntings near Gila Bend. New birds for their lists: Painted redbird, pink-sided junco, bridled titmouse, pyrrhuloxia, canyon towhee, Palmer's thrasher and Arizona jay. The high spot of the trip was to find the white-tailed kites still in the same place near their home where they found them last year.

VACATIONING IN OREGON. November is hardly the time to take a vacation in Oregon, but the kind invitation of my friends, the Louis Weavers, and the lure of the Northwest prompted me to take the trip. The anticipated rain greeted me shortly after the state line was crossed, but failed to dampen my enthusiasm for Oregon bird life. Black-capped and chestnut-backed chickadees, golden-crowned kinglets and red-breasted nuthatches "trouped" through the trees of Portland's Washington Park. (See Hoffman's frontispiece.) Winter wrens and Oregon towhees played hide and seek in the brush. The Columbia River as seen from the highway was magnificent, even on cloudy days.

Louis Weaver's place nestles in the Hood River Valley, at the base of snow-capped Mt. Hood. Pileolated and Harris woodpeckers work the dead stubs along the brook and beavers work the bottom lands, cutting and building far into the fall. Ruffed grouse also inhabit these bottoms, giving me a thrill as my first one exploded from the undergrowth. Douglas fir and hemlock crown the ridges of the valley, making an enchanting picture as the first snow of the year covered their branches the day I left. ---ARTHUR L. BERRY

DDT. Chandler S. Robbins, of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, reports that the spraying of a 90-acre tract of young trees with DDT destroyed 65 percent of the common small birds. The use of this insecticide over large areas has been urged as a preventive of polio, but Caldwell, Idaho, one of the "flyless towns", has just experienced an epidemic that tends to prove that this disease is not transmitted by flies. ---W. SCOTT LEWIS

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

President Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Executive Secretary, Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 35
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CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1948

FRIDAY, Jan. 2. Field Trip, Griffith Park, Zoo side. Meet for bird walk at 9:30 A.M. at picnic grounds near restaurant. Griffith Park bus (Los Angeles Motor Coach line) runs north on Vermont Ave. to Los Feliz, to Griffith Park, starting at Monroe and Vermont (end of "V" car line) at 8:30 A.M., thence hourly on the half hour. Get off at Zoo picnic grounds. Take lunch. Meet at picnic grounds near restaurant at 11:30 for lunch. Check with Olympia 2143 for possible schedule change.

Leader, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty; Charleston 6-1747

THURSDAY, Jan. 8. 7:00 P.M. Central Public Library, 5th St. and Grand Ave., Los Angeles. Howard L. Cogswell presiding. Two interesting and instructive films have been obtained from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 1, "The Western Grebe," showing the life history of the bird, including its spectacular courtship dance; 2, "The How and Why of Bird Banding," a record of bird banding activities, how done, why and the results. There will follow a discussion period centering around several plant-animal communities.

SATURDAY, Jan. 10, 2 P.M. and MONDAY, Jan. 12, 8 P.M. Audubon Screen Tour, - "The Riddle of Migration," by Roger Tory Peterson. See special announcement. Admission by Screen Tours Club membership card only.

THURSDAY, Jan. 15. 1:30 P.M. Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park. Mrs. Hood presiding. George T. Hastings, Program Chairman, will present the two films described above for the Thursday evening meeting. **IMPORTANT BUSINESS:** the appointment of a Committee on Nomination of officers for the coming year, -one member to be nominated from the floor. Come prepared to nominate your choice for this important committee.

THURSDAY, Jan. 22. 10 to 12 Noon. Study Class, Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Take Santa Monica Blvd.-West Hollywood car; get off at Fuller and continue on foot one block west to park entrance. Program will comprise (1) Ducks that have not so far been studied; (2) Herons, ibises and bitterns; (3) Nuthatches, kinglets and titmice. There will be a brief botany quiz and lesson. Bring your lunch and stay for the eating of it under the trees. Take time to visit headquarters. Leader, Walter Scott, Chairman, Nature Study Committee; telephone, Angelus 2-4649.

SUNDAY, Jan. 25. Field Trip, Brookside Park, Pasadena. This is a beautiful park with plenty of trees and birds, Meet by the cafe near the plunge, south end of park, at 9 A.M. If driving, go north on Orange Grove Ave. to Holly (one block north of Colorado), turn left, cross Holly Street bridge to Linda Vista, thence north to first road at the right leading down into the park. (This is only one of several ways!) If going by trolley, take Pasadena Short Line in the station at Sixth and Main Streets, Los Angeles, 7:48 A.M., arrive at Colorado and Fair Oaks, Pasadena, 8:30. Lincoln Ave. bus (#2) leaves at 8:35; get off at Orange Grove and Pasadena Ave., walk two blocks south and turn west to one of the park entrances. Bring lunch.

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

SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. Operated by the National Audubon Society. Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Director. Field trip, second Sunday of the month, starting at 9 A.M., from the entrance, 2610 S. Durfee Ave., El Monte. For desired information telephone Whittier 6-3748.
