

Western



Tanager

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REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1948

It is difficult to summarize the year's accomplishments of an organization whose work is so varied as that of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, and it is impossible to give proper credit to all individuals who, with Mrs. Mary V. Hood, our indefatigable president, planned and carried out the program with such contagious enthusiasm. The way to future endeavor may be pointed out, however, by "taking stock" from time to time.

For the most part the program of the year which ended June 30, 1948, followed the usual pattern. Regular activities included indoor meetings each month, October to June, - one at the County Museum in the afternoon, another at the Los Angeles Central Library in the evening, and for those desiring more intensive study, the morning study class at Plummer Park. There was a mid-week field trip and one on Sunday, a bus being chartered for more distant points. Thus through these five monthly meetings on different days of the week an effort was made to suit the convenience of all our members. While one result has been smaller groups, that is not without its advantages.

We participated as usual in the Christmas bird count. The Los Angeles area with a record of 148 species plus four sub-species and 22,939 individuals, came out second in this nation-wide activity sponsored by the National Audubon Society. Members of the society participated in five other Christmas counts in this vicinity. All six were reported in *The Tanager* for February, 1948.

Again this year our Committee on Youth Leadership maintained happy association with youth organizations in the county. For the fifth consecutive year a course in bird study was given Girl Scouts at their summer camp in Plummer Park, with our nature library and specimens there proving a valuable aid. Over 300 girls and their leaders expressed appreciation. The committee conducted again, at the County Museum, a ten-session workshop for nature leaders, emphasizing plants, common birds, insects, etc. of different habitats, ranging from seashore to high mountains. Attendance averaged one hundred.

With invaluable help from Mrs. Hood, a booth demonstrating the value of hawks and owls was set up at the Scout "Jamboree" last spring, attended by thousands of Scouts and their leaders. Not a month goes by without several groups of girl or boy scouts or other young people appearing at our headquarters in Plummer Park for bird study with our president-emeritus, Mrs. Mary B. Salmon. An imposing number of field trips and study classes, too long to list here, brought instruction in bird-life to over a thousand children in Glendale, Santa Monica, Alhambra, and Los Angeles. Six hundred crippled and underprivileged children attending Camp Max Straus, near Glendale, received nature study from our member, W. Scott Lewis.

It is chiefly to train leaders for work of this kind that our society is using its slowly accumulating "Educational Fund," which at this time stands at \$604.43, - a bank account of \$204.43 and \$400 invested in government bonds. It was drawn upon this year for two scholarships to the Audubon Nature Camp newly established in Norden, California, by the National Audubon Society. Our two enrollees, Mrs. Caroline H. Daugherty and Mrs. M. Gertrude Woods, attended the opening two-week session beginning June 20. It is a pleasure to find that the camp director and three members of his staff are members of L.A.A.S. and that many other members are attending. There is enthusiastic praise of the camp program and appreciation of its being made available by the National Audubon Society.

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THE WESTERN Tanager

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Free to Members. To Non-members, 75¢ a year
Editor Miss Laura Greely
940 Kendall Ave., South Pasadena
Telephone: Cleveland 7-1849

President-Emeritus....Mrs. Mary B. Salmon
President.....Mrs. Mary V. Hood
Executive Secretary..Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman
1112 1/2 S. Orange Dr., Los Angeles 35
Telephone: Walnut 8937
Treasurer.....Mrs. C. J. Parker
821 N. Garfield Ave., Alhambra
Telephone: Atlantic 1-2490

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Students (12 to 18 yrs.),
75¢; Annual, \$1.50; Life, \$25; Patron,
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applications, with dues, to the Treasurer
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347 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles 4
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431 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 13
Mr. Carl Julius Stuebel
2111 Park Grove Ave., Los Angeles 7
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Mrs. G. Everett Miller
10484 Wyton Dr., Los Angeles 24

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Brant Dixon
927 Terrace 49, Los Angeles 42
Gordon Dixon
927 Terrace 49, Los Angeles 42
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801 S. Gramercy Dr., Los Angeles 5
Mrs. W. A. Worley
1712 W. 109th Place, Los Angeles 44
Mrs. Wm. T. Lambe
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THE FIRST MEETING of the club year 1948-49
will be a field trip Thursday, October 7.
The entire October calendar will appear
in the next issue of The Tanager. Watch
for it! Come to the meetings! Bring
friends! Let's make it a banner year.

MRS CAROLINE H. DAUGHERTY, Field Leader,
condensing the reports of last year's
field trips, finds that 158 different
species were identified, - too long a list
to give here. Of special interest are
the following:

- Horned grebe Cabanis woodpecker
White-faced glossy ibis Purple martin
White-tailed kite Clark's nutcracker
Pigeon hawk Red-breasted nuthatch
Mountain quail Sierra creeper
Clapper rail Cassin's vireo
Lesser yellow-legs Blue grosbeak
Common tern Green-tailed towhee

Annual Report, Continued

Other evidence of the National Society's interest in the west coast is seen in the appointment this year of Mrs. J. H. Comby as its Southern California representative and of Mrs. O. M. Stultz as resident director of San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, near El Monte. Both are past presidents of L.A.A.S. They have the society's best wishes for their success.

This was a big year for the committee in charge of selling nature study material, chiefly bird books. The usual demand for Roger Tory Peterson's "Field Guide to Western Birds" was augmented when Mr. Peterson appeared as one of this year's Screen Tour lecturers, when he graciously autographed copies of his book. Of this field guide, published in 1941, we have sold 490 copies. This and other bird books sold by the committee since selling was first undertaken eight years ago number altogether 766.

Our "study guide" and check lists continue in demand. Available for sale this year was a new pamphlet, "California Native Plants Desirable for Gardens and Bird Sanctuaries," compiled for the society by member Theodore Payne, noted Los Angeles horticulturist. At his request, notes were added by the society's Committee on Birds, to indicate which birds are attracted to given trees and shrubs for food, shelter or nesting material. It was a pleasure to be able to present several copies of this valuable compilation to California Garden Clubs, Inc., at its state convention this spring, garden clubs, like Audubon societies, being interested in both plants and birds.

Total sales this year amounted to \$451; disbursements, \$263.33, -low because of a large amount of material carried over from the preceding year. Profit, \$187.67.

On June 30, 1948, the membership stood at 558, classified as follows: 492 annual, 30 life, 3 patron, 8 honorary, 6 complimentary, 19 student. Of the whole number, 257 are members of both the Los Angeles and the National societies. Classified geographically, the 558 members represent 52 towns and cities in Los Angeles County, 25 other California localities and 6 other states. Thirty different postal

zones in the city of Los Angeles are represented. All of which indicates a wide-spread connection. New members received during the twelve months, 89.

Membership dues constituted 50% of the year's income of \$1202.98; 34% was chiefly profit from sales and from the Screen Tours; the remaining 4% from donations and other small items.

Disbursements exclusive of revolving funds took all but \$3.36 of the year's income. It is well known that no salaries are paid, but members of the Executive Board are reimbursed for postage and necessary expenses, - \$83.45 the past year, plus \$150 toward the expenses of the society's delegate to the annual meeting of the National Audubon Society in New York City. Standing committees (other than that on Publications) spent \$183.61 on various activities, - program, hospitality, youth leadership, repairs at headquarters, etc.

As usual, the cost of publishing "The Western Tanager," - \$421.31 - took a large part of the year's income. The eight issues of The Tanager went to an average mailing list of 553. Paper, envelopes, micrographing and mailing service constituted 80% of the cost, postage and the addressograph equipment taking most of the balance. We have had as in other years fine cooperation from the Los Angeles Public Library, through which that page of The Tanager carrying the monthly calendar has been placed on the bulletin boards of its science department and its 40-odd branch libraries.

Complying with our constitutional requirement to cooperate with other organizations having a similar purpose, the Executive Board made a few small contributions, among them to the sanctuary fund of the National Audubon Society, the Save-the-Redwoods League, the Los Angeles S.P.C.A., the new and highly prized bird hall at the County Museum. A donation went to CARE for relief of ornithologists in devastated areas overseas.

At a cost of \$42.40 we purchased 86 additional kodachromes this year. These in addition to a number given us bring our library of slides to more than 500 and with our projector aid materially in ex-

tending knowledge of California bird life.

Our headquarters in Plummer Park was refurbished and reorganized and some much needed shelving installed at an expense of close to \$35. Exclusive of revolving funds, total disbursements amounted to \$1199.62. A balance of \$3.36, added to our previously accumulated back-log of \$544.94, gives us a bank account of \$548.30 with which to start the new club year, beginning July 1, 1948. The books of the Treasurer are open to examination by any member of the society.

The highlight in the report of the Committee on Extension is the group of three lectures, illustrated with her own Kodachromes, presented at Belmont High School in April and May by our president, Mrs. Hood, as part of a series on California, Its History, Peoples, Customs and Natural Features, offered by the adult Education Program of the Los Angeles City Schools in cooperation with the State Centennials Commission. Her lectures were given highly favorable comment.

To our nature library there was added this year a book in honor of our retiring president, Mrs. J. H. Comby, and another in memory of Mrs. Warren J. Holden, a past-president whose untimely death brought us great sorrow. There are now 189 books and a great number of pamphlets of scientific value in our library.

The establishment of the Los Angeles County Arboretum is a source of happiness to students of birds as well as of plants, since the entire area of 111 acres will naturally become a bird sanctuary. Along with the California and the Pasadena Audubon societies, the Los Angeles society is represented on the Arboretum Advisory Committee by Mr. W. D. Quattlebaum. He reports having identified 126 species of birds in the area. It was a pleasure to participate in the observance of Arbor Day at the Arboretum March 7, 1948.

As the club year 1947-8 drew to a close, arrangements for the 1948-9 series of Audubon Screen Tours were well advanced. The tours of the past year were an outstanding success, with a membership of 825, an increase of 40% over the preced-

ing year. Especially gratifying is the fact that the Tours have attracted the attention of the Los Angeles City School authorities and that they voluntarily offered the use of a high school auditorium and its facilities for the 1948-9 programs. Mrs. Hood, chairman of the committee, and Mr. Wm. K. DePue, business manager, have entered into an important cooperative arrangement with the schools, which will give many Los Angeles teachers special opportunity, along with the members of the Screen Tours Club, to hear these fine lectures, with their unusual color motion pictures of outdoor America. All the meetings will be held at Fair Junior High School, 5929 S. Vermont Avenue. It is hoped that every member of L.A.A.S. will join the Screen Tours Club. Annual dues are only \$2. If by chance you have not received a copy of the program, ask Mr. DePue to send you one. His address: 6055 Fair Avenue, North Hollywood. Here is a list of the speakers, their subjects and the dates:

Oct. 12, 7:45 p.m. and Oct. 16, 2 p.m., -
Karl H. Maslowski: "Saguaroiland."

Nov. 30, 7:45 p.m. and Dec. 4, 2 p.m., -
William Ferguson: "This Curious World in Nature."

Feb. 8, 7:45 p.m. and Feb. 12, 2 p.m.; -
Carl W. Buchheister: "Wild Life Down East."

Mar. 8, 7:45 p.m. and Mar. 12, 2 p.m., -
Allan D. Cruickshank: "Trails for the Millions."

Apr. 9, 2 p.m. and Apr. 12, 7:45 p.m., -
Rev. George M. Link: "Alluring Alaska."

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In closing this report the society desires to express its sincere appreciation to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and to the officers directly in charge of the County Museum and of Plummer Park for the privilege of meeting in their respective assembly halls; to the Los Angeles City Library also for the use of its lecture hall for the evening programs.