

## Western



## Tanager

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BY THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## LET'S THINK

With the above title as theme, the National Audubon Society held its third annual California Convention at Asilomar over the weekend of March 17. This year the program was devoted to specific conservation problems, and to ways and means of arousing the general public to the urgency of present conditions. Each of the speakers, who are all close to the heart of these controversial matters, presented authoritative background material on a specific problem, then answered questions and joined in general discussion. These sessions were alternated with daily field trips to provide a well-rounded program of instruction and entertainment.

The convention opened Saturday afternoon with a demonstration of conservation education in practice; featuring an exhibition of many kinds of materials and gadgets useful in getting the conservation message across. Dr. Lloyd Ingles, Director of the Audubon Camp of California, together with a Girl Scout leader, a representative of the Los Angeles Park Department, and a school biology teacher were on hand to give many valuable suggestions on the use of the materials. In the evening Dr. Eric Reynolds of the Golden Gate Audubon Society keynoted the conference with a hard-hitting talk on the pressing need for sound conservation practices. Pointing out how our growing population is putting an ever-greater pressure on all our natural resources, he stressed the need of "stockpiling" our few remaining areas suitable for wildlife. Dr. Ingles also spoke briefly about the Audubon Camp, describing several features that make it unique among California institutions. He then presented the new film showing activities at the 1950 camp sessions. His apt concept of "Stockpiling" was picked up by succeeding speakers and soon became a byword of the Convention.

Sunday afternoon was highlighted by a discussion of the effects of state forestry policies on wildlife, led by William Fairbank of the California Division of Forestry. Mr. Fairbank impressed everyone with his grasp of the real issues involved. He pointed out that in spite of the great improvements in fire-fighting equipment and techniques, the annual forest fire loss is still great: the 1950 loss being the heaviest in the past 25 years.

Another excellent talk was given by Earl Hansen of the California Division of Beaches and Parks on the problem of hunting in state parks. He thoroughly reviewed many angles of this problem, and assured us that the present policy of allowing no hunting is based on sound principles, and will be continued for the foreseeable future.

Other discussions dealt with the encroachments on wild areas, by an official of the Federal Bureau of Land Management; with the controlling of sea lions, by a biologist of the California Division of Fish and Game; and with the problem of fish-eating birds at fish hatcheries, by Dr. Paul Needham of the Zoology Department of the University of California. Dr. Needham gave a complete picture of the food habits of fish-eating species, and concluded that the American Merganser is the only bird which, on occasion, must be controlled.

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THE WESTERN Tanager

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

Founded 1910 - For the protection of Birds, other Animals and Plant Life. Membership - joint with the National Audubon Society \$5.00 including Audubon Magazine. Local, (Student) (12 to 18 years) 75¢; Annual \$1.50; Life \$25; Patron \$1.00. Membership Chairman- Miss Bonnie C. Green, 774 N. Heliotrope Dr., L. A. 27 Phone - NORmandie 1-5537

OFFICERS FOR 1950-1951

President .....Mrs. Neil H. Lewis 212 N. Wilton Pl., L. A. 4  
Executive Secretary....Mrs. Bess Hoffman 1112 1/2 S. Orange Dr., L. A. 19  
Treasurer.....Miss Treva M. Russell 5641 Fountain Ave., L. A. 28

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

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Mrs. Blake G. Smith 5800 Canyonside Rd., La Crescenta

FIESTA SILVER TEA

2 P.M. Thursday, May 10 at Fiesta Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

A program for fun for everybody. Your ticket of admission will be a "white elephant," wrapped as a gift. There will be refreshments, games and a short program. A food sale and door prizes.

Come one, come all, and bring your friends.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The month of May is the time for renewed life, as symbolized in May Flowers. In organizations it should be a time of planting the seeds that will result in the flowering and continuance of the work for the coming year. There is unlimited work for our Society, and the need for members to take part in the work is never fully realized. It will be of great assistance to your officers if you will volunteer your services in the activity in which you are interested. Also advise the Board of your friends' abilities. It is only by the support of our devoted members that the splendid progress of our Society continues. And to conclude I should like to quote a small part of a letter received from one of our members, Miss Alberta Hodge. "The Los Angeles Audubon Society is such a splendid institution, so wonderfully conducted and with such fine people as members, that I know there are thousands in and about Los Angeles whose lives would be brightened and enriched by being a part of it. I wish every one in Los Angeles could be made acquainted with it."

Alice Lewis

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE for Officers and members of the Executive Committee for 1951-1952.

President ..... Mrs. Maybelle DeMay  
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Recording Sec'y..Miss Elsa F. Schwartz  
Secretary.... Miss Elizabeth Patterson  
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Curator..... Miss Clara Pflager  
Historian ..... Mrs. Ruth T. McCune  
Elizabeth B. Gulden, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NATURE CAMP

If you wish to propose anyone for a scholarship that will pay all or part of the expenses at the Audubon Nature Camp at Norden, send the name, qualifications, and ways in which the camp experience will be utilized, to Mrs. Alma Stultz, Chairman of the Education Committee, San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, 564 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Also, if you wish to contribute to this worthy project will you send your gift, however small, to Mrs. Stultz.

Let's Think -- Continued from first page

ROSY FINCHES AT DINGLEBERRY LAKE

An informal banquet brought everybody together Sunday evening. After the meal there was an address, entitled "Home Sapiens Auduboniensis." A new film on the Society's Florida sanctuary rounded out the evening's entertainment.

Field trips are always an important part of these conventions, and this year the group was afield every day, under the guidance of the Audubon Camp staff. One day they visited the unique woods of Monterey cypress and Monterey pine along the famous 17-mile drive and in Point Lobos State Park. Another day was spent in and at the surf, exploring the rocks and tidal pools for marine life. And the final day was spent entirely with field trips: the mariners taking a four-hour boat trip to see pelagic birds while the land-lubbers were visiting the Hatton Ranch in a nearby chapparal canyon.

Many valuable points and new concepts were brought out by the speakers and leaders, but there were two main ideas that seemed to underlie everything else. One was the notion of "stockpiling", used to describe the urgent need of setting aside and storing as many of our wildlife and natural resources as possible against the day when there will be no more left to set aside. The second was that all further work in conservation now depends on "education." Everybody, especially school children, should be made aware of the interdependence of all living things; - should be educated to the point where they will realize the tragic consequences of undermining the pyramid of life. Only when backed by a determined and widespread public demand, can lasting conservation progress be made.

The weather was unusually fine and the meals served by the Asilomar staff were excellent. The attendance matched that of the previous year in spite of heavy cancellations due to the ravages of 'flu. It was a wonderful experience for me, and an honor to represent the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

--Robert L. Pyle

Dingleberry Lake, situated on the east side of the Sierras at an altitude of around 10,000 feet, is the home of many happy birds. One day when out observing I saw through my binoculars a brown bird feeding in a well drained meadow that bordered the cliffs. It was of a rich reddish brown color and its heavy bill suggested to me that it might be a Pine Grosbeak in immature plumage. Soon groups of these birds were feeding in the meadow. They were low to the ground and would take a zig-zag course, weaving this way and that among the grasses and flowers. Some of them had a purple sheen, they were about the size of White-crowned Sparrows and in time I came to the conclusion they were Sierra Rosy Finches, at home in these meadows with White-crowned Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Juncos and others of the sparrow tribe. In the morning when the first shafts of sunlight illuminated the cliffs, the Rosy Finches would fly up and down in these slanting rays, hither and yon, gathering insects on the wing. At such times they were of vivid iridescent beauty, of a rosy loveliness, enthralling to the beholder. The birds conversed in clear ringing voices, though at times when feeding in the meadows their conversation was a throaty "chuck."

My previous experience with Rosy Finches was above timberline in the fields of gleaming snow. Once Charles and I found them picking up frozen insects from the snow beside a frozen lake. Strange to say the Water Ouzel was there, too, enjoying the frozen insects. At Dingleberry Lake were White-barked Pines, Aspens, Willows and Lodge-pole Pines, - quite a mundane setting for this rosy bird whose usual home is in fields of frozen snow high above timber line.

--Enid Michael

AN AERIAL CIRCUS

We had the pleasure of viewing an aerial circus put on by a large flock of white pelicans, between 300 and 350, on Friday, April 6. They wheeled, dived and sailed in long stretches for our benefit. Many not especially interested in birds came out to watch the show.

--Mrs. Helen W. Shearer

RED-BELLIED HAWKS

One of our members, Mrs. Alice Lugbauer, of Vista, wrote on April 2, "This morning I went down to the stable to feed the horses and what, to my surprise, did I see but hawks - 42 Red-bellied Hawks - I counted and recounted - and then had a neighbor count them. They were sitting on the posts of the pasture fence, on small bushes and trees, some of them even on the ground. Not all had the same coloring and some were immature. I have a good pair of field glasses so just looked and looked. I have seen one or two at a time here before, but never such a number.

SANCTUARY NOTES

A survey made on March 25 and 26 in the Sanctuary and neighboring Rio Hondo area revealed over 100 singing male Cardinals.

The following had been found nesting up to the first of April: Sparrow Hawk, Valley Quail, Mourning Dove, Chinese Spotted Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Tree Swallow, California Jay, Crow, Slender-billed Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, House Wren, Bush Tit, Hutton's Vireo, Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, House Finch, Song Sparrow.

A CHALLENGING HOUR

In a time of national crisis, the conservation of resources in every department of life is imperative. Our opportunity as a Society was never greater than today, for we are engaged, not only in instructing youth in the underlying principles of conservation, and restoration of resources essential to life, but we are preparing adults to act in present emergencies. Let us meet the challenge of the hour with renewed effort and zeal.

THE BULLETIN of the Massachusetts Audubon Society - February 1951.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY

Every one will enjoy reading ONE DAY AT TETON MARSH by Sally Carrighar, given to our library by Mrs. Thomas Shearer. Also, BIRDS by Gayle Pickwell, a gift from Mrs. Beatrice Nielson.

Both these may be drawn out by members at any meeting of the society by notifying our librarian, Mrs. Mary B. Salmon.

OBSERVATIONS

SHORE AND WATER BIRDS

American Bittern, Sanctuary, daily Feb. 1 to Apr. 2 (Stultz); Anthony Green Heron, Sanctuary, Apr. 1 to 8, daily. (S) 30 to 40 Cinnamon Teal, Sanctuary, all winter, 1 Blue-winged Teal, Mar. 12, (S); 6 Green-winged, 22 Cinnamon Teal, Hanson Dam, also 4 Buffleheads Apr. 16 (Daugherty); 4 Fulmars, dead on beach, Santa Monica, Mar. 31 (Hastings).

POOR-WILL, NIGHTHAWK

Poor-Wills calling nightly since first of March, Eagle Rock (Curry); 2 Texas Nighthawks, 1 Poor-Will, Sunland, Apr. 18 (Shearer).

HUMMINGBIRDS

At Sanctuary, Black-chinned, Mar. 10; Rufous, Mar. 3 and daily since; Costa, Mar. 25; Allen's Feb. 4 and daily since (S); Costa, Allen's and Rufous feeding on orange blossoms and Cestrum, Burbank, "Rufous is boss and fights all others, bumble-bees and me when I go near the syrup cups." (Daugherty)

WOODPECKERS

Yellow-shafted Flickers still at Sanct.

OWL

Great Horned calling at Eagle Rock, Mar. 16 at 7:30 P.M. (C)

FLYCATCHER

Olive-sided, Topanga Canyon, Apr. 15 (Bennett)

SWALLOWS

Tree, daily at Sanctuary since Mar. 1 (S); Cliff and Rough-winged, Hanson Dam, Apr. 16 (D).

OUZEL and CANYON WREN

Chantry Flats, Apr. 5 (Wait and Dougherty)

THRASHER

2 half-grown California Thrashers, Eagle Rock, April 9, (C).

VIREO, WARBLERS

Warbling Vireo, Topanga Canyon, Apr. 15, (Bennett); Lutescent Warblers, Chantry Flats, Apr. 5, (W & D); Tennessee Warbler, Sanctuary, Mar. 25 (S).

ORIOLES

Arizona Hooded, Sanctuary, Mar. 21 (S) San Fernando Hospital, Apr. 4, (B), Los Angeles, Apr. 4 (W); Bullock's, Sanct. Mar. 21, (S), Eagle Rock, Apr. 12 (McClune)

WESTERN TANAGER 1 female, Santa Monica, Mar. 6 (Beasley), Eagle Rock, Apr. 1 (McC)

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

Officers - 1950-1951

|                          |  |                |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| President.....           | Mrs. Neil H. Lewis, 212 N. Wilton Place,       | Los Angeles 4  |
| Secretary.....           | Mrs. Bess M. Hoffman, 1112½ S. Orange Drive,   | Los Angeles 35 |
| Treasurer.....           | Miss Treva M. Russell, 5641 Fountain Avenue,   | Los Angeles 28 |
| Membership Chairman..... | Miss Bonnie C. Green, 774 N. Heliotrope Drive, | Los Angeles 27 |

CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1951

- Thursday, May 3. FIELD TRIP .... Good weather and again we schedule CHANTRY FLATS, and Big Santa Anita Canyon. Wild flowers will be in bloom, also wild shrubs, - and there are many birds in the area, including Canyon Wrens, Water Ouzels, Warblers, and the usual mountain birds. Our Tanner Motor Bus will leave 603 S. Olive St., L. A. at 8:30 A.M. Round trip fare \$1.60. Have exact fare. Make reservations with Miss Edith Crane, 4925½ Cimarron St., L. A. 37 ... AXminster 2-8458. Bring lunch. If driving go out Foothill Blvd. to Santa Anita Ave. in Arcadia, turn left, drive to the picnic and parking grounds. Further announcements upon arrival at Chantry Flats.
- Thursday, May 10. EVENING PROGRAM MEETING... "Birds of the West." An illustrated lecture by Mr. Don Bleitz. Those who have not seen Mr. Bleitz's bird pictures should not fail to avail themselves of this opportunity. Room 10, Union Avenue School, 150 Burlington Avenue, 7:00 P.M. Take Beverly Blvd. bus to Burlington, walk south one-half block.
- Thursday, May 17. AFTERNOON PROGRAM MEETING ... "AND GOD PLANTED A GARDEN." Pictures of Yosemite in 1950 by Mrs. Mary V. Hood. Mrs. Hood has been taking kodachrome pictures in Yosemite for several years, in the seldom visited back country, as well as in familiar spots. Her views of mountains, flowers, birds and other animals will make the afternoon seem like a personal visit to Yosemite -- with a naturalist for a guide. 1:30 P.M. in the Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park.
- Thursday, May 24. STUDY CLASS ... A study of Gulls, Terns and Doves, pages 68 to 74 in our textbook, How to Know the Birds. Second hour - a study of city trees of the Rose and Pea Families. 10 A.M., Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Take P.E. trolley, Santa Monica-West Hollywood line to Fuller Avenue. Walk west one block.
- Sunday, May 27. FIELD TRIP ... BUCKHORN FLATS. This is our best place to see high mountain birds. Walk will start from camp grounds between 9:30 and 10. Drive up Angeles Crest Highway to ¼ mile past the ski lift and turn left. A short stop at Charlton Flats, if you have time, will be profitable. (If weather is damp and foggy we will meet at Charlton Flats.) Bring lunch and stay for the final meeting of the season after lunch
- Thursday, June 7. FIELD TRIP, last of the season, to CHARLTON FLATS. Our Tanner bus will leave from 603 S. Olive St., at 8:30, stopping at Glendale Blvd. (Angelus Temple stop), 8:35; Los Feliz Blvd. and Glendale Ave., 8:45; Broadway and Glendale Ave. in Glendale, 8:47; Angeles Crest Highway and Foothill Blvd. in La Canada, 8:50. Fare \$1.60. Make reservations with Miss Edith Crane, 4925½ Cimarron St., L. A. 37, phone AXminster 2-8458. After lunch the officers for 1951-1952 will be installed.