

## Western



## Tanager

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## THE HUMBIRD NEST

Oh hurried spirits and beclattering feet,  
Let us have rest awhile in Nature's seat.  
Here let us pause, with loving words to tell  
How wonder midget works her miracle,  
Here art of bird and insect close connive  
To hold two symbols of her hope alive.  
Firm folded on a leaf or limb,  
Is wrought with concept clear her pretty whim.  
With spider lace and loose-bestowed lichen  
This elf compacts a cradle, cote and kitchen.  
Here soon may she in cushioned moss detect  
Life's mold and meaning, simple and direct.  
Here hope and love together will conceive,  
And sweet fulfillment her long wait relieve.  
What could be warmer in maternal nest  
Than these wee germs that slumber neath her breast.  
Oh fated mortal with the feckless yen,  
Pause and perceive life's precious things again.  
Here poised upon the fragment of a dream  
Wide joy may rest and deeper purpose gleam.  
What a picture here! Can laddered plot combine  
Or banks, or land this simple to outshine?  
This artless faith my spirit would obey,  
To find the path from shadow into day.  
Here hanging sheer anent my windowsill,  
May wait my key to joy and work and will.

Written for the Tanager by Fred Kline, M.D.

## THE CHICKADEE

Nothing upsets the chickadee!  
His bouyant personality  
Survives the hazards of all seasons.  
There may be many many reasons,  
But as in humans we often find  
That happiness is a state of mind -  
So it may be with the chickadee.  
Of his happiness there is no doubt  
As he hops along branches; in and out  
Of gardens. Perhaps the ground is bare  
Or covered with snow - he doesn't care.  
His friendliness is a joy to see -  
One can learn a lot from a chickadee.

L. Y. Corruthers

### THE WESTERN TAVAGER

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### THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, Inc.

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### OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month we have many fine programs in store for our members. I should like to call your attention to two of them.

The Sunday field trip to the Warm Creek Sanctuary in San Bernardino will be a very special treat. We have heard so many reports of the fine start they have made in building up the sanctuary that it will be a privilege to see it for ourselves. Mrs. Whistler has graciously invited our group to see colored films at her home after the trip. This will be an additional highlight of the day.

And the workshop program gets underway this month. Those who have not attended these programs in past years have surely missed a very good thing. All our regular members are invited to attend the Workshop meetings which fall once each month on the date of our regular evening meeting. This month it will be on the 16th. Our society is nationally known for this valuable and unique program, which has been given for the last seven years. - Maybelle DeMay

### HUNTING AND WILDLIFE

The rapid increase in hunting since the war is posing a serious problem to those who still hope to preserve our wildlife from extinction. The present season finds some 12,000,000 licensed hunters in the United States, spending an estimated \$2,000,000,000 in an attack on the unarmed and mostly harmless inhabitants of our forests and marshes. In Colorado it was estimated by officials that there were more men on the firing line the day the hunting season opened than there were on the U.S. front in Korea. In California some 315,000 hunters broke the all-time record by shooting some 64,000 bucks, not to mention an assortment of cows and other livestock. Arizona is plagued by a killer who goes through the forest shooting every living thing in sight and leaving the bodies untouched. - W. Scott Lewis

In the Sept.-Oct. number of the Audubon Magazine, our president, John H. Baker, reports that in 1950, 1,638,040 hunters purchased duck hunting stamps and killed, according to official estimates, 18,251,578 ducks, geese and coots. And as this year the hunting season was lengthened, the kill should be greater.

"He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things both great and small,  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all."

### BIRDING BY A BLIND LADY

One of our members, Mrs. Beatrice Nielson, who now lives in Red Bluff, in the northern part of the state, has sent us a letter received from an old friend of hers, Mrs. Mary Beam. She says that Mrs. Beam was a naturalist of no mean ability in Ohio. After teaching for many years she retired about seven years ago, planning to tour parts of the country and see new birds and plants. But she lost her sight, and has had to remain at home. Past 68, she learned to read Braille and now finds enjoyment in reading, but especially in listening to birds. We quote from her letter, the following:

"This spring and early summer have been so cold and damp that I could not even spend much time at my listening post, the back door. However, at some time I have heard practically all the birds that usually come to this corner lot. Last week the Cuckoo came, he is usually the last. For the second summer, the Song Sparrow had disappointed me. Most of the time I hear him only at a distance, instead of just outside the house. But the Northern Yellow-throat has been coming to the honeysuckle bush and that is something new. The Catbird has given some wonderful performances. The Cardinal has come every day and has sung more than usual close to the house. Now he is chattering to his youngsters. He is so solicitous. In two wind storms the wren house came to grief. First it blew down and I had it set back, then the roof blew off. Yesterday a small nephew spent two hours or so in repairing it. Today the wren was singing in the garden for the first time in several weeks."

"The Red-eye sang more than the Warbling Vireo this season. Killdeers come occasionally, but only on a quiet Sunday morning can I hear the meadowlarks across the fields. They and the Bob Whites used to be close all summer. Then the square across from us was an old apple orchard with high grass and bushes. There the Thrashers built their nests. There once I saw a Woodcock and a Water Thrush. Now every one admires the beautifully kept green, but my bird sanctuary is no more."

"In these days when western civilization hangs in the balance, and any moment may touch off the conflagration that may

be the end of one way of living, it may seem trivial to be discussing the bird neighbors of my very small corner of the world. But since you and I cannot do very much about it, I suspect we should as far as we may, go on with our satisfying experiences; trying to live normally, doing what small things we can to help the rest of our world do the same, and saying our prayers, seems to be all most of us can do."

Mrs. Nielson added that short notes from Audubon members would be greatly cherished by this courageous little lady. Address- Miss Mary Beam, 188 Greenfield Street, Tiffin, Ohio.

### THE "LASCA" ARBORETUM AS AN AVISETUM

In the area now known as LASCA - Los Angeles State and County Arboretum - there has been, very probably for thousands of years, a small lake, maintained by perennial springs from which flowed a small brook. It was the site of an Indian village, and the Indian name for the place was "A-hupping-na"-Place of Waters. Plants, especially trees and flowers and birds are so closely interrelated that folks usually associate them in thought and interest. Folks are also aware of the esthetic and economic value of birds. So, when the Southern California Horticultural Institute organized the California Arboretum Foundation, they determined that the Arboretum should also be a Bird Sanctuary. This Arboretum is - if I may coin a word - an Avisetum.

The Arboretum Foundation invited the local Audubon Societies to appoint jointly a representative. This honor fell to me. Now the staff and officers treat the "Bird Man" as a man of importance.

The Arboretum in Arcadia of about 120 acres, with its wooded knoll, park-like areas with high trees, and a five acre lake makes an attractive place for land and water birds. The larger part of the Arboretum will be devoted to shrubs, trees and garden plots. But about 25 acres, including the knoll, park around the old buildings and the lake, will be kept indefinitely in their majestic loveliness as they now are. Fortunately, the lake, fed by perennial springs, provides a little haven for our hard-pressed waterfowl.

(continued on page 23)

## OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Audubon Christmas Party on the first Thursday of December made a lovely beginning for the festivities of the Christmas season. Mrs. Ruth McCune with Mrs. Rose Burch, Mrs. Myfannwy Lewis, Mrs. May Wait and Mrs. Jean Yule, created a beautiful setting for the party with Christmas greens, candle light, silver, lace and holiday goodies. The program was highlighted by Christmas music by boys and girls from John Burroughs Junior High School, directed by Miss Marie Erhardt. Our eyes were delighted with the little cherub in a red dress, our ears by the jingle of real sleigh bells, and our spirits uplifted by the Christmas message from our faithful and devoted member, Miss Miriam Faddis. - Alice Lewis

## THE KESTREL

In last month's Tanager we printed the suggestion made by the Whittier Audubon Society that the name Sparrow Hawk be changed to Grasshopper Hawk. William Lasky writes "I do not like the idea, as all over the world birds of similar species are called Kestrels, so why not AMERICAN KESTREL. The Sparrow Hawk was named by early explorers from England who thought it was the "Sparrow Hawk" or "Spar Hawk" of Europe. It is similar in size, that is all. The European Sparrow Hawk is a short-winged hawk, similar to our Sharp-shinned. The European Kestrel is almost identical to our Sparrow Hawk, even as to markings."

continued from previous page...

"Clover Crest", the 154 acre Monrovia foothill estate of Dr. George Lux, consisting of canyons and hillsides covered with native shrubs and trees, recently acquired by the arboretum, will be a sanctuary for the chaparral birds and wild life.

Local observers have identified 159 species (and subspecies) of birds in the area of the Arboretum, including 39 residents, 12 summer and 20 winter residents, and 93 transients.

It is no empty dream to believe that some time in the not too distant future the Arboretum will be one of the outstanding places in our country. And we are grateful that this beautiful and historic place will always be a Bird Sanctuary. - W. Dan Quattlebaum

## OBSERVATIONS

## DUCKS AND GEESE

Redheads, Canvasbacks, Ring-billed and Scaup, Devil's Gate Dam, November 27, (McCune and Hamer)

Old Squaw, adult male, near Venice, December 20 (Hastings)

4 Black Brant, in the ocean, then on the jetty, Ballona Creek, December 16. (Mr. and Mrs. Baxter)

## HAWKS

On Nov. 25, William Lasky saw a female Marsh Hawk attack a Godwit near the lagoon, Playa del Rey. The Godwit ran into the water and nearly submerged each time the hawk dove at it. Mr. Lasky secured the Godwit and found it had been shot and had a badly mangled wing. White-tailed Kite, Hanson Dam, Nov. 18 (Mrs. Russell Wilson)

## PHALAROPE AND MURRELETS

On Dec. 16, two new members of the Society, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, had a very unusual experience. Near the Ballona Creek jetty they saw a Northern Phalarope, first swimming, then up on the beach. This is the first report for the Tanager of a Phalarope in December since 1941. South of the jetty they found a dead Xanthus Murrelet on the beach, later they saw first 2, then 3 more swimming just beyond the breakers. Beyond, they saw 3 Ancient Murrelets. Possibly the storm earlier in the week was responsible for these unusual visitors.

## WOODPECKERS

A red-naped Sapsucker visiting pepper trees along the street, Santa Monica, Dec. 9 to date (Hastings)

A Red-breasted Sapsucker found dead at the foot of a Eucalyptus, South Pasadena, Dec. 16 (R. Julian) "The tree was "ringed" by sapsuckers about every foot from 40 feet up to near the ground." Nuttall's Woodpecker in the bird bath, returning several times and doing a thorough job of bathing, Sunland, Dec. 10, (Shearer)

## PIGEONS

20 Band-tailed Pigeons roosting in a high tree, S. Pasadena, Dec. 16 (Julian)

SPARROWS AND GROSBEAK - After a high wind, a Fox Sparrow on main highway, two feet from entrance to market, Monrovia, Dec. 17 (Rogers) Evening Grosbeak, female or immature, in yard, L.A. Dec. 16 (McCune)

## WHAT'S GONE ON IN THE SOCIETY

At the afternoon meeting on November 1, the subject was "Hawks and How to Recognize Them." Mr. William Lasky used prepared skins of all the local hawks, eagles and vultures to show the differences and resemblance between them, calling attention to the divisions into which they fall. He also gave an account of the beginnings of falconry and its status at the present time.

While he was talking, his own Prairie Falcon sat hooded on its perch, occasionally shaking herself and her bells. Many tiny ornamented hoods were shown and an explanation of their construction given.

Then Mr. Lasky presented his very enjoyable film, "The Boy and the Eagle." We are indeed grateful to him for bringing to us all that the program entailed, and to Mr. Stager for many of the bird skins.

On November 3, after the Screen Tour picture at John Burroughs High School, your Board of Directors entertained at Audubon House in Plummer Park with a tea in honor of Dr. Oriens and his wife and daughter. We have reason to be proud of our Audubon House, and it fairly sparkled for this event. It is splendid to put it to this new use. If any of our members would like to attend one of these teas for our speakers, please telephone our Vice-president, Miss Pope - WHitney 5946, so that the number of guests can be known in time.

On Wednesday evening, November 14, Mr. George Hastings gave the program on Birds in Order, explaining with the aid of a flannel board on which the names of orders were placed, the most recent arrangement of the orders of birds and the families of the perching birds, with the Crows and their relatives at the high point, replacing the sparrows which enjoyed the place before. Kodachrome slides showed representatives of the orders and families.

On Thursday, the 15th, we had our field trip. Mrs. Enid Michael is not a magician, but she produced many birds for us in the really unfruitful area of Sycamore Park that lies in the area between the Arroyo Freeway and North Fig-

ueroa. Mr. Lawrence, of the Park Department, was most helpful in identifying trees and shrubs for us. The Liquidamber trees were showing their fall colors, and it proves to be the best tree for autumn colors here in the south.

Field trip of Sunday, November 25. Are you working with your society, and are you allowing it to work for you? We can't tell you much about the fun of getting out of the city and indulging in a pleasant hobby with "like-minded" companions. Why not come and find out?

Despite the obstacles encountered in finding the right gate at Chatsworth Reservoir, the group was so enthusiastic over the perfect day, and the locale, that they asked the leader, Mrs. Henry Bush, to repeat the same trip in the spring. A count of thirty-five birds was made. Although most of the waterfowl stayed too far out on the lake for certain identification, Night Herons obligingly flew from tree to tree.

## Study Class of November 29.

If you are a newcomer to the Audubon Society, you may not know that the Thursday Study Class was instituted to prepare members for field observations. I cannot stress enough, how much training one's eyes to see, enriches one's life.

At this meeting Mrs. Scott Lewis gave a truly delightful account of different phases of bird migration, based on the new Fish and Wildlife Circular, No. 16. Mr. Lewis projected photographs he had made of some of the maps from the publication, as Mrs. Lewis spoke of the fly-ways.

Mrs. Bess Hoffman described the distinguishing marks of the swallows and swifts of our region, by which they may be identified in the field. I shall type my notes on the talk and insert them in my book, and finally in my brain, I hope.

Mrs. Ruth McCune reviewed "A Cup of Sky" by Donald Culross Peattie. The charm of the book lies in the manner in which he discusses the common things of life.

Mr. Scott Lewis in his talk and pictures gave the animals common to the pine forests and began a study of the species of Pine in California, showing pictures of the trees and details of their needles and cones. - Mrs. Ruth McCune, Historian

THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Officers -- 1951-1952

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CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1952

The public is invited to the following meetings and trips.  
For further information regarding them call the numbers given.

THURSDAY, January 3.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM MEETING. - Los Angeles County Museum, Exposition Park, 1:30 P.M. The National Convention of the Audubon Society, reported by our delegate, Mrs. DeMay. This account of the work of our National Society will be followed by the interesting picture The Loon's Necklace dramatizing a legend of the northern Indians. WHITney 5946

SUNDAY, January 13.

FIELD TRIP to San Bernardino Warm Springs Sanctuary. This is a change from the trip scheduled for the 27th to the San Gabriel River Sanctuary. We will be the guests of the San Bernardino Audubon Society. Meet at the entrance to the Sanctuary, 1100 South E Street, San Bernardino, at 9. Bring lunch and plan to stay for some lovely wildlife pictures in the afternoon. Mrs. Austin Innes, 5246 Windermere Ave., L.A. 41, has made the arrangements. If additional information is needed, call her in the evening, or call CAPITol 8782.

WEDNESDAY, January 16.

EVENING PROGRAM MEETING. - Los Angeles County Museum, S.E. corner entrance, 7:30 P.M. Let's Go Afield, Mr. Roland C. Ross of Los Angeles City College. As Mr. Ross is known as one of the most successful and inspiring field leaders in our area this should be an unusually fine meeting. This is a joint meeting with the Nature Study Workshop. HEMPstead 0974

THURSDAY, January 17.

FIELD TRIP to MacArthur Park. Meet by the lake near the corner of Alvarado and Wilshire at 9 A.M., for a study of birds, especially gulls and ducks, under the leadership of Miss I. E. Blind, and of some of the 49 species of trees growing in the park. Bring lunch. AXminster 1-7855

THURSDAY, January 24.

STUDY CLASS - Plummer Park, 10 A.M. Take P.E. trolley, Santa Monica-West Hollywood line to Fuller Ave., walk west one block. 1st hour, Pines of California, with kodachromes by Mr. W. Scott Lewis. 2nd hour, Sparrows of our area, Mr. W. Dan Quattlebaum. Book review, Birds of the Bible, Miss Patterson. GRANite 9312

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THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

664 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte - Telephone FORrest 0-1872

Mrs. O. M. Stultz, Director ..... Mrs. E. Gertrude Woods, Assistant Director  
Maintained by the National Audubon Society, with the cooperation of the Southern California branches and affiliated societies.

Regular field trips the second Sunday of each month, starting from the entrance at 9 A.M. Come and bring your friends. For information call CRESTview 6-1990.