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Western Tanager



PUBLISHED MONTHLY, SEPTEMBER TO MAY
BY THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume 19

September, 1952

Number 1

A GREETING FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In this Tanager you will read something of last year's activities, and I hope you are as pleased with our progress as I am. This year promises to be just as fine. The program committees have already lined up some outstanding speakers and films, the field trips will be to favorite areas and some new ones, and our new equipment will enable us to be of more service to those who call on us for information and training in birdstudy.

I would like to extend an invitation to the members of the Society to attend the Board meetings, where the business of the Society is transacted. Your ideas will be most welcome. With all of us working together we will be able to accomplish great things for conservation and wildlife this year.

-- Maybelle DeMay

EXPANDING HORIZONS

By the breadth of the blue that shines in silence o'er me,
By the length of the mountain lines that stretch before me,
(Oh, how the sight of the things that are great enlarges the eyes!)
Lead me out of the narrow life to the peace of the hills and the skies.

So sings Henry VanDyke in "God of the Open Air." In the May-June number of the Audubon Magazine a stimulating article by Guy Emerson - New Horizons in Ecology - started me thinking of how our horizons expand as we grow older. The horizon is, of course, the line where the sky seems to meet the earth, a perfect circle when we stand on a level plain or are out at sea on a calm day. Then the horizon is only about two and a half miles away (more if we are on a boat and above the water level), but as we reach greater heights the horizon expands rapidly. We thrill at the far views when we are in the mountains, we are in a larger world and our spirits expand with the great distances we see. But our horizons are also of the mind's eyes, with these we can see far places with unfamiliar peoples and animals, we can see not only great distances but into other times. In our reading we not only travel to distant places but we can have as guides and friends the great minds of the world.

In our Screen Tours this season we will visit the fantastic Four Corners where nature has worked wonders on the mountains and rock masses; we will see the tremendous numbers of birds on Benaventure Island; we will travel through the high mountains and visit the cliffs of our own coast, seeing birds in places inaccessible to us.

In our afternoon and evening programs and study classes we will enlarge our horizons, as we see things beyond our ordinary experiences, or gain insight into the lives of birds, mammals and plants with which we have only casual acquaintance.

As our horizons expand our lives become fuller and richer, though the riches are not marked by a dollar sign. Here is one of the great rewards for growing older. Now is the time to "Build more stately mansions."

--George T. Hastings

THE WESTERN Tanager

Published monthly, Sept.-May, by the
Los Angeles Audubon Society, Inc.
\$1.00 per year, free to all members.
Editor, George T. Hastings, 517 Euclid,
Santa Monica, Phone EXbrook 5-1137
Associate Editor -- Leoti Fisher

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
Membership

Joint with the National Audubon Society
Regular \$5.00, -Sustaining \$10.00 -
Active \$25 - All include subscription
to Audubon Magazine.
Local Membership: Student \$1.00 -
Annual \$2.00 - Life \$25.00 - Patron \$100

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YEAR BOOK AND LIST OF MEMBERS

This year our Year Book will not have the
list of members, this will be published
later in mimeographed form and sold to
those who desire it. To make sure the
list is correct will any member who finds
the address on the Tanager incorrect please
notify the editor on a post card.

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Miss Alda Van Pappelendam,
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The Los Angeles Audubon Society in 1951-52

Following is a very brief summary of the annual reports of officers and committee chairmen of the Society.

Mrs. DeMay, our president, was our official delegate to the conventions of the National Audubon Society in New York and the California societies at Asilomar. At the latter there were 25 representatives from our Society. Our afternoon and evening programs and the study classes were all of high quality. Miss Patterson, executive secretary prepared our Yearbook, wrote letters for the Society to members of Congress and to city officials regarding legislation affecting conservation. Our treasurer, Miss Russell, reports a successful year financially. Total receipts for the year were \$3952.60. Of this \$1055 was from membership dues of all kinds, \$1891.50 was received from the Screen Tours Club, most of which went to pay the expenses of the lectures. The Laura Greely Educational Fund received \$483.50, mostly from donations. Expenditures totalled \$3262.16, of which \$1418.49 went to the Screen Tours Club. The Western Tanager cost \$713.29, The Year Book \$170.10, and \$165.42 was spent by the Laura Greely fund, nearly all for scholarships. The remainder of the expenses was for a great number of small items necessary to the work of the Society. Income exceeded expenditures for the year by \$690.49. Our membership at the end of the year stood at 614, reported Mrs. Fulton, our Registrar of Members. Of these 380 have joint memberships with the National Society, one of these is a Life Member and 19 are Sustaining Members of the National. 33 of our local members are Life, 2 are Patron, 6 Honorary and 6 Complimentary Members. With deep regret we record the loss of eleven members through death.

Mr. James M. Brennan
Mrs. Elizabeth T. Crane
Mrs. W. E. Haines
Mrs. Reginald W. Julian
Miss Alice M. McQuarrie

Mrs. Frederick H. Pattee
Mrs. Marth E. Rand
Dr. Gladys Patric Shakovitch
Dr. S. E. Warner
Mrs. Warner

Mr. Wilber F. Willis

During the year Mrs. McCune, the historian, has compiled a nature history book, which has been dedicated to Mrs. Wilber Willis and placed in our Library in Plummer Park. The Society took part again in the Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society with Robert Pyle taking charge. In spite of a day with intermittent showers, 150 species and 43,295 individual birds were recorded, our most successful count and ranking first in the United States.

Miss Leoti Fisher, our associate editor, has summarized the reports of committee chairmen. For the Conservation Committee Mr. Robert Pyle reports that the result of the hearing on the application to divert water from the Buena Vista Lagoon was denied. This saves the Bird Sanctuary at Carlsbad. Assembly Bill 1665, directing the State Department of Beaches and Parks to acquire the area for a state park was recently passed by the Legislature but vetoed by the governor. In March the Wildlife Conservation Board allocated sufficient funds to acquire the area as a bird sanctuary. Mr Pyle also reports that the Society has an opportunity to aid in having part of the area surrounding Hansen Dam and reservoir set aside as a nature sanctuary, to be under the direction of our Society. Various members of our society have visited Hansen Dam with Mr. Pyle and agreed on a suitable site for the sanctuary. It has been decided that the Society should present a complete outline of the manner in which the area should be used, emphasizing the services that could be offered to the community, to the Department of Recreation and Parks of Los Angeles, which Department now controls the area.

The Laura Greely Educational Fund raised over \$400.00 through a birthday party and by special donations. In addition it received a slide projector as a gift. A birthday party was held at the Walt Disney studio where three nature films were shown, - Nature's Half Acre, Olympic Elk and Waterbirds. The Society is grateful to the studio for this courtesy. Three half and one full scholarship were awarded to the Audubon Camp at Norden.

Continued on next page.

A CHARGE TO OUR MEMBERS

At the meeting of June 5 at Charlton Flats our officers for this year were formally installed. After a charge had been given the officers, Mrs. Hastings charged the members as follows:-You, the members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society are charged to support these officers you have elected in every way possible. To help with suggestions and plans for improving the work of the Society. To attend whenever possible the meetings and trips. To further the aims of the Society by availing yourselves of every opportunity to educate others in the importance of conservation of our natural resources and in pressing for conservation legislation. To refrain from finding fault with or criticising our officers except where improvement can be made, and then to bring the criticisms to the officers themselves. And let us all look forward to and plan for the coming year that it may be one of continuing advancement for the Society and the causes for which it stands.

Reports of the Committees-Continued

Our headquarters had a face-lifting during the year;-the walls were painted, a porch was added and the grounds cleared and seeded. Two new tenants of the grounds were a pair of Hooded Orioles. The Screen Tours Club had a membership of 1,296. Following the Saturday lectures, teas were held in Audubon House in honor of each lecturer, at which members had the pleasure of meeting the lecturers informally. During the year 13 field trips were conducted with 387 members and guests participating, and more than 216 species of birds identified.

The Nature Workshop was as successful as in other years. Again many members helped in making this an outstanding feature of our Society's work, but it was Mrs. Mary Hood who planned and directed the work as she has done since this work was started.

Mr. Hastings did his usual fine work on The Tanager. In addition to the usual observations and articles of general interest there were included monthly reports from the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary and from Griffith Park.

Mrs. Salmon reported that there were 203 books in our library in addition to many magazines and government reports valuable

for reference. Bird talks were given to a large number of young people at Plummer Park and classes held for boy and girl scouts by Mrs. Salmon and her helpers. 20 Boy Scouts passed the requirements for the Bird Study Merit badge. Other scouts won the badge at the Sanctuary where Mrs. Stultz and Mrs. Woods gave instruction and led field trips, and in Santa Monica where Mr. Hastings had spring and fall bird classes for scouts.

OBSERVATIONS

Venice marsh: no Egrets seen in July or early August, 2 American and 2 Snowy, Aug. 23.

Fresh water was being pumped into the pools the last week in July and barley was being scattered so the Gun Club property is now closed to visitors.

The warden reports that over 2000 pintail ducks have come in. Many Black-necked Stilts and a few Northern Phalaropes, Aug. 23; Caspian Terns, a few Royal and Forester's on the beach and in the marsh, but no Elegant. Many Black-bellied Plover, most in transition plumage, Aug. 16; Black Turnstone at Ballona Creek jetty, Aug. 16 (H)

Salton Sea: Pat Gould and Bill Hawkins on Aug. 17 saw 100 Fulvous Tree Ducks in a flooded alfalfa field. The warden at the refuge told them these ducks were still laying eggs. They also saw 30 Wood Ibis and were told they were increasing in numbers each year. Others of the more than 50 birds seen were 110 Black-necked Stilts; 7 Wilson's Phalaropes; 4 Gull-billed and 1 Black Tern.

Geese: two flocks flying high in V formation above Rosemead, Aug. 13 (G)

Flycatcher: Trail's Sanctuary, Aug. 2 (G)

Warblers: Yellow, Aug. 2; Calaveras, Aug. 10, Sanctuary, (G)

Eagle Rock: Miss Curry reports Black-chinned Hummingbirds visiting Abelia flowers daily in July and August; Titmice with young ones in the yard in early June and again in mid July; Black-headed Grosbeaks feeding young, July 14-19; Linnets, Wrentits, San Diego Towhees, California Towhees and California Thrasher: all come with young to be fed in July and August.