

Western Tanager



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AUDUBON YOUTH GROUPS

By Elsa Schwartz

Under the qualified leadership of the Co-ordinator of Audubon Youth Groups, Irma Hecht, a very active and constructive program has been launched in the various childrens' Hospitals, the "outpatients" and "orthopedic" of Childrens' and the Shriners Crippled Childrens' Hospital on Virgil.

We have been reaching many children and furthering our Conservation and Nature programs. May Wait, our first weekly speaker at Childrens' Outpatient Hospital, brought bird skins and told the children about them. The following week Elsa Schwartz talked to the children about "hummers", delighting the 3500 more in the ward by showing them the mounted specimens, including the tiny nests and eggs. Miss Bess Pope was our next speaker and brought a basket of flowers from her garden, featuring those with girl and boy names, such as Daisy, Rose, etc. The children asked if they might give her a flower name and it was Dandelion.

Rose Kahn spoke on gardening and tree grafting and Clara Pflager talked about the mockingbird and distributed bird cards to be colored by the children. At one meeting, Irma Hecht spoke on the world we live in and briefly on spiders and stars - showing leaves and having contests, with prizes given. (Her interest item was the trap-door spider's nest.) Another time, Elsa spoke on the life cycle of a butterfly, the Monarch, and again on our predators, the owls. Dr. Phillips, of Glendale, was the opening speaker at "Orthopedic." She brought the bird records and talked to the children about the various birds whose songs were recorded.

Wednesday afternoon, July 11th, Dr. Harvey from State College, and Elsa, entertained the fifty or more children at the Shriners Hospital - most of them were wheeled into the auditorium in beds by nurses or attendants, others came on crutches, in wheel chairs, and there were several amputees (with both legs off below the knee, some had an arm or leg in traction, others were in arm or leg casts, and one boy of 11 years, with a broken back, was strapped to his bed, flat on his stomach, only able to raise his head and shoulders). Dr. Harvey showed colored slides of Yosemite and Sequoia with the deer feeding and wild flowers, Lake Tahoe, San Francisco with its Chinatown at night, and Fisherman's wharf with its many interesting boats at anchor.

Elsa talked about owls - the night crew of the bird world - with their mouse-trap talons, keen eyesight and sharp ears that can hear a field mouse scampering in the meadow. Our question and answer period brought several to the joint question, "What do they mean by 'Wise as an owl?'" and "What bird lives the longest?"

It is most gratifying to work with these children. Bless them! They are so attentive and patient in spite of their many handicaps. One feels that anything which contributes to the entertainment, diversion and knowledge of these children is time well spent indeed.

THE WESTERN TANGER

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 Editor.....Mrs. Fern Shelford
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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

Organized 1910 Incorporated 1951
 "To promote the study and protection of
 birds and other wildlife, plants, soil
 and water."

MEMBERSHIP

Joint with National Audubon Society- in-
 cludes subscription to Audubon Magazine.
 Regular \$5; Sustaining \$10; Active \$25;
 Supporting \$50; Student \$2.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year the Los Angeles Audubon Society has a golden opportunity to save a portion of the fast disappearing Marsh-land habitat and to establish a permanent sanctuary. This is an opportunity that must not be lost. At the same time your Society is starting out with a handicap and needs the support of its members as never before.

In past years the Los Angeles City Schools have graciously allowed us the use of Virgil and John Burroughs Junior High Schools for our "Screen Tours," free of charge. Because of a new state law regarding the use of the schools by any organization, the Board of Education is forced to charge us \$47.70 per "tour", which brings the amount to a total of \$470.00 for the ten Screen Tours. Also this year the National Audubon Society increased the lecture fee by \$100.00. This is quite a blow to your treasury.

What money has been left over after expenses have been met has been used for scholarships to the Audubon Camp, the upkeep of our equipment and the purchase from time to time of new equipment.

We are fortunate in having the Screen Tours, as only two hundred cities in the United States are able to have this fine program. During the past years our "Tour" support has come mostly from outside sources, now we are sending an S.O.S. to our members.

These are your Screen Tours. If you cannot attend, buy a season ticket as a gift, or if you are going alone take a friend. I believe we are all interested in protecting our wildlife or we would not belong to the Audubon Society. Maybe a gift of a Junior season ticket to some youngster might persuade him to protect the birds, trees, water and soil which is part of his heritage.

Charlotte McBride

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Roberts,
 121 W. Ave. 28, Los Angeles 31, Cal.
 Mr. Colin C. Simpson,
 2401 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles 57
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Wilking,
 10015 Willis Ave., San Fernando, Cal.
 Mrs. Wyckoff, Director Plummer Park,
 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles

CONSERVATION NOTES

By Robert Blackstone

No word has been heard for many months of any further developments in the long struggle to prevent the building of a tramway on the slopes of Mt. San Jacinto. Joe Momyer, Chairman of the San Jacinto Action Committee of the Sierra Club, warns however, writing in the latest issue of THE ALERT, that the present contract between the Winter Park Authority and the State Park Commission expires January 1, 1957 unless a million dollars in bonds are sold by that time, or a further extension of the contract is granted. "As there is no evidence," says Mr. Momyer, "of successful sale of that quantity of bonds by the Authority, it is assumed that they will request consideration soon of a further extension of their contract by the State Park Commission. This application must be considered by the State Park Commission at a public hearing." It is hoped that this Society can be represented there. It might be worth noting before leaving the subject, that the present contract is a five year extension of the original contract under the terms of the Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority Act of 1945.

Also from THE ALERT, through the Desert Protective Council, we learn of the approval for sale of a subdivision of 160 acres of privately owned land within the boundaries of Joshua Tree National Monument. The National Park Service has planned to acquire the private holdings within the Monument, as funds become available. The Council recommends that the area proposed for subdivision be acquired immediately, or that a plan to halt the sale be adopted. YOU can help by writing to Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., and requesting that steps be taken at once to acquire this property.

It is common knowledge that the water-fowl situation in the U. S. is critical; authorities are pretty unanimous in the belief that, if action is not taken in the next 5 to 10 years at the latest, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Engineers and farm subsidies will have wiped out any suitable waterfowl habitat left

in the U.S. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has conducted a two year inventory of America's wetlands, and the results are published in the report, "Wetlands of the United States--Their Extent and Their Value to Waterfowl and Other Wildlife." Those interested can obtain a copy of this report, which is Fish and Wildlife Circular No. 39, by sending to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. The price is \$1.00 per copy.

CONSERVATION WORKSHOP ANNOUNCED

A "Conservation Workshop", as announced in the Society's Yearbook, will be held Tuesday evening, October 23, at 8 P.M., at Audubon House in Plummer Park. The purpose of this meeting will be the discussion of conservation problems, and means of making the Los Angeles Audubon Society a more vital force in conservation. Mr. Robert E. Blackstone will serve as chairman. Anyone interested in conservation, whether a member of this Society or not, is cordially invited to attend and to take part in the discussions. It is intended that this meeting, if successful, be a regular monthly feature.

INVITATION TO LAWLESSNESS

On a TV program recently the announcer said something to this effect--"You have all noticed the tremendous increase in the number of mockingbirds recently. They have become a menace to small children, dogs and cats. While we know that to kill birds with rifle or sling shot is against the law, still we think they might do something to remedy the situation."

How many of us have noticed this tremendous increase? Our Christmas count last year recorded 443 mockingbirds. In the 1945 count there was 163. While this is an increase of 270% the total count last year was 60% higher and the number of house finches 563% higher than 10 yrs. ago. And have any of us heard of a child being injured by a mocker? We have all seen one dive at a person, dog or cat when it came near the nest and have known of a dog or cat losing a little fur from its back, but I am sure our sympathy is all with the birds. We surely deplore what seems like an invitation to kill these songsters and to break the law.

LEST WE FORGET

I have just bought a new refill for my pen and am also well supplied with stamps and envelopes. So you see, I am all set to send out many more Screen Tour tickets. How about it? Has your application been mailed to me yet?

Well, here I sit, pen in hand, ready to mail your tickets to you just as soon as your order is received.

There is nothing to be gained by procrastination. Why not make out your check right now while you are thinking about it and be rewarded by not having to stand in line the day of the first lecture.

Bessie M. Pope.

NOW HEAR THIS! NOW HEAR THIS!

A wonderful treat is planned for the November Study Class. Because Thanksgiving Day comes on Thursday, the 22nd, this meeting has been moved to the Tuesday before, November 20th. Mark the change on your calendar. Come and bring your friends.

On that day, Mr. Jens Knudsen, a zoologist-photographer associated with the Hancock Foundation of the University of Southern California, will show Kodachrome slides of bird and animal life taken around the islands of Mexico.

Olive Alvey.

AUDUBON HOUSE is in need of book shelves in which to place the magazines in our library section. If you have one stored in the attic or basement which you would like to donate, or if anyone would like to donate material and labor to build one to size for us, please contact Mrs. Wilson Thursdays, 1 to 4, at Audubon House or call Poplar 1-7635.

MR. PAUL LINDAU reports that he and his family had the opportunity, during the nesting season, of watching and photographing fourteen robins' nests in the sycamore trees in their neighborhood. The parent birds fed their young with worms from the lush spacious lawns in the vicinity.

RULES FOR BORROWING AUDUBON SLIDES

There have always been rules governing the borrowing of the color slides which belong to the Society, but in the past they have not been strictly enforced because only a few persons used the slides. Now, however, with our expanding youth work, and with a much greater number of speakers giving illustrated talks to garden clubs, at hospitals, old people's homes, etc., it becomes necessary to reiterate the rules for the use of the Society's slides and projectors and to announce that we must hereafter enforce these rules strictly.

Mrs. J. E. P. Dunn will have charge of all slides and projectors. If at any time you wish to use any slides in your work for the Society, follow this procedure:

1. Call Mrs. Dunn (WE 9-7403) well in advance of the time you wish them to be sure they will not be in use on that date.
2. Make an appointment with her to call at her home (1119 South Highland Ave.) to select the slides you wish.
3. Fill in on the sheet she will give you the numbers of the slides you choose and sign the sheet with your name, address and telephone number, together with the date you are taking the slides, the date you expect to use them and the date they are to be returned.
4. Return all slides and projectors within two days after date of use unless special arrangements have been made with Mrs. Dunn. Under no circumstances should either slides or projectors be retained by the borrower for longer than one week.
5. All slides and equipment are expected to be returned in good condition.

It is hoped that, if all members who use the Society's slides and projectors will follow these instructions carefully our library of slides will be able to give the greatest amount of use and pleasure to the greatest possible number of people.

COMMITTEE ON SLIDES AND PROJECTORS.

All calls and messages for the President may be left with Miss Bessie Pope, telephone WE 4-5946.

PELAGIC PLEASURE CRUISE

The Pelagic Boat Trip on September 9th was the smoothest and one of the most rewarding voyages that we have had. While residents on shore sweltered in a heat wave, we enjoyed a warm sun with perpetual breezes.

After picking up bait for chumming, our boat, the Linda Lee, headed westward toward the island sanctuary of Anacapa. As we neared this fortress of Western Gulls, Cormorants and Pelicans, we were greeted with their loud cries of defiance, lending an air of mystery to this ancient haven.

Cruising to the north end of the island we came upon our national emblem, the Bald Eagle, perched majestically atop a peak. This was his domain and he was its king and ruler. Below and along the rugged shoreline we flushed dozens of Kingfishers, many Oyster Catchers and a number of Wandering Tattlers and Spotted Sandpipers, with two Black Turnstones.

Coming to the channel we made a wide arc westward to the open sea terminating on the southern tip of Santa Cruz island. On this circular tour of the open sea we encountered a number of Pink Footed and Sooty Shearwaters. They were a welcome sight but our prize quest was yet to come. Upon reaching the south tip of the immense island of Santa Cruz we spotted an Osprey, the first we had seen on these islands though they had once nested here.

This still was not our primary quest, as with high hopes we headed north along the east coast of the island where we saw Ravens, Sparrow Hawks and many pelagic and Brandt Cormorants. Entering a sheltered cove we came as close to the shore as possible and turned off the engine. The hills were mantled with oaks and we waited patiently, several times having our hopes shattered by the appearance of sparrow hawks. The two birds, with a characteristic pitching flight flew across a clearing and a cry of "Santa Cruz Jay" arose. We could hear their raucous calls and as if this were not enough we spotted an individual bird perched on an oak, close to the water not two hundred yards away.

The views were quite rewarding. The bird is much like our California Jay but larger, brighter and more raucous in voice. It is found only on Santa Cruz Island.

We now headed east toward the mainland. Some ten miles off the coast of Santa Barbara we came upon a flock of Shearwaters. A few of these white bellied birds were different from the other Pink-footed individuals. These few had black primaries contrasting sharply with the light brown-grey tone of the rest of the mantle. This, coupled with the white underparts, fits the general description of the very rare New Zealand Shearwater which has been taken and observed off the coast around Monterey each fall - usually October. If the experts decide that these few were New Zealand Shearwaters, we on the boat were rewarded with a sight of a wonderful, wandering rarity from far across the blue Pacific.

Does it sound fascinating and enjoyable to you? To us it was an adventure-filled voyage we won't soon forget. Our next pelagic trip will come around the first of March. Will you be a passenger? Notices will be out in plenty of time for reservations. Don't miss out again!

For information write:

Mr. John Tramontano,
6831 Thornlake Avenue,
Whittier 1, Calif. OX 5-2023

Let's put SCREEN TOURS over the top!
It depends on YOU.

FIELD TRIP of September 8 was much enjoyed by the group who braved the valley heat to journey to Mount Wilson. Mr. Childs, owner of the Mount Wilson Hotel, was very cordial. He invited the 24 members to have lunch under the trees where the birds' feeding trays are set up. In spite of the heat, there were many birds, so many in fact one member remarked that it was hard not to step on them. There were approximately 100 Western Blue Birds, the same number of Chickadees and 50 Stellar Jays. It was a fine opportunity to study many birds at close range.

Olive Alvey

OBSERVATIONS

Caroline H. Daugherty

DUCKS: Hansen Dam-5 Cinnamon Teal, Sept. 12. (D)

SHOREBORDS: Returning. Malibu Creek- Flocks Black-bellied Plover, some in breeding plumage; 1 Spotted Sandpiper, Playa del Rey oil well canal area-many Semipalmated Plover, 3 Hudsonian Curlew, 4 Greater Yellow-legs, flocks Long-billed Dowitchers, many Western Sandpipers. Sept. 8 (D)

GULLS: Along shore were Western and a few California and Ring-billed. Heermans abundant everywhere. Sept. 8. (D)

LAND BIRDS: Tapia Park-abundant with birds on hot Sept. 8. Willow and Calif. Woodpeckers, W. Flycatchers, Titmice, several flocks Bush-tits, 3 White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-tits, House and Bewick's Wrens, Western Bluebirds, Yellow Warbler, House Finch, Gr.-backed Goldfinch, Spotted and Brown Towhees. (D)

LITTLE ROCK, ANTELOPE VALLEY Ranch of the J. B. Benson's-Ruth reported: Scores Horned Larks come close in around their trailer. (Horned Larks also in Hansen Dam area-Sept. 12). (D)

Ruth tells of large covey Valley Quail, 2 Roadrunners, Cactus Wrens and Desert Sparrows coming for water and feed and how they seem to take time out from gleaning for food to play. Sept. 10.

WAXWINGS: Small flock Cedar Waxwings seen by May Wait, Sept. 5-Van Nuys. Unusual early return.

MOCKINGBIRDS: (Calif.) **SHRIKE:** Several of each living in close association in large brush pile-San Fernando valley all catching insects together. Sept. 9. (D)

ORIOLES: Hooded: Adult and young last seen Aug. 28, by O. & E. Bauer, LA.

ALBINO: 1 All white English Sparrow, Sunland yard all summer. Very shy(D)

WATCH NOW FOR: Returning Wild Ducks, shore birds, Terns, Hermit Thrush, Juncos, Gambel's and Golden Crowned Sparrows.

NEW DEAL FOR A RARE SEAL
(From Life, July 1956)

Last month a California fur seal that had no right to be real sat sunning itself on its ancient ancestral home, desolate Guadalupe Island off Lower California. Long pronounced extinct, the species once numbered in the millions and populated the offshore islands as far north as San Francisco, overlapping the wintering grounds of the Alaska fur seal. Then, exactly 150 years ago, a British whaler put in to one of the islands, carried off 8,338 California fur seal skins and launched a booming business. In later years the friendly, gregarious animals were hunted so relentlessly that by 1890 a San Diego captain reported only four seals left - on Guadalupe. In 1928 a survey party found none.

Then, in 1954 Dr. Carl Hubbs set out from Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla in "the forlorn hope" that a few fur seals might still remain on Guadalupe. He was overjoyed to find 14. Last month another Scripps expedition, headed by Dr. Raymond Gilmore, sailed to the island to count the bewhiskered noses, counted 92 adults from their boat and reported happily that the California fur seal now seemed to be well along the road back to survival.

A REMINDER - Books available in our Sales department:

"Birds of the Pacific States"

Ralph Hoffman

"Field Guide to Western Birds"

Roger Tory Peterson

"Outdoor Hazards-Real and Fancied"

Mary V. Hood

Other titles will be ordered on request. All profits go to the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Chairman of Sales - Mrs. Ida Kizler

Don't say "I wish I had", say "I'm glad I did."

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS.

FOUND - a perfect Christmas gift for a friend or the whole family - AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS.

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1380 Veteran Avenue, Los Angeles 24, California

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER, 1956

October 2 - Tuesday, EVENING MEETING, Long Hall, Plummer Park at 8 p.m.,
7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Talk - "PHOTOGRAPHING OUR NATIVE BIRDS"
by Mr. Don Bleitz.

October 13 - Saturday, FIELD TRIP to Playa del Rey for the study of shore
and marsh birds. Take Metropolitan Coach Co. bus at 5th and
Olive at 8:50 - arrive at Playa del Rey at 9:36. Meet at south
end of lagoon. Bring binoculars and lunch. All welcome.
Leader, Mrs. Clara Splitter.

October 18 - Thursday, FIELD TRIP to Playa del Rey. Shore birds will be
returning to their nesting grounds and some may still be seen
in their nuptial plumage. Meet at the picnic grounds near the
station at 9 a.m. Those coming by bus take Metropolitan Coach
Co. bus at 5th and Olive. One bus leaves at 7:10 a.m. - arriv-
ing at 7:45. Another leaves at 8:50, arriving at 9:36. Bus
travels south on Figueroa and west on Slauson.

October 25 - Thursday, STUDY CLASS at 10 a.m. in Long Hall, Plummer Park,
7377 Santa Monica Blvd. "HOW THE BIRDS AND PLANTS GOT THEIR
NAMES." by Mr. George T. Hastings.

October 28 - Sunday, FIELD TRIP to Sespe Canyon to see the Condors. Group
will meet at 8 a.m. at Tip's Restaurant at Castaic Junction.
This is the intersection where you turn off U.S. Highway 99 to
take State Highway 126 to Fillmore. Bring lunch.
Leader, Jim Huffman, Phone FRontier 2-7124.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

October 16 - Tuesday. Virgil Junior High School at 7:45 p.m., 153 Vermont Ave.

October 20 - Saturday. John Burroughs Junior High School at 2:00 p.m., 600
South McCadden Place.

Subject: "LAND OF THE SCARLET MACAW", by Ernest P. Edwards.