

# Western Tanager



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## HUMMINGBIRDS

It started three years ago, the summer of 1954. My wife and I had visited the Tucker Sanctuary and saw all those wonderful hummingbirds. We bought one of the five ounce "Tucker" hummingbird feeders.

During the several years we have lived here, in the east end of Eagle Rock, fairly near the rock itself, we had occasionally seen a hummer so I had hopes that we might attract one or two. I placed the bottle with its red sugar solution among the flowers in the back yard. For four weeks not a bird came for a drink. Meanwhile, each week we kept changing to a fresh solution.

Then one day, to our great joy, an Anna discovered and drank from the bottle. A few days later another followed suit and then another. The three or possibly four drank up the contents of the bottle in three or four days. One or two more joined the procession and during that winter they consumed an average of a bottle a day.

As the year went along a few more found and drank from the bottles and by the summer of 1955 they were drinking three bottles daily. The first of April several Black Chins arrived but it was not until the end of the summer that they too discovered and drank from the bottles. The Black Chins left, but through that winter more of the Annas came and the consumption of syrup went up to four and five bottles a day.

Now we come to the summer of 1956. According to my records the Black Chins came back on March 25th. They must have been the same ones from a previous year for they went straight to the feeders and now consumption went up to six bottles a day.

On August 29th the first Allen's appeared on their southward migration. From then until October 2nd half a dozen more Allen's fed regularly and the consumption went up to the fantastic figure of eight bottles a day. After the Allen's left it dropped back to six a day where it now stands as of this month, December.

All during the summer and even now a Costa has been coming to drink. He can be spotted at once as his violet-amethyst throat shows up instantly among the red throats of the Anna's.

So what started out as a hope of attracting one hummingbird or two has now developed into something I never dreamed would happen.

Anyone interested is welcome to come and see the show. The latter part of the afternoon is when they appear in greatest numbers. Our telephone is Clinton 5-5784.

----Ray E. Gardner, 5218 Monte Bonito Dr., Eagle Rock, Calif.

One of the world's most amazing phenomena is the Douglas fir tree, most popular of the nation's commercial lumber species, found at its best along the north Pacific coast. It takes 40,000 seeds of this great tree to make a pound, yet it may reach a size hundreds of feet tall and width of 15 feet. Tallest Douglas fir tree known was found on Vancouver Island in 1895. It was 147 feet tall, 25 feet in diameter and had bark 16 inches thick.

THE WESTERN Tanager

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Editor.....Mrs. Fern Sheiford
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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,
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AUDUBON HOUSE

Wednesday.....2-4 p.m.
Thursday.....2-4 p.m.
Saturday.....2-4 p.m.
1st Tuesday.....7:30-8 p.m.
4th Thursday (Members only).....1-4 p.m.
Groups by appointment.....POplar 1-7635

Everyone at Audubon House wishes to
thank all the members at the Christmas
party for their donations of food for the
birds. A great variety was received;
also some money to replenish the supply
at a later date.

"ANIMALS AT NIBBET" IN COLOR" by
Howard Cleaves is the subject for the next
Audubon Screen Tour, Tuesday evening, Jan-
uary 8 and Saturday afternoon, January 12.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the coming year I hope we will
see many new faces, either at a meeting
or on a field trip. Remember, our boat
trips are not only informative but are
loads of fun. If you have not been out
to meet us, please try and come out some-
time in the near future.

It is now time to look forward to
April and the Audubon Biennial Pacific
Coast Convention at Astillomar, April 13-16.
Make your plans and reservations now.

Also this April the Cooper Ornithol-
ogical Club is holding its annual meet-
ing in Los Angeles, from the 26th to the
28th. The Los Angeles Audubon Society is
very proud to be co-sponsors with U.C.L.A.
and the Los Angeles County Museum.

Watch your "Tanager" for reminders
about both. A happy and interesting New
Year to each and every member,

Charlotte McBride

THE GYPSIES OF LONG ISLAND

Long Island is noted for many things,
but for anyone who has known the Josiah
Keeleys, their garden near Huntington,
Long Island is the choicest spot of all.
Even in autumn this garden is a lovely
place. Its fine old trees and shrubs sur-
round the big house and just beyond is
evidence of a flourishing vegetable gar-
den. Concrete evidence of its bounty was
stored away in shining glass jars for win-
ter use. There were bushel baskets brim-
ming over with red apples and yet there
were plenty hanging on the trees and on
the ground for the birds' enjoyment. Birds
were singing and bathing, although there
was a light rain falling.

Scores of White-throated Sparrows
were signing their beautiful but melon-
choly "Old Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody"
song. Chickadees added their cheery
greetings and the thin high-pitched call
of the Golden-crowned Kinglets helped me
locate them in the tree tops. There were
several Blue Jays feeding in the beech
tree and their flashes of blue as they
chased each other added a beautiful touch
of color.

The Cardinal and the Robins claimed our attention as long as they remained in sight. A Downy Woodpecker called and then flew by and sang. Sparrows were common. A few of the Starlings still had their yellow bills. They were waddling about on their short legs making a rustling sound in the dry leaves, all talking at once.

It was just cold and dark enough outside to make the call to luncheon welcome. A bottle of blackberry wine, made by the Keeleys and saved for a festive occasion was shared in front of the roaring fire in the living room and then a feast by candlelight.

Nine years had passed since we visited the Keeleys and it was good to see them surrounded by their children and grandchildren and themselves quite unchanged. They send warmest greetings to their many friends in the Los Angeles Audubon Society and we may well hope to have them with us again some day.

Note: The Keeleys are affectionately called the gypsies by their friends, because their car "Betsy" had travelled all over Europe and made many trips across the United States, visiting and camping in every state in the Union.

-----Alma Stultz

#### NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME

Miss Harriet J. Allyn,  
1157 No. Vista St., Los Angeles 46  
Mr. R. E. Borchgrevink,  
3702 So. Patton Ave., San Pedro  
Miss Victoria Chaney,  
932 Tiverton Ave., Los Angeles 24  
Miss Mildred Ann Cline,  
15274 Sutton St., Sherman Oaks  
Miss Helen F. Connors,  
1618 So. Hauser Blvd., Los Angeles 19  
Mrs. Genevra P. W. Davis,  
855 No. Ave. 50, Los Angeles 42  
Rev. & Mrs. Lewis E. R. Durham,  
130 No. Hillcrest Blvd., Inglewood  
Miss Martha Farwell,  
1446 No. Martel Ave., Hollywood 46  
Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Fleming,  
120-1/2 No. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles 4  
Miss Eleanor V. Hoefler,  
1350 So. Bonnie Brae, Los Angeles 6  
Mr. Carl Gustaf Holmgran,  
5405 Carlton Way, Hollywood 27

Miss Rose L. Kahn,  
721 No. Camden Dr., Beverly Hills  
Mr. Frank Little,  
536 Las Casas, Pacific Palisades  
Alan Bee Meyerfeld,  
9309 Denker Ave., Los Angeles 47  
Mrs. Harvey S. Mudd,  
1240 Benedict Canon Dr., Beverly Hills  
Miss Edna Lee Roof,  
328 Pasadena Ave., South Pasadena  
Mr. Earl Rugraff,  
5823 Repetto Ave., E. Los Angeles 22  
Miss Florence W. Vandermast,  
2523 West 77th St., Inglewood 4

Many people were disappointed that Miss Miriam Faddis was unable to attend the Christmas Party, so through Alma Stultz she conveyed the following message which was intended for the occasion:

#### HIS INFINITE RICHES

He giveth more grace when the burdens  
grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors  
increase.  
To added affliction, He addeth His mercy;  
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.

When we have exhausted our store of en-  
durance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day  
is half done.  
When we have reached the end of our hoard-  
ed resources,  
Our Father's full giving has only begun.

His love has no limit, His grace has no  
measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men,  
For out of His infinite riches in spirit,  
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.  
Author Unknown.

Anyone wishing to borrow the Exchange Bulletins from the various Audubon Societies may do so by contacting the Editor. Back numbers will be on file in the Audubon House library. It is interesting and enlightening to read what the other Clubs are doing.

## OBSERVATIONS

Caroline H. Daugherty

**DUCKS & WATER BIRDS** Paradise - Lake Norconian, within Norco Naval Hospital grounds, in Norco, near Corona - on Dec. 8 and on a wild, windy day, was almost covered with ducks: Wild Mallard, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Buffle-head and Ruddy. Baldpate most numerous. In sheltered area from the wind and in full sun the low trees were draped with Double-crested Cormorants, with spread wings drying their plumage, American and Snowy Egrets, Green Heron and American Bittern. The Double-crested Cormorants in the water were having great trouble trying to swallow too large fish.

**LAND BIRDS** were really grounded because of the strong winds but the Mourning Doves, Say's Phoebes, Audubon's Warblers, House Finches in flocks, Spotted and Brown Towhees, Lark and White-crowned Sparrows were everywhere on the weedy slopes feeding on seeds and insects.

(Daugherty - 40 minutes birding)

**SIERRA CREEPER**, Nov. 11, Sycamore Grove, (L. Hoogenboom)

**HERMIT THRUSH** - Many reported in yards from Nov. 10th to date. Two in Sunland yard are the headache of the Mockingbird because they both feed on pyranthas. The Robins do too, and that is when the Mockingbirds give up - too many Robins. (D)

**GOLDEN-CROWNED & FOX SPARROWS** - Seem to be unusually numerous or it may be because of the fires. G. Ware reports - on Dec. 3, 12 Fox Sparrows and several Golden-crowned coming to a Little Tujunga Canyon spring within a very short time of watching. Also Chickadees, Titmouse, Hermit Thrush, Juncos and Gambel Sparrows.

**AUDUBON CENTER**, 1000 No. Durfee Ave., El Monte reports - Nov. 8 to Dec. 5. The small lake created by the Colorado River water is attracting numerous water birds. Among the many land birds were White-tailed Kite, 1 & 2 daily, Red-bellied Hawks, 3; Barn & Screech Owls. A Great Horned Owl comes nightly and talks with the crippled caged Horned Owl. Flocks of White-throated Swifts, Cassin's King-bird, Ruby-crowned King-

lets, numerous Water Pipits, flocks Cedar Waxwings and many other species.

(Alma Stultz)

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is richer by nine very fine books, recent gifts of Miss Dorothy Groner and Mr. Geo. T. Hastings to the library at Audubon House:

Menaboni's Birds----Athos & Sara Menaboni  
Wings in the Wilderness-A. D. Cruickshank  
Birds Over America----Roger Tory Peterson  
One Day on Bettle Rock----Sally Carrighar  
Those of the Forest----Wallace B. Grance  
A Sand County Almanac-----Aldo Leopold  
Field Book of Birds of the

Southwestern U.S.-----Wyman & Burnell  
Dune Boy-----Edwin Way Teale  
Son of the Wilderness--

The Life of John Muir----L. Marsh Wolfe

In addition to these books a bequest was made recently to the Society - sizable collection of the books owned by the late Miss May McGregor.

Members are reminded that it is their privilege to borrow these and other books and magazines any time during the hours Audubon House is open.

Helen Sandmeyer, Librarian

#### MORE ABOUT THE PIGEONS ON OLYMPIC

Riding east on the Olympic bus the other day I looked for the pigeons on the cement island at the intersection of Figueroa and Olympic. Once there had been the roasting pan bath tub, food and many pigeons. Now all that was missing - no bath, no food, no birds, but up on the telephone wires were so many of them the wires seemed to sag with their weight. Suddenly, quicker than you could say scat, every bird dived straight down to the sidewalk on Figueroa, bumping into each other in their eagerness to reach their goal. And there among all this flutter and fuss was a pleasant little lady carrying a very large bag of food which she scattered ahead of her as she crossed the street to the island. As she came along she looked up at us in the bus, a pleased smile on her face.

----Olive Alvey

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

## CONSERVATION NOTES

By Robert Blackstone

Among the bills introduced near the close of the 84th Congress was one to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System. This was introduced in the Senate by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota as S. 4013; Senator Kuchel of California was one of the sponsors. Rep. John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania introduced the House version (H.R. 11703).

This bill would not, of itself, take any new land for public use; it would not create any new bureaus. Its purpose is to safeguard existing wilderness areas in National Parks, Forests and Wildlife Refuges. These areas have been and are being managed as such as a policy of the departments concerned. This legislation would make preservation of wilderness a national policy, and would provide these areas with a firm legal status.

Strong opposition to this legislation has not as yet developed; however, certain groups, such as the National Chamber of Commerce and the American Forestry Association, have taken the stand that our wilderness areas are sufficiently well protected under the present system and that the legislation is thus unnecessary. I shall leave it up to you; however, if you should feel, as I do, that legislation of this kind is urgently needed, I urge you to write your representatives in Congress and tell them so.

One of the issues on the agenda of the meeting of the State Park Commission scheduled for Dec. 21st is that of renewal of its contract with the Mt. San Jacinto Winter Park Authority. They have not been able to sell the required \$1,000,000 in bonds, so the contract will expire January 1, 1957 unless renewed. It may be the Commission will decide at this meeting to refuse the request; and that, of course, we would be glad to hear. However, we have joined with other Southern California conservation organizations in protesting any renewal without a hearing in Southern California.

You may recall having read in Audubon Magazine some months ago, of the practice in Texas of hunting down Golden Eagles with airplanes. The Texas Ornithological Society has urged the Texas Fish and Game Commission to conduct a study of the economic

and ecological status of the Golden Eagle. They have suggested that this mass destruction of the eagles has resulted in a corresponding increase in the population of ground squirrel and that these compete with the big game animals for the scarce vegetation of the region. Let us hope that this will lead to a movement to stop this ruthless slaughter of the Golden Eagle in Texas.

## BIRD ANTICS

There is a shrub in our yard that the Brown Towhees, California Thrashers, and Quail seem to enjoy. A Thrasher or one of the other birds will start darting back and forth on one side of the shrub and then another will start on the other side. They act like small children playing tag.

One time a rabbit was eating near this shrub and a thrasher was running around it by himself. He became so excited that he jumped upon the rabbit's back and picked him. The rabbit leaped into the air and ran from the yard.

Eileen Creech

1957 WORKSHOP FOR NATURE LEADERS to be held at Hollywood Playground, 1122 Cole Ave. (near Cahuenga & Santa Monica).

## Session I

Jan. 17 - "Life Zones" --- Mr. Arnold Small

Jan. 24 - "This Changing Earth"

Jan. 31 - "Astronomy" --- Dr. C. H. Clemenshaw

Note: This meeting will be at Griffith Observatory at 7 p.m.

Feb. 7 - "California Indians"

Mrs. Mary V. Hood

## Session II

Mar. 14 - "The Sea Shore" --- Mr. Edw. P. Baker

Mar. 21 - "California Wildflowers"

Dr. Robert Rhodes

Mar. 28 - "Insects" --- Dr. Fred Truxal

April 4 - "Camping, Today and Tomorrow"

Mrs. Mary V. Hood

For further information call or write: John Peebles, 5375 Red Oak Drive, HO 7-1661 or Mrs. Mary V. Hood, 138 So. Wilton Drive, HO 3-0974.

At the Study Class on November 29th the attendance was 40. Mr. Jens Knudsen, of the Allan Hancock Foundation, let us see, as he did, Nature along the shores of the islands of Mexico. He was one of a small party taken by Mr. Doheny in his boat Malibu, to the most southerly tip of California. Stops were made at many of the islands so the scientists could take pictures and collect specimens.

Mr. Knudsen has a trained eye for all that grows on the land or in the water, from the tiniest plant or insect to the largest things in sight. He has the skill to record all this with a camera and great patience to get fine close-ups of wild things, without a telephoto lens. Some quite unusual close-ups were taken of Boobys in their nesting grounds.

Seventy-two members and friends were present to enjoy the Christmas Party on December 6th. Mrs. Paul Dodds was in charge of arrangements and introduced the entertainers. Mrs. Alice Lewis decorated the Bird's Christmas Tree; Mrs. Ruth McCune made table and stage decorations; Miss Beth Patterson made the delicious punch.

Mrs. Alma Stultz, lately returned from her second visit to Guatamala, spoke most enthusiastically about that most colorful country. Because it is so difficult to reach, it is quite unspoiled, to enter it is like going into another world. The natives live as their ancestors did, each village is self sufficient - having its own customs and industries. Plants grow profusely in this land of cloud forests. Birds are plentiful and more brightly colored than we know them. After hearing Mrs. Stultz describe it we can readily believe it is the country "where the rainbow begins".

The musical part of the program was by Mr. & Mrs. David Glissman, soprano and baritone. Mr. Glissman, accompanist. Newcomers to California, they are associated with the Hollywood Congregational Church choir which Mr. Glissman directs. In Philadelphia he sang with Fred Waring's chorus. They were most generous, singing six love songs and two Christmas songs and afterwards leading the audience in singing Christmas carols.

Olive Alvey

A member of the Hawaii Audubon Society, Unoyo Kojima, in reporting on a field trip he led up one of the mountain trails expressed well what most of us have felt (or should have) when he wrote in the report of the trip - "Experiences like this make field trips so much more interesting, and we become more humble to realize that there is so much around us that is unknown. We felt a harmonious unison with the environment - a wonderfully delightful and peaceful experience.

"The third Western Tanager ever to be recorded in New Jersey was banded by Frank Frazier. He caught the bird in a trap at his banding station in Montclair. The first New Jersey record is a Tanager that was observed at Island Beach in March 1938. The second, which created quite a stir in these parts, was identified by Mrs. Louis Cherepy of Franklin at her feeding station one January day in 1953. The bird remained for two months, giving more than 200 bird watchers from five states an opportunity to see it. It was the first Western Tanager that I had ever seen, although not the last, and I treasure a beautiful enlarged photograph in color that was presented to me.

The male Western Tanager is a beautiful bird, being yellow and black with a red face. It breeds from Canada to the mountains of Southern California and the southwest and winters in Mexico. It is purely accidental in the East but there are a score of records from Maine to Louisiana. It is a bird that should be watched for and it can pop up at any feeding station."

Roger Barton in Newark Sunday News.

Bird watchers and field naturalists will thrill to "AMERICAN WATER AND GAME BIRDS", by Austin L. Rand, chief curator of zoology in Chicago Natural History Museum (Dutton; \$11.50). Some 127 photographs in full color, 40 in black and white, together with 35 bird silhouettes, enrich this large and beautiful work.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OFFICERS....1956-1957

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2nd Vice-President...Mrs. Paul D. Dodds      Record. Sec'y.....Miss Dorothy Goddard  
Treasurer.....Miss Esther Johnson      Curator.....Mrs. Russell E. Wilson  
Historian.....Mrs. Olive Alvey  
Registrar of Members.....Miss Marjorie J. Moody, 1380 Veteran Ave., Los Angeles 24

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 1957

- January 2, WEDNESDAY EVENING MEETING, at 8:00 p.m. in Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Program will be "Your Living Heritage" (color film of endangered species of birds - Condor, Whooping Crane, Everglade Kite, etc.) and another color film on "Audubon Camp of California."  
Arnold Small, Chairman
- January 10, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at 912 Victoria Avenue.
- January 12, SATURDAY FIELD TRIP to Fern Dell in Griffith Park. Meet near the Museum at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and binoculars.  
Ethel Craig, Leader
- January 17, THURSDAY FIELD TRIP to Tapia Park. Meet at the picnic area at 9:00 a.m. Go out the Coast Highway to just past Malibu lagoon, turn right and follow Malibu Canyon road to the Park. Members driving, who are able to accommodate passengers, please communicate with Miss Edna Burt, 703-1/2 West 113th Street, L.A. 44; Plymouth 5-1044. Members desiring transportation arrange with Miss Burt.  
Nurtha Dunn, Leader
- January 24, THURSDAY STUDY CLASS, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Long Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mr. John V. Fredericks will show his pictures, "Birds and Animals." A member of the Audubon Society, Mr. Frederick has very fine color pictures that he has taken in all the states except New England. His series of "Fences" is most unusual.  
Olive Alvey, Chairman.
- January 27, There will be a BOAT TRIP sponsored by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. The cost will be \$5.50 per person and the deadline for reservations is Sunday, January 13. We will go to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands and the boat (65') will leave Port Hueneme at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunches. This boat has enough room to seat 40 people inside comfortably, which will add to the pleasure of the trip. Make reservations with - John Tramontano, 6831 Thornlake Ave., Whittier, Calif.