



BIRDING IN THE CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS

By Marion Wilson

On June 20 we left North Hollywood to visit the Chiricahua National Monument, Rustler Park and Cave Creek Canyon located in the southeast corner of Arizona. With us we had articles by Weldon Heald which we had saved from various magazines and detailed notes from Arnold Small telling us where to find the birds we had heard could be seen only in these areas.

After a rather warm but interesting trip by way of Tucson, we arrived at the Monument Headquarters and camp ground, found a delightful spot for our travel trailer and set up camp anticipating an interesting birding experience.

Our first new birds were seen while having breakfast Sunday morning. Even though we have a trailer we use our camp stove and cook and eat and live as much as possible out of doors. A pair of Arizona Woodpeckers watched the proceedings and gave us a fine first view. Hepatic Tanagers were much in evidence and beautiful to watch. After breakfast we walked a short distance from camp and located a pair of Olivaceous Flycatchers nesting in a dead branch of a tree and visited them each day of our stay. We discovered a pair of Prairie Falcons, with one youngster high on a cliff, where they could be watched with binoculars from the road close to camp. While sitting there watching the parent birds fly in with food for Junior we were startled by a small bird flying into the brush just at our backs. We turned and there sat the only Painted Redstart we were to see in this area.

We were awakened one morning before dawn by an unfamiliar call coming from the tree just outside the trailer. We dressed and went out quietly, we thought, hoping to discover the caller but he saw us first and flew away into the distance, still calling. We were not to discover his identity until we visited Rustler Park.

One day we hiked up Rhyolite Canyon where three more new birds were added to our list. As we hiked along looking into the tree tops in the canyon below, a small bird flew up from the ground not far from our feet and alighted in the bush not far away. It was Pigmy Owl who had been disturbed while eating a small lizard which he still had in his talons. We had a wonderful opportunity to watch him for several minutes. Reaching the top of the grade and coming out onto the upper plateau, we found the Mexican Chickadees. Starting down the canyon toward the Maisi Point trail we heard what at first seemed a familiar song, that of the Yellow Warbler, but upon investigation proved to be the Red-faced Warbler. This was truly one of the thrills of the trip and we spent some time watching a pair flit in and out of the trees. Later, a little lower in the canyon we stopped for lunch. As we looked up at the blue sky between the high cliffs we saw what at first looked like a buzzard but decided to put binoculars on it to make sure. As it came directly overhead, the broader wings, chunkier body and white band across the center of the tail proved it

(Continued on Page 3)

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THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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"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.
Schedule of dues effective September 1,
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Table with 2 columns: Membership Category and Amount. Rows include Regular (\$6.50), Husband and wife (10.00), Sustaining (12.50), Sustaining (Husband and wife) (20.00), Active (25.00), Supporting (50.00), Contributing (100.00), Life (300.00).

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Headquarters of L. A. Audubon Society
7377 Santa Monica Blvd. HO 7-9495

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this issue your WESTERN
Tanager commences its 24th year of pub-
lication, and we once again welcome all
of the members and friends of the Los
Angeles Audubon Society to another year
of programs, field trips and other ac-
tivities, which is about to begin.

The purpose of this Society,
according to our constitution, is "...
to promote the study and protection of
birds and other wildlife, plants, soil
and water.." The first we seek to
achieve through as full a schedule of
programs and field trips as possible,
through our headquarters in Plummer
Park and by means of our library there.
And of course, we must not forget our
Screen Tours as a valuable means of
promoting "the study of".

The second aspect of our purpose,
protection, is the concern chiefly of
the Conservation and the newly created
Sanctuaries Committees. The former will
continue to strive to keep the member-
ship informed on conservation matters
and otherwise promote conservation,
supporting the conservation ideals of
the National Audubon Society and also
taking a leading part in local issues.
The latter aims to formulate a positive
program for the promotion of sanctuaries,
and go on from there.

All this may sound terribly seri-
ous and perhaps overly didactic.
Actually, however, our programs, field
trips and other activities are meant to
be enjoyed, and certainly those who par-
ticipate in them do enjoy them. Last
season there was a gratifying increase
of interest in these activities; there
are still many members, however, who are
not realizing all of the advantages of
their membership. If you are one of
those who have always intended to par-
ticipate, but have kept putting it off,
why don't you make up your mind to take
the plunge?

Robert E. Blackstone

Birding in Chiricahua -- continued.

to be a Mexican Black Hawk. The space of sky was small and he was out of sight over the ridge in a short time.

It was inadvisable to take the trailer over the logging road to Rustler Park so we packed the necessary camping gear for an overnight stay in the car and drove the hour's drive before breakfast one morning. Pulling into a camp spot we heard "ho-say ma-re-ah, ho-say ma-re-ah". We have had difficulty identifying a song or call by the way it is written in the books but this time it was unmistakable - it could only be the Coues's Flycatcher. We were to hear and see this Flycatcher constantly during our two day stay. Here also we had our first and only sighting of the beautiful Olive Warbler. As we spread our sleeping bags that evening, we again heard the call that had wakened us the morning before in Chiricahua camp. The bird flew low over our beds many times during the night. The next morning after consulting our books we pinned it down to a Stephens's Whippoor-will. Later back in the Monument we saw one in broad daylight as we disturbed her nesting place. This was our first experience with any of the members of this family.

We took a day to drive down through Cave Creek Canyon and visited the American Museum of Natural History Research Station. All the ornithologists were out in the field but we wandered through the grounds and enjoyed seeing many birds we knew and found another new flycatcher - the Mexican Crested Flycatcher.

After leaving this area we headed home by way of Patagonia and Ramsey Canyon and spent the night parked in the sanctuary at Patagonia. We found many birds we knew and never tired of watching the beautiful Vermillion Flycatchers - but our greatest thrill was to hear and see Cooper's Tanagers, and to find the Bicards nest practically in our front yard. There was a pair of Cooper's Hawks teaching a young one to hunt and here we saw our first Red-eyed

Cowbird.

Our last stop for new birds was in Ramsey Canyon where we met Mrs. Haverty who maintains a feeding station for hummingbirds, and we saw Rivoli's, Blue-throated and Broad-billed Hummingbirds.

We recommend highly these areas of Arizona for some of the finest birding not too far from home.

CONSERVATION
By Otis Wade

It would seem especially appropriate if the revised Wilderness bill, S-4028, could be passed by the 85th Congress in this year of the Theodore Roosevelt Centennial, for its provisions certainly conform to the philosophy of this man whose dedicated works so furthered the cause of conservation. Unfortunately the bill appears stymied for this session of Congress. Sponsors and proponents of the Wilderness bill consider it the greatest piece of conservation legislation in a quarter of a century. It will keep about 2.2% of our land as unspoiled wilderness - a living reminder of America as it has always been. Our Society urges individual members to get in touch with their Congressmen and Senators by mail and ask for their help, urging that the Wilderness bill be passed at once. The addresses are: House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C., Senate Office Building, Washington 25, D.C. Write to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, White House, Washington, D. C. and let him know that you support the Wilderness bill as sound national policy.

A local project worthy of our energetic support is the Big Tujunga Basin conservation plan. This undertaking involves the conservation of the Big Tujunga Basin as a desert-life, reservation-type recreation area. On January 9 of this year the Los Angeles City Planning Commission voted to add the Big Tujunga Basin to the Master Plan for Parks. On July 1 the Los Angeles County

Recreational Areas. The next week the County Department of Recreation and Parks joined with the County Regional Planning Commission in recommending the Big Tujunga Regional Park. With success near, for the conservationists the Consolidated Rock Products Co., owners of 348 acres in the area, filed an application for gravel-zoning. The decision of the City Planning Commission on this application is expected August 21st, with every probability that there will be an appeal from whichever side loses to the City Council some time between September 1st and 15th. Consolidated Rock Products feels that it has sufficient influence to win out. As conservationists we should bring pressure to bear by writing to all fifteen members of the City Council, City Hall, Los Angeles 12. Individual members of the Council, same address. Our Society feels this to be an important issue and we hope all our members will write expressing their support. It looks as though out of this Big Tujunga Basin conservation drive a local chapter of Nature Conservancy will be formed. For any other information as to steps to take in furthering this work, please contact Mrs. Cora Corrigan, 10423 Fairgrove Ave., Tujunga, Calif., FLorida 3-7400. We are grateful to Dr. Ralph M. Rutledge for information supplied this Society.

 "Conservation covers a multitude of things - - not only our tangible resources such as water, timber, soil, minerals, etc. - - but it also covers our youth, our public health, our national safety and above all, our moral strength."

From an address by Mr. W. W. Newerf, Conservation Administrator, Richfield Oil Corp., on the occasion of the L.A. Audubon Society's Annual Dinner, June 1958.

If you are planning to attend the Pacific Coast Biennial Convention at Asilomar in March 1959, better not wait another day to send in your reservation, so as to receive the official registration blank.

NEW DIRECTOR FOR AUDUBON CENTER

"James H. Blee, of Carmel, Calif., has been appointed Director of the Audubon Center of Southern California at El Monte, effective July 7, 1958", John H. Baker announced. "He succeeds Mrs. Alma Stultz, who retired August 1.

"For 30 years Mr. Blee has been teaching in senior and elementary schools--for the last 11 at Sunset Elementary in Carmel. He is a graduate of San Diego State College and received his General Secondary Credential at University of California, majoring in Education. He organized the first outdoor education and school camping program in the Carmel area in 1950 and directed it for the first five years. After summers as a counsellor at private and YMCA camps and as a dude wrangler in the Wyoming Rockies and the Sierra Madre of Nevada and California, he spent 11 summers as ranger and ranger-naturalist in the National Park Service in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. He also served as ranger and ranger-naturalist of the California Division of Beaches and Parks in both Big Sur and Point Lobos Reserve. He has been counsellor to Boy and Girl Scout Councils in the Carmel area, and active there in the promotion of organization of Audubon Junior Clubs.

"Mrs. Stultz, who became the first Director of the Center in 1948 has performed wonders in developing the educational program so as to make it widely known to, and used appreciatively by, school, Scout and other youth groups. Recently she had the pleasure of receiving from the Associated Teachers of L.A. an award to the Center 'for its unselfish and generous service to the youth of L.A. in the field of science.' Mrs. Stultz' administration has been notable also for the very fine spirit of loyalty, devotion and dedication that characterizes the Center's staff. She is happy in the conviction that Mr. Blee, whom she has known for many years, will do an outstanding job as the Center's new Director."

AUDUBON HOUSE

Audubon House remained open to the public through August 13. We had calls from groups of Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls who met in Day Camp in Griffith Park. Mrs. Alice Lewis, Mrs. Olive Alvey, Mrs. Ruth McCune, Mr. Ed. Baker and Mr. John Peebles graciously consented to visit with these groups and help them with the birds and plants of the area. They all felt that their efforts were well rewarded as there was a keen interest by both girls and leaders. Encouraging an interest in nature in the youth of the area is a service which the Los Angeles Audubon Society can render and the members who are willing to give of their time will find it a most satisfying experience.

We had hoped that this summer would see the restoration of Plummer House, but due to a limited budget and the holding off of all improvements in Plummer Park until the matter of incorporation of West Hollywood was settled, this has been postponed until July 1, 1959. However, with the added help of Miss Castella Fisher, Mrs. Catherine Farquhar, Miss Ethel Bass, Mrs. Bettie Landis, Mrs. Louise White and the continued help of Mrs. Mary Hood, Miss Bessie Pope, Miss Dorothy Goddard, Miss Charlotte Ahlhorn, Miss Gudrun Pepke, Miss Esther Johnson and the promised help of several others, we will again offer our help to youth groups.

Due to our telephone, we find it necessary to have two members at Audubon House whenever it is open and so any offer of help will be greatly appreciated.

The library, which has been in the capable hands of Mrs. Helen Sandmeyer, will be taken over by Mrs. Bettie Landis and will be open to members from 7 to 8 preceding the Tuesday evening meeting and after the Thursday morning meeting, as well as during the regular hours. May we at this time remind all members that books checked out last spring should be returned as soon as possible. Books may be kept one month only during the period between September and June. We would also like to urge all members to look through their own libraries to see if they

have one or more volumes of our deluxe edition of THE BIRDS OF CALIFORNIA by Dawson. These have been out of our library for some time and we would appreciate their immediate return. This set will be placed on the reserve shelf to be used at Audubon House only.

From August 13 to September 11 was vacation time for hostesses and Headquarters Chairman. We wish to thank Mrs. Olive Alvey for consenting to take all calls coming to Audubon House during that time, Miss Dorothy Goddard and Mr. Bob Blackstone and Mr. Garner for taking in our mail, and other park personnel who helped keep the birds fed and water in the bird bath.

The address of Plummer Park is now 1200 Vista, but the Los Angeles Audubon Society has been able to retain the old address, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. 46, and mail is delivered to our own mail box.

We hope to hear from many of you volunteering your help in some capacity either at Audubon House or on one of our many committees. Let's become working members.

---Marian Wilson

The SUNDAY FIELD TRIP on September 28 will be a coastal trip from Long Beach south to Oceanside to see early wintering Ducks and Shorebirds, Elegant Terns, and Wood Ibis.

The group will meet at 8:00 A.M. just south of the traffic circle on Route 101-A in East Long Beach.

Leader - Jim Huffman
FRontier 2-7124

ANNUAL AUDUBON SOCIETY TEA

Sunday afternoon, October 19th, from 2 to 4 o'clock, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dodds, 749 Longwood Ave., L.A. 5, one block south of Wilshire and one block east of Highland.

Circle this date on your calendar and plan to be there. New members, this is an opportunity to meet the officers, chairmen and other members.

RSVP--Call NO 1-8036, NO 2-9966, WE 9-7403

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Elna Bakker,
450 W. Ave. 43, L.A. 65

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Mrs. Elizabeth B. Boylan,
1826 No. Normandie Ave., L.A. 27

Miss Meta Bull,
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Miss Lorraine Crosby,
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12849 Marlboro St., L.A. 49

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Mr. Georges Fusenot,
1201 Parkway, Beverly Hills

Miss Elizabeth Ann Haskin,
P.O. Box 132, Mojave, Calif.

Mrs. Florence H. Hedlund,
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Mr. John C. Hopper,
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Miss Carol H. Hulbert,
613 Ocean Drive, Manhattan Beach

Mrs. Marion P. Johnson,
3755 Shannon Road, L.A. 27

Mrs. Nancy E. Kampf,
3072 Belden Dr., Hollywood 28

Mrs. Charles F. Kerr,
821 So. Orange Drive, L.A. 36

Mr. Lloyd Linde,
4748 Noble Ave., Sherman Oaks

Mr. John Logan,
17728 Rideway, Granada Hills

Mr. Harry Melts,
772 W. 19th St., San Pedro

Mrs. Florence G. Meyers,
c/o Landmark Hotel,
7047 Franklin Ave., Hollywood 28

Mr. Charles H. Miller
1906 Hampton Lane, Glendale 1

Mr. Dean Miller
3089 Menlo Dr., Glendale 1

Mrs. Dean Miller,
3089 Menlo Dr., Glendale 1

Mr. J. R. Parker,
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Mr. Martin A. Peterson,
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545 Emerald Bay, Laguna Beach

Mr. Leslie E. Wood,
5116 Bomer Drive, L.A. 42

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AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS 1958-1959

Tuesday evening October 21 and Saturday
afternoon October 25, Robert C. Hermes
"Ranch of the Purple Flowers."

Tuesday evening, November 18 and Saturday
afternoon, November 22, William H. Wagoner
Jr., - "A Touch of the Tropics."

Tuesday evening, February 3 and Saturday
afternoon, February 7, Leonard Hall, --
"Waterway Wildlife."

Tuesday evening, March 3 and Saturday
afternoon, March 7, --G. Harrison Oriens-
"Great Smoky Skyland."

Tuesday evening, April 7 and Saturday
afternoon, April 11, Arthur A. Allen -
"East and West from Hudson's Bay."

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Each month several copies of
the Tanager are returned because members
fail to notify us of their change of ad-
dress. We wish to keep in touch with
you and also keep our records in order,
so please send your new address to the
Registrar - Miss Iola Moore, 278 Bron-
wood Ave., Los Angeles 49.