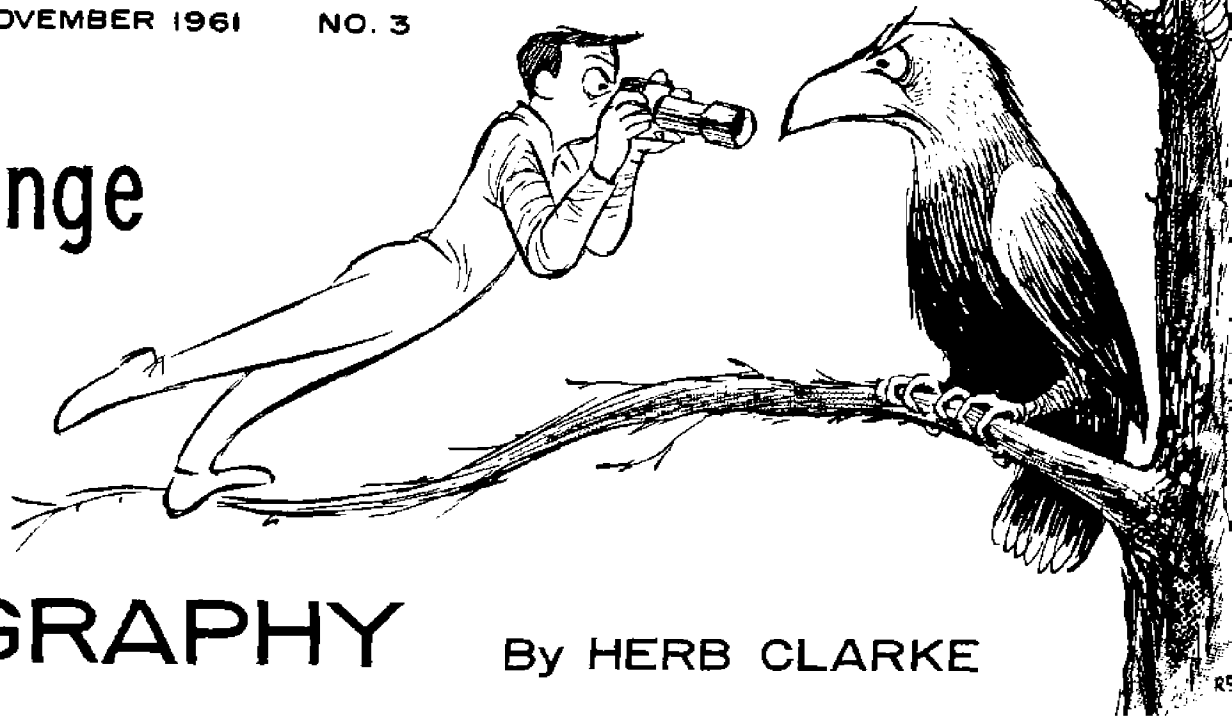


The Western Tanager

VOLUME 28 NOVEMBER 1961 NO. 3

The Challenge of BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY



By HERB CLARKE

After watching birds for many years, the idea occurred to me that I might try for pictures of them. Having had very little experience with photography I decided to take 35 millimeter colored slides. I bought an old Leica in good condition, and by sheer accident, one of my first attempts resulted in a fair picture of a Scrub Jay. It was a case of beginner's luck, because soon afterwards I realized how difficult it was to get good pictures consistently. But the bug had bitten me good and hard, and since that day in 1954 I have been an avid fan.

Ideas as to what makes a good picture vary greatly from person to person. Therefore, the comments made here are based on my own preferences, although there may be good reasons for disagreeing with me. In fact, my own standards are constantly changing, as in any process of learning. This is one of the phases of photography about which one cannot learn from books or from other photographers. It is much the same as trying to swim. A person can only do it by himself. The factors that go into what I consider a good bird or animal slide are basically the same as in any other type of picture, but with a few additions. There must be good composition and proper exposure. The subject should be in sharp focus and pleasingly posed. Backgrounds and foregrounds should complement the bird. I usually try to eliminate man-made objects from my slides. The animal or bird should be at least large enough in the picture so that the subject is readily apparent to the viewer. Then, there are details such as a glint in the eye, not chopping part of the bird off, and so on. All these and other details are important and make this sound complicated. It is. However, the feeling of accom-

plishment when a particularly good picture is obtained makes all the trouble worthwhile.

I have acquired more and better photographic equipment since the early days of the Leica and experience was gained through much trial and error. This accumulation of equipment is a continuous process. Just as I think I have everything I need, a situation in the field shows me that I require another gadget. The array now consists of the camera (a single lens reflex), plus a multitude of lenses, tripods, flash equipment, and other miscellaneous items. The list even includes an eight foot step-ladder. There is, however, a limit as to what can conveniently be used at one time, and besides, my wife can carry only so much.

There are many ways to take pictures of birds and animals. I confine myself strictly to wild, completely unrestrained subjects. There isn't much of a challenge in taking pictures of caged or stuffed creatures. Each set-up or field problem is different, but the approach generally falls into three main categories. One is stalking or chasing the bird with camera in hand. This method is the most difficult but has proved very rewarding at times. Another way is at a feeder. By focusing on a perch near the feeder and arranging a suitable background, good pictures can be obtained with comparative ease. The last method is at the nest. I will cover more of this subject later. There are, of course, many variations of these three methods, such as setting up at a watering spot or baiting an area with food and snapping

(Continued on page 18)

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46
HOLLYWOOD 7-9495

WESTERN TANAGER



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Audubon Activities	Russell Wilson
Calendar	Douglas Dick
Typing	Helen Sandmeyer
Mailing	Mimi Small

Annual Christmas BAZAAR Saturday, December 2nd.

The Los Angeles Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 2 in Great Hall, Plummer Park. An exciting display of Christmas decorations and gift items, as well as tempting baked goods will be available for sale from 1-4 p.m. Everyone attending is certain to be pleased at finding just the right answer to holiday decorating problems and the very special gifts needed for very special people. Coffee, punch, and cookies will be sold throughout the afternoon, for a nominal price, for those who wish refreshment as they browse and shop. Remember, proceeds from all sales are used to improve the Nature Museum at Audubon House. Let's do our best to help develop this fine feature of our Society by supporting the Bazaar. Last year sales cleared more than \$150.

Those members planning to contribute their arts and crafts to be sold, please contact any of the following:

Mrs. James Bussey, Chairman, NO 2-6523
Mrs. Maurice Alvey, NO 1-8036
Mrs. Russell Wilson, PO 1-7635
Mrs. Robert Sandmeyer (for baked goods)
TH 2-9328
Audubon House, HO 7-9495



EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR SUCCESSFUL TEA

A grateful word of appreciation is extended to the following members who gave of their time and efforts to help make the October Audubon Tea a successful event: Melba Blackstone, Olive Alvey, Mimi Small, Alice Lewis, Helen Lehmann, Helen Bayne, Caroline Adams, Esther Johnson, Marion Wilson, Effie Mahaffie, Virginia Lee, Janet Patey, Miriam Weiser, Betty Donan, and Betty Jenner. They assisted in a variety of ways from preparing refreshments to hostessing. In addition, the lovely floral arrangements and corsage creations of Olive Alvey deserve special mention.

Helen Sandmeyer

Dr. & Mrs. Norman Atkins
435 N. Bedford Dr., Beverly Hills
Miss Beulah B. Bingham
4322 Garthwaite Ave., L. A. 8
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Clements
546 S. Catalina Ave., Pasadena 5
Mr. Loring Dales
1555 Club View Dr., L. A. 24
Miss Ruth V. Engdahl
5579 Village Green, L. A. 16
Mr. & Mrs. Paul M. Watson
3417 LaSelva Pl., Palos Verdes Estates
Mrs. Edith C. Welden
10579-C Ashton Ave., L. A. 24
Mr. & Mrs. O. B. Williamson
15348 S. Ryon Ave., Bellflower
Mr. Bruce H. Carpenter
526 1/2 Gayley Ave., L. A. 24
Miss Cecelia R. Doherty
P.O. Box 1203, Santa Monica
Mr. Vernon K. Mangold
548 Crestline Dr., L. A. 49
Miss Mary S. Woll
1039 W. 57th St., L. A. 37



Los Angeles Audubon Society

CALENDAR

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER, 1961

Headquarters, Nature Museum and Library located at Audubon House, Plummer Park
7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46 HO 7-9495.

Telephone hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

President: James W. Huffman Registrar of Members: Mrs. James Bussey
2912 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach 3507 Hollydale Dr., Los Angeles

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 1961

- November 2 THURSDAY, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Audubon House.
- November 4 SATURDAY, EXTRA FIELD TRIP, 8:30 a.m., Audubon Center of Southern California in El Monte. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., turn right on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., turn left and go to North Durfee Ave., turn left to 1000. This is an opportunity for members to visit the conservation and education facilities of National Audubon Society. During the bird walk White-tailed Kites and Cardinals should be among the birds seen. Bring lunch, binoculars and drink-- hot soup will be served. Mr. Paul Howard, Program Director, will be host.
- November 4 SATURDAY, JUNIOR NATURALISTS, 9:45-11:15 a.m., Griffith Park. Meet at the entrance to the nursery, 2650 N. Commonwealth (off Los Feliz Blvd.) in Griffith Park. Mr. J. M. Jeffers, the Assistant Nursery Supervisor, will be in charge of the program on "Annuals for the Winter Season". Propagation, from the collection of seeds through the potting of seedlings, will be discussed as the group tours the nursery. Further information: Mr. John Peebles HO 7-1661.
- November 11 - SATURDAY, FIELD TRIP, 8:30 a.m., Santa Barbara and Goleta Slough. Group will meet on the north shore of Bird Refuge, located on East Cab-rillo on the left side of Highway 101 as you enter Santa Barbara. Watch for field trip signs. Black-crowned Nigh Herons guaranteed, and a Wood Duck a possibility. For information: HO 7-9495 or Leader: David Robison, PO 1-0217.
- November 13 MONDAY, AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM "LAND OF THE SKY BLUE WATERS" by Fran William Hall 7:45 p.m., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. This expert photographer and naturalist will take us by way of color film into the fabled lake country of the upper midwest. We will see the birds, insects and animals which the early Indians wove into their folklore.
- November 14 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING, 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. "AN ISLAND IN TIME" Point Reyes Peninsula. This is a beautiful Sierra Club film about an area we hope will become our next National Seashore. An important discussion of the Christmas census will follow.
- November 26 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP, 7:00 a.m. Destination: Buena Vista Lagoon (Max-ton Brown Sanctuary), Oceanside, but the group will cover Bolsa Chica Lagoon on the way south, so we will meet (at 7 a.m.) on Highway 101 just south of the traffic circle in Long Beach. Hawks, more Black-crowned Night Herons and newly arrived wintering Ducks. Leader: Jim Huffman, FR 2-7124.
- November 30 THURSDAY MAILING PARTY, 7:45 p.m., Audubon House, Plummer Park. Come and spend a delightful hour and a half of light conversation and light work (of mailing Tanagers). Refreshments will be served.
- December 2 SATURDAY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. Party and sale of Christmas gifts, proceeds for the Nature Museum. Volunteer help needed. Call the Chairman, Mrs. Rose Bussey, NO 2-6523.

THE CHALLENGE OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 15)

the birds when they come in. This may take several hours, or even all day. Here blinds are sometimes useful, but they have their limitations. Speaking of blinds, recently I made a simple one consisting of camouflage parachute material placed over some poles teepee fashion. This blind is inexpensive and lightweight and has proven satisfactory.

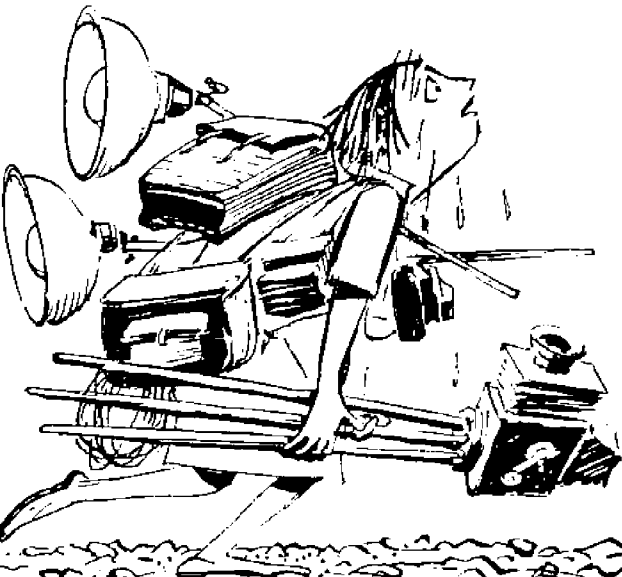
Perhaps my favorite way of taking pictures is comfortably sitting in my den at home and photographing by remote control birds coming into the feeding stations arranged for this purpose. I live in the foothills and have a surprising number of birds around the house. Rarities such as the White-throated Sparrow and Grey-headed Junco are among the many kinds that have come under the scrutiny of my lens at home. In addition to the birds, I have photographed here such wild animals as coyotes, ground squirrels, grey foxes, racoons, opossums and skunks.

Closely watching a bird at the nest is extremely interesting. Each individual has its own particular personality which is different from others of even the same species. I have photographed birds on the nest so tame that they could actually be touched. Other times the little devils would pay no attention to me and be very cooperative while I was noisily setting up my equipment. Then, when I would quiet down and be ready, they would get very shy and stay out of sight. However, most of the time, after a short period of looking over the photographer and the camera, the adults would go back to taking care of their family and ignore everything else completely, allowing me to get the pictures I wanted.

In spite of all the precautions taken, maddening things sometimes happen. Once I had been sitting in a blind waiting for a particularly shy species to come in, when finally after several hours, just as the bird approached the desired spot, the stool on which I was sitting suddenly collapsed and, of course, the bird flew away, not to return. In another instance, a friend of mine spent all day taking pictures of a hard-to-photograph subject which was being particularly cooperative, when, just as it was time to go home, he discovered he had forgotten to put film in his camera. Or take the time I anxiously awaited my film to be returned from the processor after what I thought had been one of my most successful outings. The film arrived with a letter saying that they had ruined my pictures but they were giving me a new roll of film!

Even with these and other trials and tribulations, the results are worth the effort, and even when I've missed, I have enjoyed the day in the field trying to outwit my feathered friends. My appreciation and admiration of birds has grown tremendously since I've taken to photography, and in watching them closely, I have learned much about the colorful plumage and amazing habits of all the birds--even the supposedly dull-colored ones. Also, this has brought about a greater awareness in me of the beauty of flowers, trees, insects and other forms of nature.

I highly recommend bird and animal photography to anyone who wants a challenging and extremely interesting hobby, one that can be shared with others. ■



Audubon Activities

by RUSSELL WILSON

The sun rose brilliantly in a clear sky as a full complement of us aboard the New Rocket left Pierpoint Landing, paused briefly to take on anchovies for chum and headed for the open sea. This promise of a fine day was amply fulfilled, we ran all day under a cloudless sky with almost no wind and a gentle sea.

This was our pelagic trip of September 24, which took us around Santa Barbara Island and was led by Arnold Small. There were the usual long periods when nothing much was in sight laced with shorter periods of intense activity. But any time you can see all three Jaegers, three Shearwaters, two Petrels, Phalaropes, Sabine's Gulls, Wandering Tattlers, a Peregrine, and sundry other species, you come ashore feeling that you have had a very good day indeed. As we reentered the harbor we were treated to a spectacular flight of terns. Many spoke of adding one to a half dozen birds to their life-lists. In addition to the birds, the group was treated to a marvelous display of more than three hundred Common Dolphins and several families of Killer Whales.

Very gratifying was the participation of many whom we have not seen on a pelagic trip before. The Society plans its field trips in the hope of being of service to its members and friends.

■■■

September is County Fair time in Los Angeles County. The Audubon Society exhibit featured the "Save the Bald Eagle" project of the National Society which in the first instance will center around research to determine the status of the national bird in the United States. On display were mounted specimens of immature Bald and immature Golden Eagles planned to show how confusing the two species are in this plumage. In the opinion of many, both eagles will have to be given protection if numerous Bald Eagles are to escape destruction while in their juvenile plumage.

Responsibility for the exhibit this year was placed in the capable hands of Arnold Larson, whose committee consisted of Earl J. Minert of the Pasadena Society, John and Barbara Hopper of the San Fernando Valley Society and our own Bob Sandmeyer. Arnold reports that "outstanding contribution in time and work was made by Mr. and Mrs. Minert" who did everything from painting the booth to securing the mounted specimens from the Los Angeles County Museum and even renovating and re-feathering the Bald Eagle. The Society is most appreciative of the support given by the National Society, which provided the large photo reproductions and the printed

literature to be given out to interested visitors to the booth. Final layout and lettering, which gave the exhibit its professional look, were done by Bob Sandmeyer.

Responding to Arnold's appeal for volunteers to staff the booth were Olive Alvey, Elizabeth Fulton, Bill Watson, Robert Robitaille, James and Rose Bussey, Don and Caroline Adams, Marion and Russ Wilson, Betty and Laura Jenner, Fern Shelford, Mrs. V. A. Ward, Louise White and Castella Fisher.

Several have spoken of the unusually large amount of interest shown by men in the exhibit. Perhaps there is something masculine about the birds of prey that accounts for this. Audubon House has received a number of calls for additional information or membership forms by people who have stated that they learned of the Society and its activities at the Fair. A sincere "thank you" from the Society goes to all who helped make this activity such a success.

■■■

Mr. and Mrs. William Hood opened their beautifully appointed home and garden for the annual tea Sunday, Oct. 1. In attendance were many of the most active members of the Society as well as others whom we see seldom or even rarely. Among the latter were Mr. George Hastings, who came all the way from Santa Monica, Mrs. Celia Christianson and her son and daughter-in-law, and Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Scherfee. Some of our newer friends present were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Moss, recent arrivals from Massachusetts and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Siemens.

■■■

Catherine and Dick Freeman took us on a delightful trip to the Gaspé Peninsula and the Maritime Provinces of French Canada at the Tuesday Evening Meeting Oct. 10. One is impressed with the austere life of farm and fisher folk on this windy and often stormy coast with its breathtaking land and seascapes. The climax for most of us were the pictures of nesting Gannets, Murres, Puffins and Kittiwakes which have recovered to such abundant populations since protection was given to their nesting sites by the Canadian Government. Present for the first time was one of our newest members, Edith Welden.

During the evening's preliminaries Arnold Small read some excerpts from the publication of the Santa Cruz Bird Club describing their experience with the invasion last summer of great numbers of "black gulls". No satisfactory explanation has been found for this sudden deluge of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters which filled streets and highways, back yards and shrubbery. Many were killed on contact with the land, with buildings, fences and other obstructions while thousands huddled together in complete bewilderment at their strange surroundings. The Club organized rescue operations. Live birds were placed in boxes and cartons and barrels and hauled to the ocean front for release.

(Continued on Page 22)



CONSERVATION NEWS

from FRANK LITTLE

Because the bulk of conservation legislation is national in scope and involves large areas and huge expenditures of money, we sometimes forget that there is still a good deal of conservation that is of a local nature. How many people, for example, realize that our own Los Angeles County in the last year and a half has created five nature sanctuaries? These five, all located in Antelope Valley, are: the 320 acre Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, the 160 acre Phacelia Wildflower Sanctuary, the 320 acre Alpine Butte Wildlife Sanctuary, the 320 acre Theodore Payne Wildlife Sanctuary, and the 100 acre Mescal Wildlife Sanctuary. Such action is unique; we are the only county with a system of county-owned nature preserves. Our thanks go to Supervisor Dorn who introduced the resolutions and to the whole County Board of Supervisors for approving the measures.

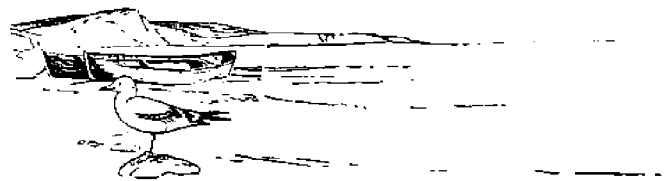


Also located in Antelope Valley is our newly formed Joshua Tree State Park (not to be confused with Joshua Tree National Monument). This 2700 acre park is our second desert state park, Anza-Borrego State Park being our first. The park at present is unimproved (other than a headquarters building), and there is no water or campground available.

The Descanso Gardens, by action of the County Board of Supervisors, has been provided with permanent protection under the jurisdiction of the State and County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. This "Living Museum" of exotic plants and California native plants very wisely includes large undisturbed buffer areas. The protection of Descanso Gardens has long been a high-priority concern of the local chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and the efforts of this group contributed much towards the successful County Board action.

Another local issue, not yet resolved, is the Los Angeles County Master Plan for Shoreline Development. Representatives from the Los Angeles Audubon Society and from the Nature Conservancy were present at a public hearing

this summer when the Plan was outlined to the County Board of Supervisors. The hearing went smoothly until the discussion centered on the Palos Verdes area. Two coves in this area, Neptune Cove and Abalone Cove, were recommended by the Plan to become a park. According to separate surveys taken by the Regional Planning Board and by the Nature Conservancy, these coves are outstanding tidepool areas with abundant and varied marine life well worth the protection of County ownership. Opposing these views were: the immediate property owners who wanted the area for themselves; the city of Palos Verdes for the dubious reason that sightseers would have to pass through the city; and the Grandview Building Company which wants to erect seawall and dam across Neptune Cove and convert it to a sandy beach. The Plan was sent back to the Regional Planning Commission for further study. Our Executive Board sent a resolution to the Planning Commission favoring the Plan.



Actually, this is not an exhaustive list of local conservation matters. Space does not permit a complete run-down on such other local issues as the Chatsworth Reservoir (temporarily tabled pending further study), the San Jacinto Tramway (representing a defeat, although not a total one, for conservationists), the Big Tujunga Wash (still in litigation), and the city-owned sanctuary at Harbor Park (the Bixby Slough area, which is progressing well). We will, however, keep the Society posted on the more important local issues as they arise. ■



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Fran William Hall

Land of the Sky Blue Waters

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1961

Perhaps no other section of North America surpasses in stories and Indian lore the fabled lake country of the upper midwest. Fran William Hall of Northfield, Minnesota, expert photographer-naturalist, has produced an exciting chronicle in all-color film of the many birds, insects and animals about whose lives the Indians spun their legends.



BIRDING

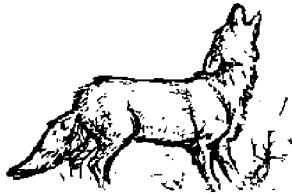


in the Southwest

By Donald L. Adams

PATAGONIA, ARIZONA

For the birder who wants to see a great many birds with minimum effort, San Jose del Sonoita Refuge is the ideal place. This area which is under the auspices of the Tucson Audubon Society is located just south of the picturesque small town of Patagonia on Arizona State Highway 82. There are beautiful oak-covered hills on both sides of this little valley, but the most abundant bird life is along the creek bottom. It can be reached by driving southeast from Tucson on U.S. Highway 80 to the Sonoita Cutoff, Arizona 83, then south to State 82 and Patagonia. As the best birding is in the early hours, it's a good idea to take breakfast, set up a camp chair, and quietly wait for the birds.

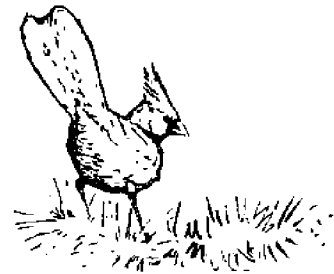


In May June, or early July when the birding is best it may be warm, but along Sonoita Creek there are many large trees such as willow, cottonwood, oak, and sycamore which give welcome shade. The refuge may be reached by turning west from the center of town across the creek or by going south a mile down the highway. Watch for a gate in the fence with a sign designating the area as a bird refuge, turn in, (closing the gate to keep the cattle in) and park by the creek. Take drinking water as the cattle wander through the creek. While there is no developed campground, there is no objection to camping as long as good housekeeping is observed.

Nests of the Rose-throated Becard are found here. These ragged, pendulous constructions, from 24 to 36 inches long, are built 10 to 30 feet up in the trees and seem absurdly large for the small occupants. With luck and patience the Becards themselves can be seen feeding their young. In contrast the Vermillion Flycatcher, a spectacular and colorful bird, seems to be everywhere. Other exciting birds likely to be found include Summer Tanager, Hepatic Tanager, Pyrruloxia, Bridled Titmouse, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lucy's Warbler, Black Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Blue Grosbeak, Red-eyed Cowbird, Ground Dove, White-winged Dove, Wied's Flycatcher, Olivaceous Flycatcher, Long-tailed Chat, Band-tailed Pigeon, Phainopepla, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Cardinal. The Gray Hawk nests regularly in this area.



A place where Mearn's Quail have frequently been reported may be reached by driving 2.4 miles south from East 4th Avenue in Patagonia on Highway 82. Turn left on a dirt road through a cattle guard staying on this road 1 1/2 miles to a "Y" and taking a left to the picnic ground. Look here for the elusive quail and watch for their diggings under the oaks.

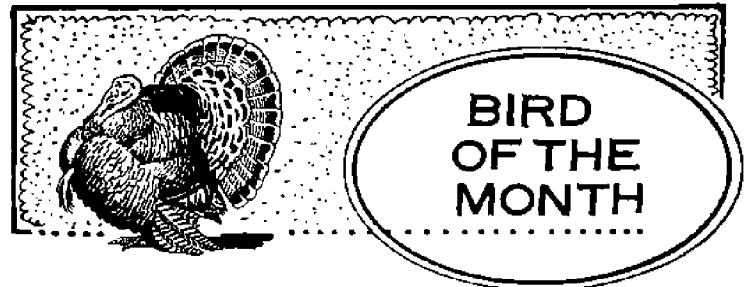


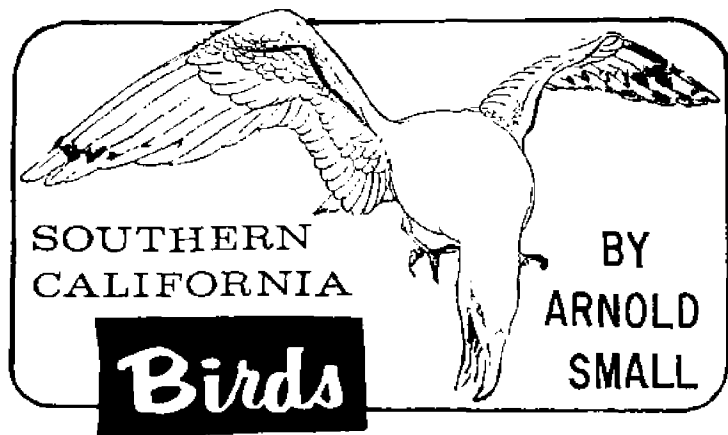
By going 12 to 15 miles east from Patagonia on the Harshaw Road the beautiful San Rafael Valley may be reached. Here Grasshopper, Cassin's, and Botteri's Sparrows as well as the Eastern (Rio Grande) Meadowlark could be seen.

A minimum of one full day should be allowed for Patagonia, but more time would undoubtedly produce additional life birds. ■

TANAGER FOLDING and MAILING PARTY

Thursday, November 30.
Call Mimi Small,
VERmont 7-2272.



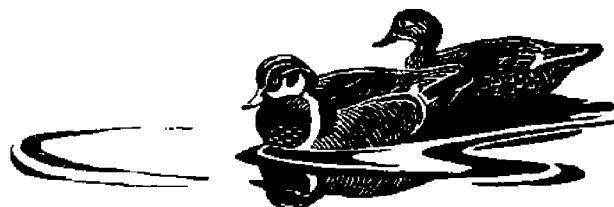


Although summery weather prevailed through most of September and October (with a severe heat wave on Oct. 13-15) some winter visitants began to arrive by the last week in September. White-crowned Sparrows were first noted at feeders during the last week in September and the first Cedar Waxwings of which I have note were seen on Sept. 30. Observers afield in coastal canyons during the middle of September noted good flights of Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Orange-crowned, Wilson's, and Yellow Warblers. The first Audubon's Warblers were noted in some abundance early in October. While the summer just passed was one of the hottest and driest on record, happily the number of forest fires was kept almost to an unbelievable minimum.



Shore-birding commenced to become interesting during early September and early south-bound flights of Pintails were sighted in the middle of the month. As for the shorebirds, a few early Black Turnstones were first reported in mid-August but larger numbers were seen in October. Due to the virtual elimination of the breakwaters at Playa del Rey as wintering areas

for Surfbirds and Turnstones, none of the former were reported. Northern Phalaropes abounded at Upper Newport Bay during the early fall, but most of the Wilson's had departed by the middle of September. No Red Phalaropes were reported away from the ocean. The flight of Elegant Terns was one of the poorest in many years while the flight of Common Terns was excellent. Only a few Elegants were noted at Upper Newport Bay and scattered reports of others at Malibu and Point Mugu were received. Scarce also in migration were Black Terns.



A great swirling mass of Common Terns greeted our boat in the harbor at Long Beach on Sept. 24 and reminded us of Chimney Swifts spiraling down into a chimney. By far the best pelagic bird of this trip was the Long-tailed Jaeger. Unlike the other jaegers, the Long-tailed seldom pirates gulls and other birds of their food. On their breeding grounds they feed largely upon insects gathered over the tundra and this may account for their scarcity among flocks of gulls at sea where we note so many Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers, and even Skuas. Their flyway apparently takes them mid-way down both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, during which time they probably do not feed.

A very strange bird was reported at Malibu Lagoon on Oct. 9 by Mrs. Theodore Jahn. Upon investigation it proved to be a female Ruddy Shelduck. There are no records for the U. S. other than two on the east coast, and although a probable escape (but they do occur in Asia) we may never know. Some lesser lights at Malibu included Knots and Pectoral Sandpipers. ■

★ Audubon Activities

(Continued from Page 19)

Irwin Woldman reported an outstanding pelagic trip in which some sixteen of our best birders joined some of the best from the Golden Gate Audubon Society for a charter trip from Monterey on Oct. 7. Edgar Kincaid flew out from Austin, Texas, to join the group. Almost unbelievable numbers of birds were seen. Dozens of the rare New Zealand Shearwaters along with Sooties, Slender-billed, Manx and Pink-footed, many Parasitic and Pomerine Jaegers, at least

ten Skuas at very close range, possibly twenty sightings of Fork-tailed Petrels as well as Ashys and Blacks, Black-footed Albatrosses that passed right over the boat, a profusion of Fulmars; also Rhinoceros Auklets, two Cassin's Auklets, two Pigeon Guillemots, and thousands of Phalaropes. Because of very rough weather over half of the party was afflicted with "mal de mer" and the boat came in before noon to put ashore those who preferred to go ashore. The hardier ones went out again but most of the group spent the rest of the day birding from shore. This also proved very successful as many pelagic species were brought close to shore by the strong on-shore winds: Jaegers, Skuas, Fulmars, Ashy and Fork-tailed Petrels, and a continuous procession of Phalaropes.

While enthusiasm is still strong among those who went there is talk of making this an annual trip in October. ■