

Los Angeles Audubon Society

The Western Tanager

VOLUME 28

JANUARY 1962

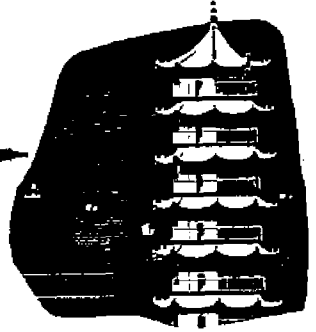
NUMBER 5



BIRDING IN THE



FAR EAST



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

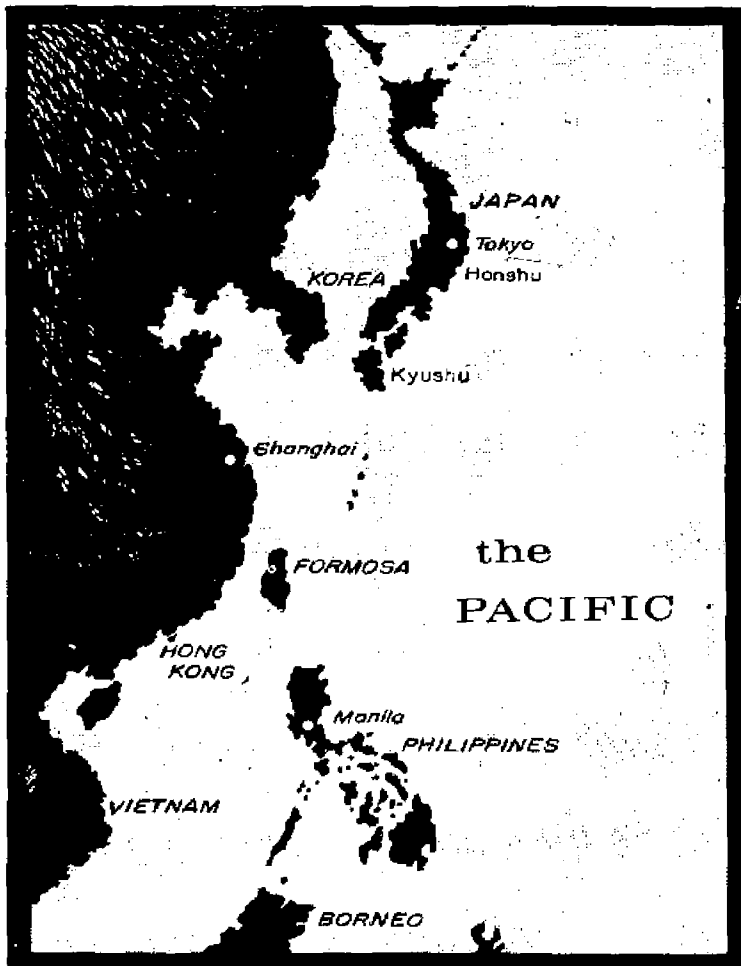
BY WILLIAM G. LEHMANN

During the summer and fall of 1960 while I was in the Far East, I had the opportunity to do some birding in Japan, the Philippines, and Hong Kong. Although the limitation of time and the means of transportation made it necessary for my exploration to be rather limited in scope, I saw some fascinating country and increased my life list by about seventy.

Birding without the aid of a Peterson guide can be a rather challenging and somewhat confusing experience. Outside of northern North America and Europe there is no field guide comparable to those of Roger Peterson and to those who have not tried birding under that circumstance, I can tell you that the problems of identification are multiplied manifold. Also, once you get outside the AOU Checklist area, there is no standardization of English names. In comparing notes on birds of the Philippines and Hong Kong we resorted to using the Latin names, but even the Latin names may not help at times. For example, the Greater Egret (*Egretta alba*) appears in the field and in the descriptions in the literature to be the same species as our Common Egret (*Casmerodius albus*) and the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) appears to be the same as our Snowy Egret (*Leucophoyx thula*). Are they? I still don't know.

Kyushu, Japan

The month of August I spent on the island of Kyushu, Japan. The birding was very poor on Kyushu at this time. I did get a new pelagic bird, the White-faced Shearwater (*Puffinus leucomelos*) which was quite common in the waters off Japan. It was here, too, that I became acquainted with the Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) and the Black-eared Kite (*Milvus migrans*). The Black-eared Kite was a very common bird in the harbor at Sasebo as it proved later to be also in Hong Kong. These kites are large birds and look nothing like our little White-tailed Kite. I enjoyed watching the kites fishing around our ship. A kite would swoop down and catch a small fish with one foot. Then while still in the air, place the fish in the mouth and eat it. Land birding in Kyushu was very



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46
HOLLYWOOD 7-9495

WESTERN TANAGER

Free to members... Others \$1.50 annually



The STAFF

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Editor | Arnold Small |
| 3028 Cavendish Drive., Los Angeles 64 | |
| Ass't Editor & Art Editor | Robert Sandmeyer |
| Conservation | Frank Little |
| Field Notes | Arnold Small |
| Audubon Activities | Russell Wilson |
| Calendar | Douglas Dick |
| Typing | Helen Sandmeyer Caroline Adams |
| Mailing | Mimi Small |

Roger Tory Peterson

RECOMMENDS:



"The new BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Annotated Field List

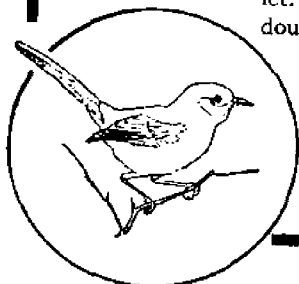
published by the Los Angeles Audubon Society and brought up to date by Arnold Small, is one of the handiest and best organized regional publications I have ever seen. No one who goes birding in Southern California can do without this important booklet. It will make your birding doubly effective."

\$1.15 postpaid

Send now to:

Los Angeles Audubon Society

7377 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles 16, California



CONSERVATION NEWS from FRANK LITTLE

At the November meeting of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, our president gave a report on the Audubon national convention. In it he outlined the conservation aims of the National Audubon Society as laid down by President Carl Bucheister. Due to the importance of these aims and for the benefit of those who did not attend, I am taking the liberty of reprinting an article on this topic from the Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide, Nov. 1, 1961.

President Carl W. Bucheister of the National Audubon Society, in a speech at the Society's 57th annual convention at Atlantic City, listed four goals for conservationists in the next session of Congress. He asked Society members and affiliated groups to study a fifth proposal that has not yet been drafted as legislation. These are the four:

1. Final passage of the Wilderness Bill, S. 174, which cleared the Senate last session but still requires House approval.

2. Passage of legislation to protect the golden eagle. This is needed, he said, to keep the magnificent golden eagle itself from disappearing in the United States. It is essential also for protection of the bald eagle which is often shot by mistake for the unprotected golden.

3. Creation of additional National Seashore Recreation Areas. Mr. Bucheister named specifically proposed national seashores at Point Reyes in California, Padre Island in Texas, the Oregon Dunes, and the Indiana Dunes.

4. Legislation to eliminate federal subsidies for the drainage of waterfowl marshes in the Dakotas and Minnesota. A bill to accomplish this purpose, H. R. 8520, passed the House last session and is pending in the Senate.

The Audubon leader's new proposal was that a \$2 "wildlife conservation stamp" be issued as a license or pass for bird watchers, picnickers, and others who visit the National Wildlife Refuges. Its purpose would be to raise needed funds for the federal system of refuges that are administered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"Most of the money for the federal refuges, and all the money currently used for the acquisition of new areas, has come from the \$3 Duck Stamp by which sportsmen are licensed to hunt waterfowl," Mr. Bucheister said.

"I am convinced millions of other Americans who benefit from the refuges, but who do not hunt, would be equally willing to contribute to the program. The federal refuges conserve many kinds of wildlife in addition to the game species."

He suggested a Conservation Stamp issued annually, each year depicting a different non-game species such as a song bird, shorebird or wading bird. The Duck Stamps traditionally picture a species of wild duck or goose, which are the quarry of hunters.

The Conservation Stamps, he proposed, would be sold at postoffices, as are Duck Stamps, and would entitle the purchaser to visit any National Wildlife Refuge any number of times for recreational purposes during the year. Children below a certain age would be exempt. Hunters who hold Duck Stamps would have the same visiting privileges.



Mrs. Russell Wilson, Executive Secretary

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

* January, 1962

- January 3 WEDNESDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park, Hollywood.
- January 4 THURSDAY AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - "PIKA COUNTRY" by Emerson Scott - 7:45 P.M. John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. A stirring color film of the majestic northwest--that vast wilderness inhabited by Trumpeter Swans, elk, moose, bear and the little pika of the title.
Chairman: Bill Lehmann - FR 7-2635
- January 6 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45 A.M. Meet at the north end of Echo Park, at the corner of Echo Park Ave. and Park Ave. (just south of Sunset Blvd. and north of the Hollywood Freeway). Mr. Bill Watson from the L. A. Audubon Society will be in charge of the program. Winter birds and residents. Bring binoculars for yourselves and lettuce for the birds.
Chairman: John Peebles - HO 7-1661
- January 10 WEDNESDAY MONTHLY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood.
(Note change of night and location this month) "THE GREAT ADVENTURE", a film by the great Arne Sucksdorff. The changing seasons on a remote Swedish farm. Highly recommended.
Chairman: Robert Blackstone - CR 6-3879
- January 13 SAT. - SUN. FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Salton Sea Area. Meet at the Headquarters Bldg. of the Imperial State Waterfowl Management Area at Ramer Lake, about 1 1/2 mi. south of Calipatria on State Highway #111. Those wishing to camp Friday and/or Saturday night may do so at Finney Lake (no drinking water available), or there are good motels in Brawley. One of the best trips of the year with thousands of wonderful birds. For further information or directions call:
Leader: Arnold Small VE 7-2272
- January 25 THURSDAY MORNING MEETING - 10:00 A.M. -12:00. Long Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. George Hastings, naturalist, teacher, and Audubon Editor Emeritus, will conduct a comprehensive study of some Western birds, their habitats and their distribution with maps and cut-outs made by the moderator, placing them in the sorts of living places they prefer. Panelists will include some notable Audubon members: Mrs. Elizabeth Fulton, Mrs. Delight Dodds, Mrs. Nurtha Dunn, Mrs. Winifred Koeler, Mrs. Bess Hoffman.
Chairman: Olive Alvey - NO 1-8036
- January 28 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - 8:00 A.M. Chatsworth Reservoir in San Fernando Valley. Meet at the corner of Reseda Blvd. and Roscoe Blvd. Ducks, Geese, possibly Whistling Swans, Mergansers, Lewis's Woodpeckers.
Leader: Reg Julian CR 4-3685
- January 29 MONDAY MAILING PARTY 7:45 P.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park. Light conversation and a little light work mailing Tanagers. Refreshments.
Chairman: Mimi Small VE 7-2272

CALENDAR

Continued

- January 31 WEDNESDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House, Plummer Park.
- February 1 - THURSDAY AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM - "ANIMALS ARE EXCITING" by Howard Cleaves - 7:45 P.M., John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 McCadden Pl., Los Angeles. Animal antics abound as we visit the noted Corn Palace, world's largest feeding station, the famed "Otter Man", Emil Liers, and the only purple martin colony in New York City. Weasels, horned larks, etc...
- February 3 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45 A.M., Fern Dell Museum. (Check with the chairman for verification.) "Nature Protects Itself--Camouflage" by Mary Hood. A talk with colored slides by a prominent Auduboner.
Chairman: John Peebles - HO 7-1661



TANAGER FOLDING and MAILING PARTY

Monday, January 29th

Call Mimi Small
VE 7-2272



Audubon

WILDLIFE
FILMS

Emerson Scott

Pika Country

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1962

Howard Cleaves

Animals Are Exciting

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1962



BY BILL WATSON

"Hummingbirds"

by Crawford H. Greenwalt

This book is a recent addition to the reference shelf of our library. It was donated to the library by Mr. Otis Wade of our Society. "Hummingbirds" is a book of great beauty and is one to be a treasured possession of any library--ornithological or otherwise. Its 69 superb color-photograph plates of some 58 species of

this family of birds are enough to make the book important. When it is understood that Peterson only lists 17 species in his "Field Guide to Western Birds" and only 15 on the checklist contained therein, it can be seen what a prodigious accomplishment it is for Mr. Greenwalt to produce a book such as this. Since most species of hummingbirds are to be found only in Central and South America, Mr. Greenwalt had to make a number of trips to those areas to photograph so many species.

But this book is more than a photographic portfolio. It is in addition, a definitive study of hummingbirds. Mr. Greenwalt uses the most modern technical means to study the principles of the hummingbirds iridescent colors and their flight aerodynamics, and thereby has made some significant contributions to our knowledge of these birds. He writes of these technical matters making every effort to make them as

understandable as possible to the average reader. His style of writing is very easy to read and he has much to teach the birder about hummingbirds.

Crawford H. Greenwalt graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1922 with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and became an employee of the E. I. duPont de Nemours Company in that year. In 1948, he became that company's president and holds that office today. It is not too startling to find such a man producing "Hummingbirds" when it is noted that he is a director of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, a trustee of the National Geographic Society, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

The book is available for use in the library at Audubon House and it is hoped that many of our members will read and enjoy it as much as I did.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

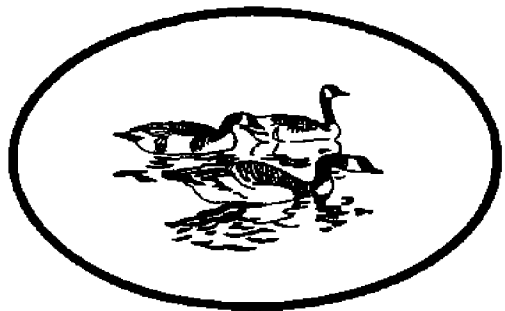
By Arnold Small.



November with its storms provided some exciting birding for those afield. While bringing grief to hillside and canyon residents of the Bel-Air and Brentwood areas, the rains of November reduced the fire-danger in the foothills to a minimum during the month. Much snow and freezing rain was recorded as low as the five thousand foot level in the mountains.

The only observer offshore during the month was G. Sumway Suffel of Pasadena. While on a trip to Catalina, Nov. 4 and 5, he noted 4 Sooty and 4 Slender-billed Shearwaters, 6 Cassin's Auklets, and a total of 10 Fulmars. While Glaucous-winged and Mew Gulls remained uncommon along the coast, thousands of gulls of other species (mostly Ring-billed) could be seen following the Santa Monica cliffs and Pacific palisades at dusk as they returned to their roosting areas along the beaches. This is a thrilling sight to see from near the Santa Monica Pier or Will Rogers State Beach. Long skeins of gulls, numbering many thousands, follow the updrafts along the cliffs for miles.

The numbers of wintering waterfowl at Upper Newport Bay are far below the normal 20 to 25 thousand that should be there, and no Canada Geese are among them. Bufflehead are very numerous at Upper Newport Bay, and there are a few Common Goldeneye with the other ducks. Canvasback and Redheads are very scarce,



On Nov. 24 Mimi and I estimated more than 8,000 Snow Geese at the south end of the Salton Sea, and among them we had no trouble finding the Blue Goose. We had some little trouble in locating a Ross' Goose, however, but we finally did. A lone Rough-legged Hawk at Ramer Lake made the trip there worthwhile. Great flocks of shorebirds and blackbirds were also wintering in the Imperial Valley together with hundreds of Mountain Bluebirds. The Wilsons found another Rough-legged Hawk at Borrego Springs about the same time, and a male Scott's Oriole was also a good winter find.

A number of people, including Mr. George Hastings of Santa Monica, reported wintering Hooded and Bullock's Orioles. Cedar Waxwings are present, but the flocks are still small. We

AUDUBON HOUSE REMODELING NEAR COMPLETION

Have you been to Audubon House recently? In October the north side of the House was vacated and turned over to the Society by the County Parks and Recreation Dept. (to be used for additional museum space). Since that time the office, storage room and service department have been moved to the two north rooms. This has been made possible by the help of Howard Capwell, Clair White, Glen McCune, and Otto Widmann who have spent hours tearing out storage cupboards, building them into more useful areas, building a completely new cabinet area for the service department and painting where necessary due to the moving of cabinets. Mary Hood, with the help of Bill Hood, has set up new exhibits in the former office room and has many plans for interesting exhibits in other available space.

Since the fence has been built around the house and garden, feeders have been placed in the yard and many birds not seen recently are again being seen. In addition to the seven resident species there have been Purple Finches, Hermit Thrushes, Fox Sparrows, White-breasted nuthatches and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. White-crowned Sparrows, Audubon's Warblers and Waxwings have been daily visitors.

The January calendar is fast filling up with appointments for youth groups and some appointments are being made as far ahead as March. Members with a natural science background, an interest in young people and the spread of conservation education are needed to help with the youth work. Members with an interest in garden planning and planting can be of service on our yard committee. Please contact Headquarters, HO 7-9495 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. for further information or to volunteer for service.

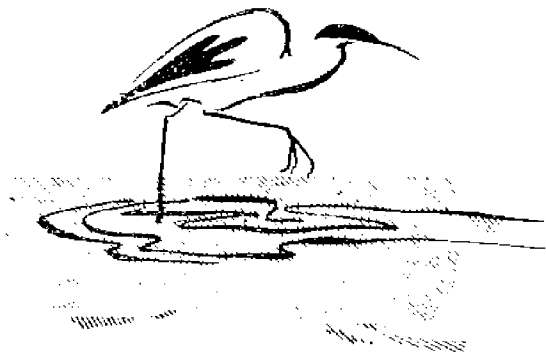
seem to be experiencing an invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers. Perhaps the conifer seed-crop is poor. The birds have been reported from many lowland and coastal areas from Monterey to San Diego. More Steller's Jays seemed to have come into lowland feeders also. Evening Grosbeaks were reported from near Red Box and wintering Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported from Laguna Beach. The Clarke's had a Slate-colored Junco at their feeders during late November.

The outstanding birds, however, were located at Newport Bay in the latter part of the month. An adult Little Blue Heron was located there by Jim Lane of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society. Other members looked and found a Reddish Egret and some controversy arose over misidentification of the same individual. Latest word is that both birds were present at the same time! Somewhat less exciting was the male Old Squaw which seemed to spend most of its time under the Newport Pier

BIRDING IN THE FAR EAST

(Continued from page 31)

frustrating - the insects sang so loudly I could seldom hear the birds, and when one of the large insects took wing it would momentarily deceive me into thinking I had flushed a bird. The commonest land bird in Japan is the European Tree Sparrow, which at first glance I mistook for the House or English Sparrow. It is as common there as the House Sparrow is in our cities. There is a considerable resemblance between these two species of the same genus, but there are three distinct differences: the Tree Sparrow has a brown crown instead of gray, it has a dark spot on the cheek, and both sexes are alike. These sparrows were also present in the Philippines and Hong Kong but not in such great numbers.



The Philippines

The six weeks I was in the Philippines (from the middle of September through October) were very rewarding. Most of my time was spent on the Naval Base at Subic Bay, and the area I covered was within walking distance of the ship. Nevertheless, in that area within that short time, I saw forty-two species of birds, all of which, except the Osprey and the Barn Swallow, were life birds for me. This was due primarily to the variety of habitat - tropical forest, marshland, grassland, mangrove swamp - all within the area of the Naval Base.

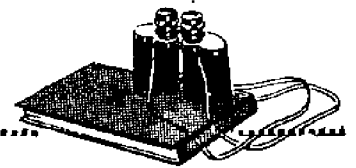
The first bird you see as you arrive in the Philippines by ship is another kite, the Brambling Kite or White and Red Eagle-kite (Haliastur indus). Unlike the rather drab Black-eared Kite, this is a strikingly beautiful bird. The head, nape, throat and breast are pure white and the back, wings, tail and belly a bright chestnut red. It is a very graceful flyer. Five species of herons and egrets could always be found in the marshes and mangroves. The shorebirds appear very similar to ours although apparently different species. The Common Sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos) looks and acts like our Spotted Sandpiper. The Common Curlew (Numenius arquata) is readily identified as a curlew but has a white rump. A characteristic sound of the early morning is the Morse-code-like sound

of the little Zebra Doves (Geopelia striata) which those of you who have been to Hawaii may remember. Where we have our Belted Kingfisher, Subic Bay has three beautiful species which are quite common - the White-collared Kingfisher (Halcyon chloris), the White-throated Kingfisher (Halcyon smymensis) and the tiny River Kingfisher (Alcedo atthis). Perhaps the most beautiful bird of Subic Bay is the Green-headed Bee-eater. We have nothing like it, but if you saw Peterson's film WILD EUROPE, you may recall his pictures of another bee eater in Spain. I thought it particularly striking as it sailed over the marsh catching insects. I could go on and on describing the other birds I saw in the Philippines - the several species of swallows, the wagtails and pipits, the bulbuls, the thrushes, warblers and mynas, the beautiful little mannikins which travelled in flocks through the tall cane grass - but let us go on to Hong Kong.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong British Crown Colony is very interesting from many viewpoints. The city of Victoria on the Island of Hong Kong and its sister city Kowloon across on the mainland are beautiful cosmopolitan cities overlooking a lovely harbor. Most of the good birding, though, is in the "New Territories" next to Red China. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society is a very active group and it is through them that I made my acquaintance with Chinese birds. My guide was Ted Allen, a young man from New England who was teaching at a college in Kowloon. I rode around curvy mountain roads up and over the mountains on the back of his motor scooter. What a ride! We went to Ping Shan, Mai Po and out onto the Mai Po marshes where we could look over into Red China. (I had to show my Navy I.D. Card to get by a police outpost on the marsh.) The birding was good and we totalled thirty-six species. I was getting to know some of the commoner birds of the Orient by this time, nevertheless, nineteen were life birds for me. Of special interest were the Chinese Pond Heron (Ardeola bacchus), the Collared Crow (Corvus torquatus), two more species of bulbul, the Dyal or Magpie-robin (Copsychus saularis) and the Stonechat (Saxicola torquata). To finish a perfect day of birding in the Mai Po marshes, we saw a pair of Red Avadavats (Estrilda amandava) which apparently had not been recorded from Hong Kong before. Unfortunately, I have a feeling they were escaped cage birds. I was in Hong Kong for six days and made one more birding trip - to "The Peak," the high point of Hong Kong Island - but much of my time was spent Christmas shopping and I had to sample the food of the French, Russian and Chinese restaurants!

As you can see there are a few compensations for sea duty, but I was mighty happy to get home to my family.



The very welcome rain which fell in ample quantities Saturday and continued in some areas into the early hours of Sunday morning Nov. 26 discouraged all but the most avid birders from our Sunday field trip to Buena Vista Lagoon. When Jim Huffman was unable to lead the trip, Arnold Small filled the breach and was met at the appointed time by Bob Blackstone, Irwin Woldman, Jim Denholtz, Douglas Dick, May Wilson, Larry Sansone, Bill Lehmann and two new members, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Rose. Bolsa Chica and the ocean front produced nothing noteworthy but upper Newport Bay offered a really outstanding rarity and life bird for many, a Little Blue Heron.

Don and Caroline Adams, a couple of late starters, overtook the party at upper Newport Bay and as Arnold wanted to return early to his family, they led the trip from there on. It was decided to revise the planned itinerary and go to O'Neil Park and the Tucker Sanctuary. O'Neil Park provided a good look at a number of wintering Purple Finches and although there were no Hummingbirds at Tucker except Anna's, it is always a delight to see such birds as Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes and Golden-crowned Sparrows at such very close range. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Goodman, who are the managers of the sanctuary, extended to the group the hospitality of their front room and lunch was enjoyed around their fireplace.



Marion and I, who had spent the Thanksgiving week-end at Borrego State Park, routed ourselves home via Buena Vista Lagoon, where we arrived about ten o'clock, expecting to join the trip there and finish out the day with the group. We were more disappointed than surprised when no one else appeared but enjoyed several hours of good birding under warm, sunny skies. An extensive program of burning off the tules has considerably altered the habitat here and perhaps because of this we had better than usual observations of Sora Rails, American Bitterns, Green Herons and Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

Almost a year's preparation culminated Saturday, Dec. 2, in the annual bazaar at Great Hall in Plummer Park. Olive Alvey, Mary Hood, Effie Mahaffee, Rose Bussey, Elizabeth Fulton, and Juanita Castator had met once or more each month to make plans and to prepare the beautifully handcrafted articles offered for sale. They were helped at the sales tables by Esther Johnson, Mimi Small, Castella Fisher, Helen Sandmeyer,

Fern Shelford, Betty Donan, Bessie Pope, Beth Patterson, and two guests of Rose Bussey from Pennsylvania--Orelle Thompson and Berniece Hatrick, while Douglas Dick made name-tapes to order.

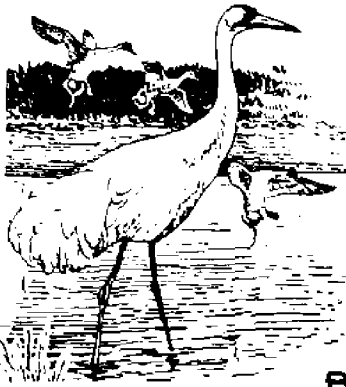
In spite of rain, attendance was good and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of sociability against a background of music and bird songs provided by Catherine Freeman. Special Christmas punch was made by Beth Patterson, coffee was prepared by two old pros Earl Mahaffee and Jim Bussey, and cookies were made by persons too numerous to mention.

We were happy to greet Mr. George Hastings, for many years editor of this publication and now Editor Emeritus, also Orbie Miller, who

(Continued on page 38)



- Mr. & Mrs. L. S. Barksdale
6006 S. Mansfield Ave., L. A. 43
- Miss Lillian Bradley
4701 6th Ave., L. A. 43
- Mr. John Chad
4320 W. 2nd St., L. A.
- Mrs. Roy D. Dere
5511 Poplar Blvd., L. A. 32
- Miss Marilyn Elder
1346 W. 17th St., San Pedro
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Hawthorne
1860 Silverwood Terrace, L. A. 26
- Mr. Ralph L. Hill
452A Pioneer Dr., Glendale 3
- Mr. Richard W. Jackson
18335 Chase, Northridge
- Mrs. Frank H. Little
16605 Merivale Lane, Pacific Palisades
- Mrs. Wayne F. Lohr
3392 Bennett Dr., L. A.
- Miss Stefanie Mangold
548 Crestline Dr., L. A.
- Mr. & Mrs. F. Richard Miller
c/o Gulf Oil of Calif., Box 17222, L. A.
- Miss Dorothy Nelson
203 S. Kenmore Ave., Apt. 8, L. A. 4
- Miss Pearl A. Parsley
1181 Browning Blvd., L. A. 37
- Mr. Alton A. Parsons
2433 Hill St., Huntington Park
- Mr. & Mrs. Guy Raymond
7254 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood 46
- Miss Mary Romig
400 Veteran Ave., L. A. 24
- Mr. H. S. Scherfee
1028 S. Keniston Ave., L. A. 19
- Mr. Otto Widman
3917 Paige Street, L. A. 31
- Mr. Fred Zinneman
1766 Westridge Rd., L. A. 49



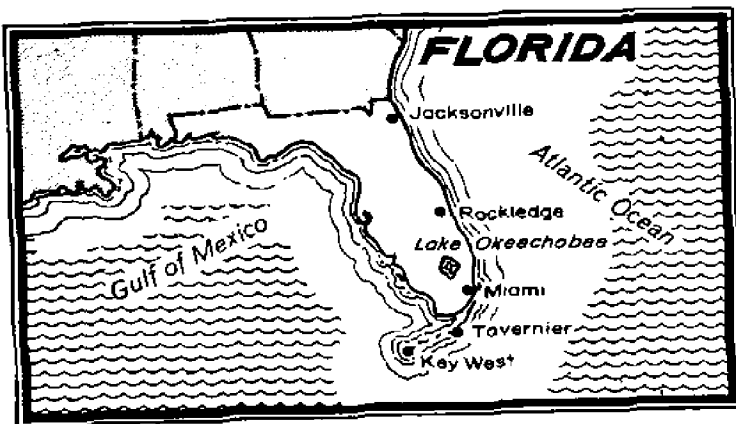
BIRDING IN THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

By EARL R. GREENE

One of the main objectives of my trip east this year was to see for myself certain birds that are rare, local, or have recently arrived in Florida and had not been observed by me during several years of my residence in that state. In this search I was ably assisted by several men who knew the locality in which they should be found.

Sam Grimes and I spent several delightful hours together near Jacksonville searching for the well-known Cattle Egret, but being unsuccessful, we decided that they had probably moved southward. Later results proved this to be correct.

I talked with W. Foster White who lives on Merritt Island, and was pleased when he agreed to meet me there. After driving and walking through mud and water with a number of Savannah and Sharp-tailed Sparrows all about us, we finally had a fine view of the bird we sought--the Dusky Seaside Sparrow with its blackish upper parts, heavy black stripes along its breast, and yellow streaks about the eye. It was a very different looking bird from the much lighter Savannahs. Later in the day White and I found a number of Cattle Egrets in the area south and west of Rockledge. These birds are now widely distributed in Florida, but during my former days in the state, were unknown there.



Driving to Okeechobee I contacted Glenn Chandler, the National Audubon Society warden, who took me in his motor boat on a fine trip on Lake Okeechobee where I had some excellent views of a male and female Everglade Kite. This bird is fast disappearing and should have complete protection.

On reaching Miami I located Mr. Louis A. Stimson. He and I drove about 73 miles along the Tamiami Trail, and then proceeded to wade and search for that elusive bird, the Cape Sable Sparrow. As we were about to give up the search there it was, up one second, then down into the grasses, repeating this for several minutes. A little later Stimson saw one more. I thought this was enough for one day but on returning to Miami I was taken to a residential section, and there on a wire and in the trees were two Red-whiskered Bulbuls (*Pycnonotus jocosus*). A stranger to me, this bird is an escape from cages in the area, but seems to be establishing itself very well in a wild state and may be added to the A.O.U. Check-List of North American Birds at some future time. While having breakfast with the Stimsons the next morning I remarked that there was one bird he had failed to show me. So as we went out to the car he shouted and pointed to the top of a tall tree. In full sunlight and giving a portion of its song was a beautiful Spotted-breasted Oriole. Another adult and immature were close by. This made my journey complete--six birds all new to me. And is anything as satisfying as recording a new species?

Along those beautiful Florida Keys, where Gulf and Atlantic waters meet, I stopped at Tavernier, found Robert Allen not at home but had a good talk with Mrs. Allen. Later I was welcomed by "Sandy" Sprunt, his wife and baby in their home, where he showed me his White-crowned Pigeons and we discussed some of his projects. Several delightful days were spent in Key West where I visited the Audubon House where Audubon resided during his stay there in 1832. It has recently been purchased by a wealthy man, reconditioned, and furnished throughout as of that period. It is open to the public.

Returning to Atlanta and taking a jet I arrived back in Los Angeles within four and one-half hours. A marvelous trip and a very satisfactory one.

Audubon ★ Activities

(Continued from page 37)

had just returned from several months in Pennsylvania. Dick seemed real happy too.

Olive says: "Thanks to all who donated articles for sale and to all who came and made a purchase."

The Saturday field trip to Hanson Dam attracted a small but select group of fourteen birders. Clear skies and temperature in the upper sixties made for pleasant walking through the basin. We listed fifty-four birds, among the better ones--two Common Snipe, one Canada Goose (cackling), several Buffleheads and a large number of Mountain Bluebirds. We were able to produce the Great Horned Owl, as promised, and later Bill Lustberg spotted a second one. The old gravel pit on Wentworth Ave. provided a fine opportunity to compare Scaups and Ring-necked Ducks, Canvas-backs and Redheads, female Gadwalls and female Mallards.