

The Western Tanager

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 9

MAY 1962

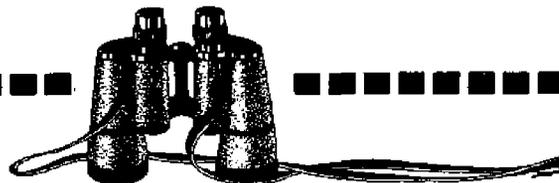
BIRDING

PART TWO

HINTS and HELPS

BY DUDLEY ROSS

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
PLUMMER PARK
7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD
LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA



What books should a birder own? Of course, this depends largely on how much money he wants to spend and to what extent he wants to become involved in this absorbing hobby. The first books almost everyone thinks of are the birders' "bibles"; Roger Tory Peterson's famous "A Field Guide to Western Birds", or, if you live in the eastern half of the U. S., his "Field Guide to the Birds". When it comes to bird identification, these books are in a class by themselves. They are profusely illustrated in both black-and-white and color and they point up the differences and similarities and draw attention to the salient field marks. However, the neophyte needs to be told what to look for and, to fill this gap, Peterson has written "How to Know the Birds", an inexpensive little book, which is invaluable to the beginner. This book tells you what to look for when a strange bird is seen and thus, by increasing your powers of observation, gives you a groundwork which makes it possible better to utilize the Peterson field guides and the wealth of information to be found therein. For those who plan to bird in Texas, there is the new "Field Guide to the Birds of Texas", also by Peterson.

Another prime necessity is a set of good colored plates. The National Geographic Society's "Book of Birds" (2 volumes) is excellent but is, unfortunately, out of print. It illustrates in color nearly all species of birds found in the U. S., exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii. It is occasionally possible to locate a set of these fine books. For the eastern half of the country, I recommend Forbush and May's "Birds of Eastern and Central North America". For the west, there is no single book available but the "Audubon Water Bird Guide" and "Audubon Western Bird Guide", both by Richard H. Pough, illustrate in color all the western birds. Both these books contain a vast amount of useful information and complement the Peterson guides very well. The remaining volume of the Pough set ("Audubon Land Bird Guide; Eastern Land Birds") completes the roster of U. S. birds and includes Alaskan species but not Hawaiian.

As one becomes more experienced in bird study, he will want to add to his ornithological library. Eventually, if a serious birder, he will want to own the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds--Fifth Edition. This is a basic reference work and will acquaint one with the status of every bird for which there is an acceptable record in the check-list area. Other valuable reference books are "Gulls of the World" by Dwight, "Fundamentals of Ornithology" by Van Tyne and Berger, "A Guide to Birdwatching" by Hickey and, for California, "The Distribution of the Birds of California" by Grinnell and Miller. Another reference book, which contains a wealth of information, written in a very interesting fashion, is "Modern Bird Study" by Griscom. Bent's monumental 19-volume work, "Life Histories of North American Birds" is also very valuable. These are all paper-bound volumes, issued by the Smithsonian Institution. Because of the completeness of the material and the very modest price at which they are published each volume becomes a collectors item in a relatively short time. Many of the older volumes are now out of print and copies of some of them command a high price. They are welcome additions to any ornithological library.

For those who want detailed information concerning specific groups of birds, there are several fine publications, among them, "The Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America" by Kortright, "Birds of the Ocean" by Alexander, "The Warblers of America" by Griscom and Sprunt, "Birds of the Pacific States" by Hoffmann, "The Hawks of North America" by May and the famous two-volume set "Oceanic Birds of South America" by Murphy. The Hoffmann book will be found very useful in California and, for the southern part of that state "An Annotated Field List of the Birds of Southern California" by Robert L. Pyle, (recently brought up to date by Arnold Small) provides many pointers on when and where each species occurs.

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The Western Tanager

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY
7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46
HOLLYWOOD 7-9494



Free to members....Others \$1.50 annually

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Conservation	Frank Little
Field Notes	Arnold Small
Audubon Activities	Russell Wilson
Calendar	Douglas Dick
Typing	Helen Sandmeyer Caroline Adams
Mailing	Mimi Small

Invitation to authors

The Editorial Staff welcomes copy for the Western Tanager. Now that the paper has been published in its new format for the past nine months, readers should have some idea of the sort of copy that might be suitable for the "lead" article, or a special article such as "Aves Rarae". These articles need not be confined to birds, but may deal with any subject of ecology, nature study, and/or conservation which would be of interest to our membership. Similarly, travelogues are welcomed, if their theme relates to the above subjects. If you wish to continue to read a scintillating and newsy journal, your contributions are solicited.

The only way we can continue to maintain our high standards of journalism is through YOU.

SEATTLE SOCIETY INVITES WORLD'S FAIR VISITORS

Word has been received from the President of the Seattle Audubon Society that they have established their own Office Headquarters and that it is staffed from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. six days a week. Anticipating many Audubon members and friends will be traveling to Seattle between April 21 and October 21 to visit the World's

Fair, they have extended a cordial invitation to be sure to contact their office. They will be pleased to give information and suggestions on field trip areas to visit, books on the natural history of the area, and other pertinent data of interest to Audubonites. They may be contacted as follows:



Seattle Audubon Society
Dr. Claude Heckman, President
820 Joshua Green Building
Fourth Avenue and Pike Street
Seattle 1, Washington
Telephone: MAin 2-6695



PROGRESS ON MATERIALS FOR CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Christmas bazaar workshop is off to a good start. Many interesting and attractive gift items are being made. You will be able to buy them at the bazaar in December, but we hope you are interested enough to come to the next workshop and help us make these things. We do need many helping hands if we are to realize a good profit for the sale. Audubon House needs so many things to make it a really workable institution.

Working in the workshop is sort of like the "quality of mercy" -- "it blesses him who gives and him who takes". We bring our new ideas and in turn learn good ones from the friends who work with us.

Coffee and coffee cake served.

AUDUBON HOUSE NEEDS COFFEE MAKER

Since the House is such a busy place it needs a big coffee maker. Those attending meetings at the House will appreciate our hospitality if we serve them a cup of the fragrant brew.

The Bazaar committee asks members and friends to save unwinding bands from MJB coffee and labels from MJB instant coffee.

1 pound band counts for 1 credit; 2 pound, 2 credits; 2 ounce jar instant, 1 credit; 6 ounce, 3 credits; and 10 ounce, 5 credits.

The 8 to 24 cup percolator requires 500 credits (or 250 credits plus \$7). Shall we try for the 250 credits and the cash so as to have the machine sooner? We would be so pleased if everybody would save bands for us and take them or send them to Audubon House.

Workshop can use thin plastic garment bags, also top and bottom tin can lids, all sizes, including coffee can lids and bottoms.

We thank you!

from Olive Alvey



May 1962

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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Mrs. Russell Wilson, Executive Secretary

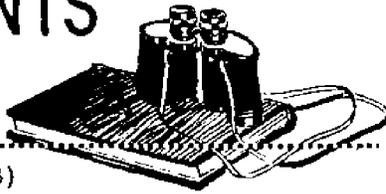
Headquarters, Nature Museum and Library located at Audubon House, Plummer Park
 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 46 - HO 7-9495.
 Telephone hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 President: James W. Huffman Registrar of Members: Mrs. James Bussey
 2912 Manhattan Ave., Manhattan Beach 3507 Hollydale Dr., Los Angeles

- May 3 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.
- May 5 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS - 9:45 - 11:15 A.M. - Griffith Park Boys' Camp. Annual Pet Show & Nature Collections contest.
 Chairman: John Peebles HO 7-1661
- May 8 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. - Great Hall, Plummer Park, "Nature's Personalities", a program of superb color slides by Bob Leatherman, APSA. Mr. Leatherman is a member of the Colton Camera Club and is famous in photographic salons for his photographs and slides of nature subjects. He is also an amateur naturalist and a dedicated conservationist.
 Chairman: Bob Blackstone CR 6-3879
- May 13 SUNDAY PELAGIC TRIP 7:30 A.M. Sportfishing dock, Port Hueneme. Take Pacific Coast Hwy to Hueneme Road turnoff. By reservation only.
 Leader: Arnold Small VE 7-2272
- May 18 FRIDAY BAZAAR WORKSHOP 10:00 A.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park. Items made to sell at annual Christmas Bazaar.
 Chairman: Olive Alvey NO 1-8036
- May 24 THURSDAY MORNING MEETING 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Long Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. Paul Lindau will show slides and motion pictures made by himself and his daughter Virginia, both Audubon members and both artists in their line. The feature of the day will be a film RCA has made from the Lindau pictures and it is entitled "Birds and their Babies". This is sure to be a fine film, one to be enjoyed by everybody--come, and invite friends along.
 Chairman: Olive Alvey NO 1-8036
- May 26 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP - 7:15 A.M. Tapia Park. Take Pacific Coast Highway to Malibu Canyon Road, turn right and continue through canyon to Tapia. Or, Ventura Freeway west from Hollywood to Tapia Park turnoff. Parking lot left of entrance. Birds of the oak and riparian woodlands, with emphasis on warblers, vireos and finches--identification by song and call.
 Leader: Warren Blazer - BR 2-8598
- May 29 TUESDAY ANNUAL DINNER 6:30 P.M. Carolina Pines Restaurant, 7315 Melrose Ave., Hollywood. See separate sheet for particulars and reservation form.
- May 31 THURSDAY MAILING PARTY 7:45 P.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park. Mailing of Tanagers, conversation and refreshments.
 Chairman: Mimi Small VE 7-2272
- June 2 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS - 9:45 A.M. - Griffith Park Zoo. Meet at the entrance. There will be a fine guided tour.
 Chairman: John Peebles HO 7-1661
- June 7 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. - Audubon House.
- June 9 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Buckhorn Flats. Meet at the parking area at entrance to Buckhorn Campground on Angeles Crest Highway beyond Upper Chilao. Many birds should be nesting, among them the Purple Martins. Those wishing to camp may do so at Chilao or Buckhorn.
 Leaders: Marion and Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

JUNE - 1962

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BIRDING HINTS and HELPS

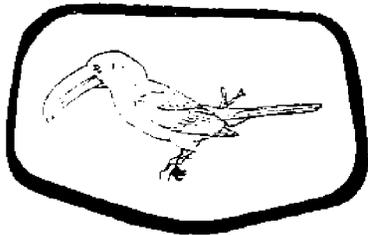


(Continued from page 63)

For those who wish to become acquainted in a general way with the world's birds, a large, expensive but classical book has recently been published. Entitled "Birds of the World" and with an interestingly written and authoritative text by the distinguished ornithologist, Dr. Oliver L. Austin, Jr., this book contains 300 beautiful, colored illustrations, depicting more than 700 species of birds. At least one representative species is shown from each of the world's bird families and the volume has received wide acclaim from professional ornithologists.

Among the many books which will furnish much pleasurable, entertaining and informative reading are "Birds over America" and "Wild America", both by Peterson, "North with the Spring" by Teale, and "Penguin Summer" by Eleanor Rice Pettingill. In addition, there are many regional bird books, dealing with the birds of a single state or section of the country.

For the birder who plans to travel to various parts of this country, Dr. O. S. Pettingill, Jr., has written two books which I can heartily endorse, based on my own experience with them in all 48 states. They are "A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi" and "A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi". These two unique books not only describe most of our outstanding birding areas but they tell you how to get there and what you may expect to find upon arrival. They will produce many life-birds for those who like to travel in search of new species and will thus help make any trip more rewarding.



After a time, when he has seen most of the birds in his home region, the active birder will look for new worlds to conquer. He will want to see rare and exotic species and representatives of bird families which do not occur where he lives. The results obtained on such a birding trip will be in direct ratio to the completeness and thoroughness of the preparations made beforehand. You should, first of all, acquaint yourself with the species of birds you might encounter in the region to be visited and at the appropriate time of year. The Lark Bunting is a common summer resident in the Dakotas but one would not expect to find it there in the winter months. Redpolls, in some years at least, are abundant winter visitors to the same area but would not be present in summer. Then again, birds such as Harris' Sparrow and Lapland Long-

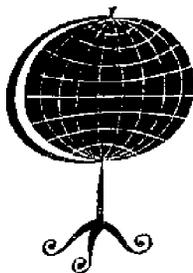
spur may be very common there during migration but are not normally present during other seasons. Pettingill's two bird-finding guides, mentioned above, are invaluable on such a trip. In these books you can refer to the state or states to be visited, learn where the best birding places are, what can be seen there and when it is present. Most chapters also contain information as to the approximate dates of the local bird migrations.



If the trip is to be made by automobile, plan your route carefully so as to encompass the greatest number of choice localities. In planning the distance to be driven each day, take into account the kind of country you will be passing through, that is, whether flat or mountainous, whether sparsely settled or heavily populated and with large cities to be considered. For the birder, it is sometimes desirable to plan a fairly heavy driving schedule for two or three days, so as to pass rapidly through uninteresting country and so as to have more time available at the best places. If possible, make arrangements beforehand with local contacts. Most birders are only too glad to help a visitor see the regional specialties and, if conditions permit, will usually guide you to the best spots. Of course, most people can do this only on weekends or holidays and, even at those times, there may be obligations which would prevent their taking one around, much as they would like to. Frequently, the name of one or more local expert can be obtained through a local Audubon society or other bird group or perhaps through the regional editor of Audubon Field Notes. Many of the federal and state wildlife refuges are among the best bird-finding areas. A letter to the manager of a refuge will usually produce a check-list of the refuge's avian population often with an indication of the abundance of each species and the months during which it is present. Many refuge managers, especially on the federal refuges, have an excellent knowledge of the birds of the refuge and, if free to do so, may guide you around. Such local contacts are very helpful as they enable one to use his time to best advantage. Much valuable time can be lost in looking frantically, and often unsuccessfully, for certain areas. Many times, one can secure detailed information and directions from a birding friend who has previously visited well-known birding places, especially if he has kept careful and detailed notes on just how to get there and what was seen.

The timing of a birding trip is very important. Extreme summer heat would be a deterrent in some areas and winter trips would be rather unproductive in others. Learn when the birds you seek will be present. Get the necessary maps and plan your route in detail. If you don't plan to camp out, get a list of good motels such as Best Western, Travelodge, Holiday Inns or,

east of the Mississippi, the Quality Courts group. Most of these organizations will make your next night's reservation for you, if you plan to stay at one of their member motels. A plan which I have often found satisfactory is to make a number of unpaid reservations by mail, before starting out. If, on a given day your reservation was, for instance, at a Travelodge and it appeared you were going to be late in arriving (most motels have a specific deadline, after which time they will not hold an unpaid reservation), you locate in your Travelodge Guide one of their motels which is situated along your travel route for the day. You simply tell them you have a reservation at such-and-such a Travelodge and that you want to pay for it as you expect to arrive late. They will telephone ahead to the motel where the reservation is held, state you have paid for the reservation and give you a receipt for the payment. In this way, you are assured of satisfactory accommodations no matter when you arrive and this is a very comfortable feeling. I might mention at this point that it is very unusual to find any kind of accommodations at any of the refuges, so you must plan to stay at the nearest sizable town or city.



On the subject of birding trips, I should like to make one additional comment. Not everyone has the financial resources and time necessary for extensive trips abroad. However, there is enough wonderful scenery and a large enough number of birds to see in this country, to keep the most active birder busy for a number of years, even if you don't include our two newest states. No one has ever seen all the species which have been recorded in the U. S. Many of our marvelous national parks are excellent birding places and some of them even have bird specialties of their own. When planning birding trip, do not overlook the possibility of including some of these parks in your itinerary, in addition to any national monuments and federal or state refuges which may be along your route. The rewards will be great, not only scenically and ornithologically but in giving you a knowledge of our country and an appreciation of its many wonders, which so many people never achieve. **GOOD BIRDING!!!**

TANAGER

.....> FOLDING & MAILING PARTY

Thursday, May 31st



CONSERVATION NEWS from FRANK LITTLE

During Conservation Week (March 7-14) the Los Angeles Audubon Society released a statement reminding school children that most birds are protected by law and that violation of these conservation laws is punishable by a \$500 fine and/or a six-month jail term. We released this statement as a result of having received numerous report of children and young adults shooting birds either for science exhibits or just for the fun of it. Several youngsters who had been engaged in collecting birds for an exhibit were appalled to learn that they had been breaking such a law.

It occurred to us while preparing this statement that many of our own members, though certainly aware of these laws, might be a little hazy about some of the particulars. And so, in order that we might be well informed on these laws that we ourselves helped institute, I am reproducing here a portion of the above-mentioned statement (which was actually drafted by Russ and Marion Wilson).

"All birds in California except house sparrows, starlings, Steller's jays, scrub jays, crows, and black-billed and yellow-billed magpies are protected and may not be taken except under permit from the California Department of Fish and Game. This includes all song birds, migratory birds, (game birds which may be hunted during a hunting season require a license), all hawks, and the great horned owl.

"Fully protected birds in California, which means that they may not be captured, possessed, or used for falconry, are California condors, trumpeter swans, bald eagles, golden eagles, ospreys, white-tailed kites, and all owls except the great horned which requires a permit.

"Many mammals, aquatic animals, and plants are protected and may not be collected without a permit. Desert turtles and diamond-backed terrapins are fully protected and may not be taken at any time. . ."

Many of us have been so active in following and encouraging new conservation legislation that we sometimes take for granted the security promised by previous acts. This is a dangerous attitude; we must frequently work full time just to maintain the progress achieved by past generations. Nowhere is this more evident than in matters concerning our National Park System.

We have been led to believe that once an area is included in the National Park System its sanctity is forever guaranteed. This belief often en-

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CONSERVATION NEWS

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courages us to focus our attention solely on matters other than those pertaining to National Parks. It is often with a rude shock that we are awakened out of our torpor by such items as the following: the serious consideration of hunting in National Parks; the victory of power boat enthusiasts in most of Yellowstone Lake with the prospect of more to come in other parks; the imminent flooding of Rainbow Bridge National Monument; the proposal to divert 90% of the water from Grand Canyon; the plan to erect a hotel right in Grand Canyon; and many others.

For those of us who have a soft spot in our hearts for the National Park System--and what Audubon member doesn't!--there is fortunately an organization specifically created to cope with problems concerning the National Park System; namely the National Parks Association. Many Audubon members belong to this creditable association and thus get the dual satisfaction of contributing to a worthwhile cause and receiving an excellent magazine devoted to the National Parks. On the Board of Trustees of this association are such luminaries as: Carl Bucheister, Clarence Cottam, Ira Gabrielson, Olaus Murie, Richard Pough and many others. If you do not already belong and care to join, just send a contribution of \$5.00 or more to the National Parks Association, 1300 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.



Welcome!

Mr. Maurice Alvey
3872 Clayton Ave., L. A. 27
Mrs. Daisy S. Baird
407 S. Hope St., L. A. 17
Mrs. H. A. Baxter
1693 Highland Oaks Dr., Arcadia
Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Beals
6471 W. 84th St., L. A. 45
Mrs. Peggy Buckey
116 17th St., Manhattan Beach
Miss Louise Bugbee
1143 S. Hoover St., L. A. 6
Mr. Robert Constable
6521 Blucher, Van Nuys
Mr. Earl C. Craig
646 Tularosa Dr., L. A. 26
Miss Freda S. Dutton
12124 Navy St., L. A. 66
Mr. J. S. Galbraith
6946 Los Tilos Rd., Hollywood 28
Mrs. Thomas A. Golding
5741 Larryan Dr., Woodland Hills
Miss Minna Gombell
218 Spalding Dr., Beverly Hills



Roland C. Clement, NAS staff biologist, took part March 21 in the first of a series of weekly reports on bird migration on NBC-TV's Today Show at 8:15 Wednesday mornings. If the public response is good this kind of service probably will be continued in future seasons. Therefore letters of commendation, if you think them deserved, would be in order. Address them to the Today Show, NBC-TV, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, New York.

We need March issues of the Western Tanager. Any members who do not keep their Western Tanagers on file are asked to contribute the March issue to Audubon House.

FRANK'S GARDEN SUPPLIES

PHONE NO. 7-5933
LAWN MOWERS SHARPENED
PET SUPPLIES - INSPECTED HORSE MEAT

1226 NORTH LA BREA

HOLLYWOOD 38, CALIF.

Has provided free of charge all seeds, peanuts and sunflower seeds used at Audubon House since 1958.

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12835 Parkyns St., L. A. 49
Mr. E. C. Hayes
252 S. Carondelet, L. A. 57
Mr. William D. Lorenz
3571 Colonial Ave., L. A. 66
Mr. Norman F. McGary Jr.
3571 Colonial Ave., L. A. 66
Miss Garnet McGavin
1515 S. St. Andrews Pl., L. A. 19
Mr. Alfred W. Meyer
1941 8th Ave., S. E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Miss Mary Edith Mitchell
5233 Randolph St., L. A. 22
Miss Joyce Munson
12157 Sunset Blvd., L. A. 49
Mrs. Edgar A. Roehm
1040 N. Bundy Dr., L. A. 49
Mr. Paul Shearer
2816 Gramercy Ave., Torrance
Mrs. Ethel Stafford
668 Lucas Ave., L. A. 17
Mrs. Edith H. Wallace
2360 Fair Park Ave., L. A. 41
Mrs. Vera G. Weinert
2934 Beverwil Dr., L. A. 34

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
AS OF MARCH 31, 1962 -
192. WE ARE GROWING.

The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

By Ernest Willoughby

The magnificent Ivory-bill seems doomed to extinction--if, indeed, it still exists--despite the concern of conservationists. The largest woodpecker in the United States once ranged through the Southeast west to Texas and well up the Mississippi drainage, but was never abundant. Its population had nearly reached the vanishing point by the 1920's, when a number of ornithologists considered it extinct. But a few scattered pairs and individuals kept turning up and in 1938 the National Audubon Society sponsored a study by James T. Tanner which gave us almost all that is known of the ecology of this species (The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Research Report No. 1 of the National Audubon Society, 1942).

Tanner studied the nesting and ecology of a few pairs living on the Singer Tract, Madison Parish, Louisiana, estimating the population of 1939 to be about 24 individuals located in Louisiana and probably in certain areas in Florida and South Carolina. He found that though no one type of forest forms the habitat, the woodpeckers are dependent on virgin stands of timber of considerable extent. Only virgin timber can supply the Ivory-bill its principal food item--wood-boring larvae of Buprestid, Cerambycid and Elaterid beetles. These larvae burrow between the bark and trunk of dead and dying trees, appear usually about a year after death of the wood, and are commonest in wood dead about two years. Afterwards they disappear. Only a virgin forest of large extent can supply enough dead wood in the right stage of larval infestation to support a breeding pair of Ivory-bills. At any rate, Ivory-bills seemed virtually restricted to virgin timber tracts, and have disappeared from regions coincident with the logging of such areas. Since Tanner's study the Singer Tract has been logged and the Ivory-bills there have disappeared.

There may still be a few isolated individuals or pairs hanging on in remote forests of Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, or the Big Thicket region of East Texas. There have been claims of some recent sightings by competent observers in this latter area. Many people have mistakenly identified the Pileated Woodpecker (Ceophloeus

Program for the Thursday Morning Meeting of March 22 was supplied by Mrs. Mary Hood. She played a series of eight fine records made by Dr. Loye Miller, entitled "Music in Nature, a transcribed lecture". Dr. Miller has a keen ear for bird sounds and his demonstrations, by mouth, of the differences between sound and music, and between speech and song in birds opened up a new and beautiful concept of this subject for those present. The section on tone as opposed to noise was particularly delightful.

In past years Dr. Miller lived in Los Angeles, teaching, writing and uncovering buried skeletal remains in the La Brea Tar Pits. One of his books, "Lifelong Boyhood" is in our Audubon House library and is recommended. Mrs. Hood related how Dr. Miller, with his unusual gift of imitation, can "call up" any bird within hearing of his voice by imitating its song.

Spring weather returned suddenly on March 25 and sent temperatures into the 80s in much of Southern California. This contributed to the fine attendance at the Sunday field trip to Irvine Park, which was led by Laura Jenner. Libbie and David Hilberman, Liz and Gene Rose, Marion and Russ Wilson, Laura and Betty Jenner made a weekend of it by camping at O'Neill Park.

Irvine Park probably has the greatest concentration of Acorn Woodpeckers in Southern California and produced also Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Black-crowned Night Heron, Varied Thrush and all three goldfinches.

Things were rather crowded at the Tucker Sanctuary when our large group was added to the numerous Sunday visitors but those who managed

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pileatus) as the Ivory-bill, and each report must be assessed with caution on this account. More definitely, two Ivory-bills were seen in Florida March 3, 1950 (reported in The Auk 67, 320 (1950)). The species may yet survive in Cuba. John V. Dennis found them nesting in cut-over pine forest in an undisclosed mountainous region of Cuba in 1948 (see Dennis, John V. 1948. "A last remnant of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in Cuba." The Auk 65, 497-507). They appeared to have adapted to the cut-over condition where much dead wood was left standing. The localities of recent sightings are seldom divulged by the observers for fear of exposing the birds to human disturbance and unscrupulous collectors. So the status of the species at present is rather uncertain.

The only way to keep the Ivory-billed Woodpecker from extinction is to preserve its habitat of virgin timber in large tracts. Unhappily, this task is almost impossible.

Southern California

Birds



By Arnold Small

As this is written (April 5) we are in the midst of an unseasonable heat wave after a March in which temperatures averaged lower than any time in the past fourteen years. The coolness of the season, especially in the higher deserts, retarded the floral displays there somewhat, but the lower deserts (especially the Anza portion of Anza-Borrego) were a marvel of beauty during March. Similarly, the foothills of the Sierra Madres, the San Jacintos, the Tehachapis, and the Coast Range were carpeted with such a mass of lupines, mustard, and sunflowers as to defy description. Even the humblest road cuts harbored their share of lupines, fiddlenecks, and baby-blue-eyes. One of the finest poppy and lupine shows ever beheld by this writer was witnessed near Aguanga in mid-March. Intermingled with this mass of color were fields of popcorn flower, baby-blue-eyes, tidy-tips, and shooting stars. Bob Blackstone visited Anacapa Island during the very early part of April and recounted that he had never seen such a wonderful display of blue dicks, lupine, and especially the coast coreopsis. Personnel on the island told him that it had been that way since the end of December. In the low deserts of San Diego County the sand verbena carpeted the bases of the blooming cholla, bisnaga, ocotillo, pincushion cactus, and hedgehog cactus. Here and there were glorious stands of desert lily and desert dandelion, while in the rocky canyons the ghost flower (mohavea), blazing stars, and phacelias added still more color to the scene.



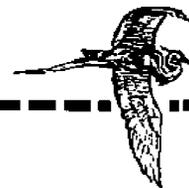
Amidst all this glorious desert splendor, there were almost no birds! Strangely enough even the low deserts were devoid of bird songs--even in the early morning. The best desert oases--Thousand Palms, Cottonwood Springs, Mecca, Palm Canyon, Yaqui Well, and others offered few migrants to the birders there in March and early April. True, the deserts had been cool to cold during March and this no doubt retarded the northward movement of birds somewhat. Small groups of orioles were noted moving through our region during the latter part of March, but generally speaking, the migration was off to a slow start, at least for many species. Swallows, however, started an excellent migration as early as late February. Sea birding was especially dull during March, and very few pelagic birds were noted in the channel. Likewise, coastal birding left much to be desired. But Guy McCasie continued to astound his friends by his sensational finds. Although the Common Teal and the Broad-billed Hummingbirds had left San Diego, he continued his remarkable pace by locating a RUFF in the flood control channel north of San

Diego on March 30. He collected the bird after failing to contact any people who were willing to go and see it. He thus established the first record of this bird for California (however, Marie Mans was sure she had seen one at Bodega Bay last winter) and probably the first bonafide record from the west.

At last report the Reddish Egret was still at Upper Newport Bay, but the excitement had dwindled over this bird. Clarke's Nutcrackers continued to appear in West Los Angeles (especially near Beverly Hills and Santa Monica) and disturbing reports were received of nesting Starlings in Manhattan Beach, Torrance, San Gabriel, and elsewhere.

Have you ever seen hummingbirds against the snow? We did--at Pine Cove near Idyllwild. Two gentlemen there have been feeding them all winter, and thus have induced a number of Anna's to remain with them despite the heavy snows and absence of flowers. They claim to attract more than five hundred hummingbirds of six species throughout the summer!

By the time you read this column, landbirds should be swarming through the canyons and foothills, and hundreds of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters should be streaming north.



(Continued)

to get onto the porch had good views of Costa's, Rufous, Allen's, Anna's, and Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

It was a good hawk day at O'Neill Park as our list included Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Cooper's Sharp-shinned, and Sparrow Hawks as well as a Golden Eagle. Numerous Purple Martins were examining nesting holes in the sycamores and Cassin's Kingbirds were carrying nesting material and defending their territories. This is always a good close-in trip and our composite list showed 73 species.

On Saturday, April 7, something new was added to the schedule of field trips organized by the society for the pleasure and edification of its members and friends. For some time there have been persistent requests for a botany field trip. Finally Arnold Small was able to secure the services of Mr. Jack Clark as leader and the date was set. In spite of late delivery this month of the Tanager, which seriously limited the number of members who learned of the trip in time, attendance was very gratifying. Twenty-nine members and guests appeared at ten o'clock at Tapia Park and spent a very pleasant, albeit a warm day, botanizing.

There was real enthusiasm for the trip and for the leadership of Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark is a science instructor and colleague of Arnold Small at Palisades High School. Our sincere thanks to him for his services so generously given.

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANNOUNCING

Sixth



Tuesday, May 29th. 6:30 pm

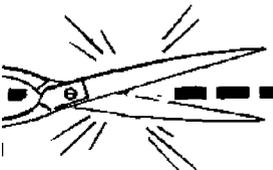
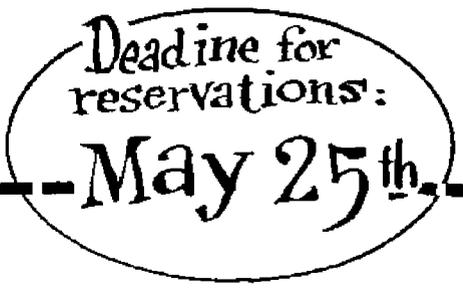
Carolina Pines Banquet Hall
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Dr. John D. Goodman
Associate Professor of Biology
University of Redlands

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