

Los Angeles Audubon Society  
**The Western Tanager**

VOLUME 28

NUMBER 10

JUNE 1962

**BIRDS**

**IN**

**HAWAII**

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

PLUMMER PARK

77 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA

**BY ROBERT L. PYLE**

The non-professional bird-seeker with a general interest in all the birdlife of Hawaii will find it convenient to divide the species of wild-occurring birds there into four major groups. These are 1) the native landbirds, all but one of which are species endemic to Hawaii; 2) the introduced landbirds which are known to have been brought to Hawaii by man since 1778 when the Islands were first discovered by Captain Cook; 3) the freshwater birds and shorebirds which inhabit marshes, ponds, shorelines or mudflats and 4) the birds of the open ocean which, except for nesting, occur at the Islands only incidentally and which normally range far to sea even during the nesting season.

A birder arriving in Honolulu on his first visit will quickly become acquainted with the commoner species of introduced landbirds which abound in the hotel grounds and in the parks and gardens about the city. During the first week as he ventures farther afield, he may find a few more introduced species in the countryside along the many good roads outside Honolulu. He will likely be directed to, or discover, a pond or mudflat and there see a sampling of freshwater birds and shorebirds, most if not all of them familiar species from the California coast. Along the coastal road he may, with good fortune, record one or two seabirds, usually a Frigatebird or White-tailed Tropic-bird soaring high overhead.

But birders coming to the Islands for a brief visit usually want most of all to see some of the endemic Hawaiian landbirds, and also to see some of the more interesting seabirds, preferably at their nesting or roosting grounds where they may be observed closely and easily. A few native landbirds and some seabirds can be found quite readily on Oahu in the company of an experienced individual or group. Birders visiting in Honolulu should inquire at the Bishop Museum for the phone number of an officer of the Hawaii Audubon Society. The Society schedules two field trips each month, and its members are usually happy to direct visitors to local birding trails, or perhaps accompany them on special excursions. Mainlanders planning a trip to the Islands should study the Society's monthly publication Elepaio.

Twenty-two species of native landbirds are definitely known to exist now in the Islands, while nine other species plus three forms of the Oo have been unrecorded for half a century or more. These are accurately set forth in Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds. Some species

(Continued on page 74)

# The Tanager Western

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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



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

## 1963 NATIONAL AUDUBON CONFERENCE AT ASILOMAR

Anyone planning to attend the Conference should get their names on a PRIORITY LIST as soon as possible. A special flyer announcing this together with a form for requesting priority reservation consideration has gone to all members and magazine subscribers. Entry onto the PRIORITY LIST will ensure receipt of an early October mailing of the Official Registration Form. For the past several conferences they have had to turn many people away. The Conference dates are April 6, 7, 8, 9, 1963 at Asilomar State Park, California and it is open to BOTH Audubon members and friends.

Bill Goodall has advised all Branch and Affiliate Presidents of plans for the 3rd Nature Photography Salon to be held in connection with the 1963 Conference. Copies of Regulations and Conditions of Entry have been sent to the Presidents so that interested members can secure all the details. With summer travel close at hand there is the opportunity to "snap" the very picture that will win one of the three Grand Prizes.

### AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

The enclosure with this issue of the Tanager was sent to us by the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies in the hope of soliciting your help in their Canyon Ranch project.

## Society Elects New Officers for 1962-63

President.....	Arnold Small
First Vice-President.....	Frank Little
Second Vice-President.....	Catherine Freeman
Executive Secretary.....	Marion Wilson
Treasurer.....	Hubert Weiser
Recording Secretary.....	Caroline Adams
Registrar of Members.....	Rose Bussey

## Surpasses Last Year's Total

## CONDOR FUND SUCCESS

Thanks to the most generous support of our membership, \$649.53 was contributed to the CONDOR FUND between July 26, 1961 and May 1, 1962. This far surpasses the \$494.00 collected the previous year, and our year is not yet over. Thanks to the generosity of our membership, this society is able to help defray the National Audubon Society's obligation to support 50% of the cost of warden service in the Condor Sanctuary, by a large margin.



# Welcome!

TO NEW MEMBERS

- Mr. Roy H. Albright  
2452 Senta Ave., L. A. 22
- Mrs. Hazel Berg  
24912 Malibu Rd., Malibu
- Mr. Paul Kundig  
5202 Alhama Dr., Woodland Hills
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Leichner  
1044 Hiltz Ave., L. A. 24
- Mrs. Sylvia Lohan  
244 N. Bristol Ave., L. A. 49
- Miss Muriel C. Lorigan  
943 9th St., Manhattan Beach
- Miss Muriel Lowther  
3290 Tareco Dr., Hollywood 28
- Mr. M. E. Lundquist  
1460 Park Ave., Long Beach 4
- Miss Anita McCoy  
4124 Via Largavista; Palos Verdes Estates
- Miss Esther L. Olsen  
10813 Lindbrook, L. A. 24
- Miss Ingebar Orr  
Box 962, Big Bear Lake
- Mr. E. V. Pullias  
7422 Brighton Ave., L. A. 47
- Mrs. Etta Ross  
1415 Manhattan Ave., Hermosa Beach
- Mrs. Thelma Shanks  
418 N. Beachwood Dr., L. A. 4

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP APRIL 30, 1962.....800



June 1962

Mrs. Russell Wilson, Executive Secretary

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

- June 2 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS - 9:45 A.M. Griffith Park Zoo. Meet at entrance. There will be a fine guided tour.  
Leader: 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, including Purple Martins. Black-chinned Sparrows should be back. Those wishing to camp may do so at Buckhorn or Chilao.  
Leaders: Marion and Russ Wilson PO 1-7635
- June 15 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
- June 16 SATURDAY ECOLOGY AND NATURE STUDY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Chantry Flats. This is second in the new series of trips which will not emphasize bird study but will be concerned with Botany and other things. Take San Bernardino Fwy to Rosemead Blvd., turn north to Foothill Blvd., turn right to Santa Anita Ave., Turn north to end of Santa Anita Canyon Rd. Meet at 7:00 A.M. with your own breakfast, if desired.  
Leader: Bill Watson NO 5-0745
- June 24 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Hanna Flats Campground. To reach this area drive to Fawnskin on the north side of Big Bear Lake. Take road to Hanna Flats Campground--about 3 1/2 miles. Some will be camping Friday and Saturday nights. Come and join the crowd. The usual mountain birds should be seen with the addition of the Piñon Jays which have not been seen on previous trips.  
Leader: Dave Robison PO 1-0217
- July 7 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS - 9:45 A.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. A visit to the Los Angeles Audubon Society's Nature Museum.  
Leaders: Los Angeles Audubon Society members
- July 14 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Tucker Bird Sanctuary, O'Neill Park and Upper Newport Bay. Take Santa Ana Fwy. to Chapman Ave. -- East turn-off; drive through Orange to Tucker Sanctuary where four species of hummers may be seen. At O'Neill Park we will look for Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Last year at Upper Newport Bay over 1200 Wilson's Phalaropes were seen, as well as nesting Least Terns.  
Leaders: Laura and Betty Jenner RI 8-7510
- July 20 FRIDAY BAZAAR WORKSHOP 10:00 A.M. Audubon House, Plummer Park. Only four more workshops after this so come and lend a hand to a good cause and have fun.  
Chairman: Olive Alvey NO 1-8036
- July 21 SATURDAY ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER 5:30 P.M. Tapia Park. Take Hollywood and Ventura Fwys. to Tapia Park (Malibu turnoff); or Pacific Coast Highway and Malibu Canyon Road to Park entrance. Keep left after entering the park and watch for Audubon sign. Come early if you wish to walk and bird. Board meeting at 4:30 P.M. Bring: hot dish, salad or dessert; table service; hot coffee or tea if desired. Cold drink will be provided.

For further information call:  
 Helen Sandmeyer - TH 2-9328 Marion Wilson - PO 1-7635  
 Laura Jenner RI 8-7510 Olive Alvey NO 1-8036

JULY - 1962

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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On all day trips take lunch and drink. Don't forget your binoculars.

# BIRDS IN HAWAII

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 71

still living on Hawaii and Kauai Islands were formerly represented on other islands by sub-specific forms now extinct. Earlier writers frequently considered each island form to be a separate species, which explains the larger number of extinct species sometimes given in published accounts. Of the 22 living species, at least 4 have only been rediscovered since World War II. In 1960 Frank Richardson found two species in the high mountains of Kauai which had been unrecorded since the early 1900's, and found two others which had been reported by sight or sound only once or twice in that time. On Maui the Parrotbill and Crested Honeycreeper have been similarly rediscovered within the past 20 years. The Mamo, Oo and Ula-ai-hawane may yet be rescued from the ranks of the extinct by determined field work in the wet forests of Hawaii or Molokai, but the other species formerly inhabiting the smaller islands or the dry uplands of Hawaii Island are probably lost forever.

Of the 22 native landbird species living today, three are large birds (Hawk, Short-eared Owl and Crow) and two others (Millerbird and Laysan Finch) are found only on low uninhabited atolls northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands. It is important to realize that all of the remaining 17 species of small native songbirds are found only at higher elevations. In the wet mountain forests or in the dry uplands of Hawaii Island. Even the extinct species were primarily birds of the forested slopes. The earliest visitors to the Islands in the late 18th and early 19th centuries found no birds at all in the lowland areas. Any native species which may originally have evolved to fill the lowland ecological niches must have been extirpated by the Polynesian people who first arrived in large numbers about 1000 years ago and settled in the valleys and coastal areas of the main islands.

The Short-eared Owl occurs on all the main islands and except for the Hawk on Hawaii Island there are no other native predatory birds. As in the United States this Owl is largely diurnal, but may also be encountered after dusk foraging over the lowland sugar cane fields.

On Oahu Island the three "basic" species of small native songbirds, the Elepalo, Apapane, and Amakihi, may be found along the Poamoho,

Aiea and other trails ascending the west slopes of the Koolau range, and on several trails in the Waianae range. Two others, the Iiwi and Creeper, are very scarce but are occasionally seen in the same areas.

For native landbirds, however, the islands of Hawaii and Kauai are the places to go, with Hawaii having the edge because the birds there are more accessible. In addition to the three basic species of Oahu, Hawaii has the Iiwi commonly, shares the common Omao and the scarce Akepa and Ou with Kauai, and has four specialties of its own: the Hawaiian Hawk, Hawaiian Crow, Akiapolaau and Palila. The Crow is found only in a restricted area on Puu Waawaa ranch just off the main highway north of Kailua on the west side of the island. The Palila inhabits mamane groves on the dry slopes of Mauna Kea off of the Saddle Road between Hilo and Kona. All the other species are found in and near Hawaii National Park. The Park Naturalist at the headquarters can give more detailed directions on where to find the native landbirds, both inside and outside the park.

Kauai has the five Oahu species, shares three with Hawaii, and also has five specialties: Anianiau, Oo, Akialoa, Nukupuu and Pouaiohi. Besides the three basics, only the Anianiau is easily found. Look for it in the Kokee region at the end of the paved road above Waimea Canyon. The other native species are found only in the high forest wilderness in the central part of the island. This area is in the clouds most of the time and is so wet that a large portion of it is more accurately known as the Alakai Swamp. In this district is the Mt. Waialeale rain gauge which annually measures between 600 and 1200 inches of rain and is a perennial competitor of a certain mountain in Burma for the honor of being the world's wettest spot. To find these scarce native species one must hike in to this forest from Kokee, with no distinct trail, and be prepared to remain out of touch with civilization for at least three days and preferably more. The area is also fascinating botanically, and it is hoped that it can soon be set aside as a permanent wilderness region.

The other islands have the Apapane and Amakihi, but otherwise little to offer in native landbirds. Maui does have two specialties, the Parrotbill and Crested Honeycreeper. However these inhabit isolated forest regions on the northeast slopes of Haleakala and to see them one must be prepared for considerable hiking. A one-day hike on the Olinda trail should yield Honeycreepers, but the best areas require a three or four day round trip, much of it in virtually trackless forest. Access is either through the crater of the new

Haleakala National Park or up the slope from the northeast coast. The Akepa has also been reported from Maui once or twice but its existence there is questionable.

For seabirds one should go to the low-lying atolls of the northwest chain, particularly Midway and Laysan. However there is no commercial transportation, and only those on official business may ride the military plane to the Midway naval base. Lacking an opportune excuse to get to Midway, the next best place for seabirds is along the east coast of Oahu itself. Every birder visiting Honolulu should make a maximum effort through the local Audubon people to arrange a trip to Ulupau Head on the Kaneohe Marine Air Station. Here one may drive a car to within twenty feet of nesting Red-footed Boobies, and may admire the incredibly graceful Frigatebirds circling low overhead or point scopes at roosting individuals inflating their red throat patches on Moku Manu islet. Here also one can count on Brown Boobies, Sooty Terns, Brown and White-capped Noddies, and probably White-tailed Tropic-birds. If fortune smiles, a Red-tailed Tropic-bird or White Tern may wander by. From the high cliffs one can frequently see a huge sea turtle in the clear water below.

Another interesting seabird venture is to visit Popoia, a small low coral islet lying 200 yards off Oahu's east coast where Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and Bulwer Petrels nest. Access can be by swimming or surfboard, but more prudently by small boat. Going over on a summer afternoon, one has time to photograph half-grown chicks in the the rock crevices, then enjoy a picnic supper and, as twilight settles, sit quietly while the returning adults gather and mill about giving their queer moaning cries.

Outside of Oahu, one good place to see seabirds is at Kilauea Lighthouse on Kauai where Frigatebirds, Red-footed Boobies and Wedge-tailed Shearwaters are regularly found. The Newell or Manx Shearwater probably nests on Kauai and the Dark-rumped Petrel nests in Haleakala Crater on Maui and perhaps on Hawaii, but it is very difficult to find these birds or their nests even after considerable hiking to reach the nesting sites.

The freshwater birds and shorebirds are primarily North American species and are well-covered in Peterson's western guide. A small flock of the world famous Nene, or Hawaiian Goose, still exists in the wild on the lava slopes of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on Hawaii Island. They move about over a broad area but have certain favorite feeding areas and flyways. The Hawaii National Park Naturalist can give current information on one's chances for finding them. The state game

farm at Pohakuloa on the Saddle Road between Hilo and Kona maintains a breeding flock and permits visiting and photographing except during the breeding season in winter.

The Hawaiian Duck is now found only on the larger streams of Kauai. From time to time the state game department introduces a few individuals on ponds at the Kahana Refuge on Maui and at Hilo, Hawaii, but one cannot yet count on seeing them there.

The introduced landbirds are also treated thoroughly by Peterson. Many of the species are from eastern Asia, although all continents are represented except Antarctica (no one has tried to introduce penguins yet). The highest seniority among non-native species is held by the Jungle Fowl, "introduced" by the early Polynesians an undetermined number of centuries before Captain Cook's arrival. One of the most recent introductions is the Cattle Egret, now rapidly becoming an ornithological status symbol for many of the fifty states. Oahu has the most species including a number of specialties, with Kauai a close second. The other islands have fewer introduced species, all of which (except for a few gamebirds) are also found on Oahu.

No discussion of the birdlife of Hawaii would be complete without mention of the fine large collection on display at the Honolulu Zoo. The mild climate allows the birds to remain the year round in outdoor cages with naturally growing plants from their homelands. The collection of birds-of-paradise is perhaps the finest in the world. Here one may also see and photograph some of the native Hawaiian species including the Hawk, Owl, Crow, Nene, Hawaiian and Laysan Ducks, Night-heron and Stilt. The Zoo grounds are also one of Honolulu's best places to see the common introduced landbirds.

Finally, no visitor to the islands should miss seeing the Bishop Museum, which not only has skins and mounted display specimens of practically all Hawaiian birds including the extinct endemics, but also has fascinating modern exhibits showing authentic feather cloaks and many other phases of the history and culture of Polynesia and Hawaii.

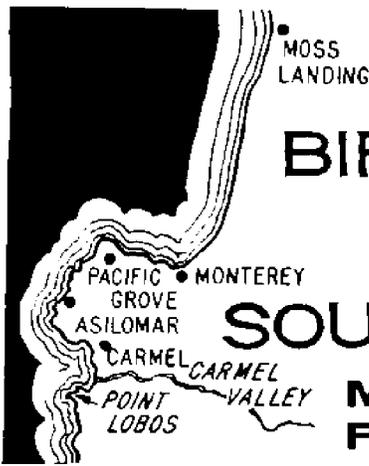
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*Roger Tory Peterson*

★ RECOMMENDS:  
★ "The new  
★ BIRDS OF  
★ SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
★ *Annotated Field List*

\$1.15 postpaid

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."



By GUY McCASKIE

# BIRDING in the SOUTHWEST MONTEREY PENINSULA

The Monterey Bay area of Central Coastal California must be one of the richest birding areas in California. The fact that there are large salt marshes, extensive wooded areas--both deciduous and coniferous--and a long stretch of rocky seacoast makes this possible.

The strip of rocky coast that makes up the Monterey Peninsula is considered one of the most beautiful sections of seacoast in the world. Here the green groves of Monterey Pine and Cypress grow almost to the edge of the white surf-covered rocks and the blue Pacific, and Sea Otters attach their young to the purple kelp close to the shore. The section of coast from Monterey Harbor to Point Pinos is one of my favorite stretches for birding, for here I have seen thousands of shearwaters of four species, including the New Zealand Shearwater, gliding along the troughs of the waves during strong northwest wind in October, and at the same time had the noisy Black Oystercatchers and the gray Wandering Tattlers feeding unconcerned on the nearby rocks. During the winter months great numbers of alcids gather in Monterey Bay. In the fall, petrels can be seen flitting along the surface of the water as they feed with the flocks of gulls and cormorants. At the cemetery near Point Pinos I have seen deer eating the flowers placed on the graves, and in the surrounding trees there are Pigmy Nuthatches, Band-tailed Pigeons, and, in winter, Townsend's Warblers. The small fresh-water pool at Point Pinos is an excellent place to see Virginia Rails and Soras feeding in the open during the early spring. The famous Butterfly Trees are located nearby and at times the area is swarming with these chestnut and black insects.

The Carmel River mouth, close to the Carmel Mission, is now a bird sanctuary, and always a rewarding place. Here there are reed-beds, fresh-water pools and a good stand of cottonwoods and willows. In the fall I can usually find a few Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers feeding with the other 'peeps' in the pools, and a pair of White-tailed Kites has taken up residence in the trees, and may frequently be seen hunting over the small meadow there. In the spring many migrant birds are attracted to the deciduous growth along this river, and a number of these stay to breed.

About six miles up Carmel Valley there is small redwood canyon--Robinson's Canyon--where I have heard six species of owls calling at one time on a moonlight night, and during the daylight hours it is easy to find such birds as the Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Hutton's Vireo. Once I saw flocks of Red Crossbills here.

## CONSERVATION NEWS

# STATE PARK BOND ISSUE ON JUNE BALLOT

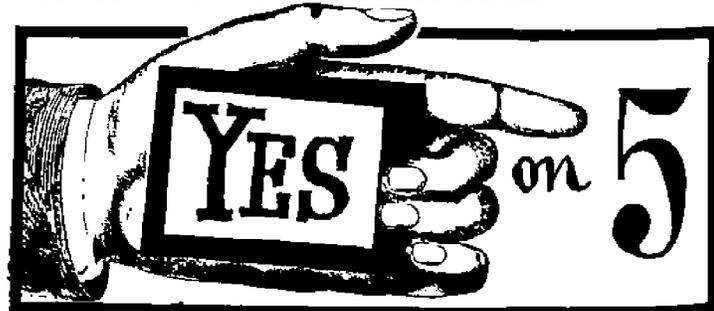
By Frank Little

We now have a chance to get more beaches and parks in California. Let's not miss it! On June 5, State Proposition 5 will be presented to the voters. This proposition would allocate \$150 million for public outdoor recreation and for conservation.

This \$150 million would be raised by sale of bonds that would then be retired over a long period of time from the general fund. The money would be distributed as follows: \$95 million would go to the California State Division of Beaches and Parks to be used for acquisition of new parks and for improvement of existing ones; \$5 million would go into conservation per se; \$5 million for yacht harbors; and \$45 million into county and municipal regional parks (Los Angeles County's share has been estimated to be about \$7 1/2 million).

It should be pointed out that, although only \$5 million is directly earmarked for conservation, the net effect actually felt in the area of conservation will be much greater. Our state parks, for example, are in effect wildlife sanctuaries. Also, municipal parks provide recreation for many people who would otherwise be forced to go to state or national parks for the outdoor recreation they seek. By establishing a comprehensive system of municipal parks we reap the dual benefit of relieving much of the pressure on state and national parks and at the same time reducing a good deal of weekend traffic.

At the May meeting of the Executive Board, a resolution favoring Proposition 5 was passed and forwarded to John Anson Ford, Southern California Chairman of the committee "California for Park and Recreation Bonds".



The best salt marshes in the area are at Moss Landing at Elkhorn Slough, about 18 miles north of Monterey. The caretaker of the Salt Works here will grant permission (except during the duck-hunting season) to go out into the marshes on the east side of Hwy. 1. This is usually the best area for birds. Here, large concentrations of shore-birds gather, and during the fall one can find Golden Plovers or Sabine's Gulls. The large numbers of terns that congregate here attract both Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, and I have seen all three species of phalaropes feeding in the same pool. During the winter, eagles and hawks, including Rough-legged Hawks may be seen hunting over these marshes, and in the

(Continued on page 101)

# AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

By RUSSELL WILSON

The Tuesday Evening Meeting of April 10 featured three short films depicting the fascinating ecology of the seashore. Attendance was excellent and among the visitors was Miss Mary Crawford, sister of Melba Blackstone, who is vacationing here from Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

During the preliminaries Hugh Kingery invited all who might be interested to help with nesting census he has undertaken in a chaparral habitat marked off in Griffith Park. It is to be hoped that there will be a good response, as no one in the society has done a nesting census in many years. Laura Jenner reported the recent field trip to Irvine Park which she led. It was a joy to have Laura out again so soon after a brief hospitalization for minor surgery.

Field trip chairman Dave Robison led the Saturday trip to Chantry Flats on April 14. Although everyone enjoyed the walk into the canyon, all were greatly disappointed at the almost complete lack of warblers and buntings. It was necessary to settle for Canyon Wrens, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Bullock's Orioles.

A small but select group of eighteen birders greeted Arnold Small at seven o'clock in Morongo Valley for the start of the weekend trip to the desert. Birding proved to be extremely good. At least four pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers, two pairs of Summer Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks in large numbers, all of the western warblers, three wrens, three swallows, two swifts, Western and Cassin's Kingbirds, Black-chinned, Costa's and Calliope Hummingbirds, Bullock's, Scott's and Hooded Orioles, and a Bell's Vireo on a nest; all together over fifty species were seen.

The group moved on to Thousand Palms Oasis as planned but encountered such strong winds and drifting sand that it was decided not to continue any farther in the direction of Salton Sea. Almost no birds were present at the oasis and after lunch the group returned to Morongo Valley where there was no wind.

After more birding in Morongo Valley, Saturday night camp was established in the Indian Cove area of Joshua Tree National Monument and a pleasant evening around a campfire was enjoyed by the campers while others found accommodations in the town of Twentynine Palms. The return trip Sunday was made by various routes, some via the Lucerne Valley and Cajon Pass, others along the north side of the mountains to the Angeles Crest route with stop-offs at Chilao and Charlton Flats.

Attendance continues to grow at the Tuesday Evening Meeting and among the visitors were Mr. Charles Gray and Mr. Ed Diesenroth, friends and business associates of Dick Miller.

Bob Blackstone spoke briefly of the work of the National Parks Association and read an ex-

cerpt from the May issue of its journal concerning "Project Chariot". He urged support of the Association in its general aims and support of the position it has taken on "Project Chariot" in particular.

The slate of officers for the coming year prepared by the nominating committee was given its final reading, and was unanimously approved.

We were happy to have Dave Robison present who had a chance to speak of the "Law and Mr. Jones" show for May 24 on channel 7. If you saw this show you will be interested to know that it was written by our own Dave, whose nom de plume is Paul David.

Arnold Small reported on the exciting birding enjoyed by those who made the recent desert trip and Mimi gave the highlights of a birding trip to Texas made during the week before Easter by ten of our members and two from the San Fernando society. As a measure of what a trip to Rockport and the lower Rio Grande delta will do for your life list, Mimi reported that Larry Sansone added ninety-four species to his and Arnold added three.

Herb Clarke told of a visit to the island of San Jorge, some thirty miles south of Puerto Peñasco in the Gulf of California. Herb and Olga teamed up with Jim and Mary Clements to photograph nesting sea birds which are found there in great abundance. There ought to be an evening program here for the enjoyment of all of us when Herb gets his films developed.

Rose Bussey reported that our membership has now reached eight hundred.

The program of the evening was provided by Mr. Bob Leatherman, a member of the Colton Camera Club, who showed some of his absolutely superb color slides of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Many of Mr. Leatherman's slides have won awards in photographic salons. His narration carried a conservation message, contained drama and humor, and was thoroughly entertaining. It was followed by stormy applause from an appreciative audience of almost one hundred.

## COFFEE MAKER FOR AUDUBON HOUSE

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.

### TANAGER

Those members wishing to take part in the Tanager mailing parties should call Audubon House and place their names on the list to be notified of mailing dates.

FOLDING & MAILING

# Southern California

## Birds



By Arnold Small

The spring migration of 1962 may long be remembered for its relative lack of excitement. It was not marked by any spectacular wave-days, or even moderately good flight days. The weather was, I think, a contributing factor to this. As is elsewhere true of spring migrations, some inclement weather generated by some mild offshore low pressure area will tend to cause traffic jams among migrants, and they should begin to pile up at selected localities (usually in sheltered desert oases or foothill and mountain canyons). Here they treat the birder to some of the finest birding of his career. I have seen such developments take place in southern California where such things are not supposed to happen. Strong desert winds from the north often produce such effects in late April. 1961 was such a year. True, there were a few days of such weather late in April this year, but many migrants had moved through somewhat earlier, and the flights were unspectacular, at best. Great flights of Vaux Swifts are often encountered through the interior valleys when there is a low ceiling and the birds are forced to migrate almost at grass-top level. Our opportunities for actually witnessing migrants en route are all too few, and we should pay more attention to such flights when they occur. For example, such species as loons, shearwaters, petrels, Sabine's Gulls, vultures, hawks (especially Swainson's), White Pelicans, swallows, and swifts offer the birder an opportunity to witness firsthand, the miracle of migration.

A great and early flight of swallows and swifts took place on February 26, but not many birders were afield to see it. The spring flight of loons was very poor and our local coastal waters were practically devoid of all birds except gulls. Loons, grebes, cormorants, pelicans, and scoters all seemed to have deserted our waters. In general the migration of landbirds was well-dispersed in time and place. Some twelve of us sought respite in south Texas, hoping that this almost legendary place would yield a migration of immense proportions due to a predicted "norther" which was supposed to pin down the trans-Gulf migrants as they reached Connie Hagar's oaks. Unfortunately, this did not happen, and we did not see her front lawn "carpeted indigo with buntings". However, we saw enough Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles, and Orchard Orioles to more than satisfy us! And until one first glimpses a male Painted Bunting and imagines that this bird must be made of wax, does one realize how beautiful a feathered creature can really be. Rockport, Texas is famous for its warblers also. Here in southern California we rather sigh with resignation when we have found the last of our expected

dozen or so migrant species in one day in May. In Rockport one can certainly depend upon about twenty warblers on an average spring day, but thirty is entirely possible on a wave-day. And this thirty will probably include something fancy like a Prothonotary (we saw one), a Swainson's (we saw one), or Cape May, Connecticut, Cerulean, or Mourning, all of which we didn't see. However, there were those amongst us who did see Canadas, Blackburnians, Yellow-throateds, Worm-eatings (this was a year for the uncommon Worm-eating in south Texas), Kentuckys, Ovenbirds, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Redstarts, Canadas, Blackpolls, Parulas, Black and Whites, Pines, Nashvilles, Chats, Yellowthroats, Wilson's, Yellows, and Hoodeds. Couple this to sights of Whooping Cranes, Greater Prairie Chickens dancing, flights of Roseate Spoonbills, Little Blue Herons, White Ibis, Black Skimmers, Oystercatchers, Caracaras, Anhingas, Cattle Egrets, Chuckwill's-widows, Reddish Egrets, Broad-winged Hawks, and Mississippi Kites. Also, Green Jays, Lichtenstein's Orioles, Kiskadees, Harris Hawks, Gray Hawks, Chachalacas, Red-billed Pigeons, Black-bellied Tree Ducks, and hosts of shorebirds including Golden and Upland Plovers and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and more in the Lower Rio Grande Valley made for such a strong lure, that some of us could not resist the temptation. We happily succumbed to the prospect of a migration in south Texas, and deserted the local haunts and local migrants.

I did not intend to start this column as a treatise on south Texas birds and I hope the reader will forgive this apparent disloyalty to California birds, but perhaps this will induce some to witness the same wonders as we did. After that, California birding will seem quite dull by comparison--at least for a while.

## BIRDING IN THE SOUTHWEST

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spring, one can find one or two Blue-winged Teal with the common Cinnamon Teal. The mouth of the slough is a good place to see a Red-necked Grebe or an Old-squaw during the winter months, and a friend of mine almost caught a Horned Puffin here one day.

In Pacific Grove there is a small Natural History Museum at the corner of Central and Forest Ave., and the curator, Mr. Vern Yaden, can always put the visiting birdwatcher on the trail of any unusual birds in the area. The Monterey area has produced more than its share of accidental birds, and during October the visiting birder should check all kingbirds for the Tropical Kingbird, for it seems to appear here regularly at this time of the year. Another rarity, the King Eider, has been recorded three times during the last five years, and it is always worth scanning through the scoters for one.

It is hoped that the Los Angeles and the Golden Gate Audubon Societies will hold an annual Monterey Bay Boat Trip in early October, when pelagic birding is at its best, including the rare Skua, and it is at this time of the year when the birding in the Monterey area is most rewarding.