

THE WESTERN TANAGER

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



BEGINNERS BIRDING ABROAD

BY GENE F. ROSE

Preparations for the Roses' August trip to Europe began with the purchase of Peterson's British-European field guide, Peter Scott's "A Coloured Key to the Wildfowl of the World," and membership in England's Wildfowl Trust. Only later, and with less urgency, did we turn to itinerary, fares, accommodations and other such mechanical items of travel. With less than a year of field experience and most of our four-week tour otherwise committed, we knew that we would have to leave a few of Europe's birds unwatched. Still, the opportunity to bird abroad was one of the brightest prospects that lured us on.

IMPORTANT CONSERVATION ISSUES

KEEP THE CONDORS FLYING

Conservation Week is traditionally observed in March each year (March 7-14 this year), so it is no accident that this issue of the TANAGER is strong on conservation. With this issue we are launching our annual appeal for funds to aid in the protection of the CALIFORNIA CONDOR. As we have pointed out before, here is an important conservation project in our own "back yard". Your contributions will be forwarded to the National Audubon Society--earmarked for the Condor Sanctuary. They will help to pay the expense of maintaining wardens there. It is hoped that the contributions will be as generous as they have in past years.

AND KEEP OUR WILDERNESS WILD

Another conservation issue which is in our own "back yard" is the threat to the San Geronio Wild Area which is being brought to your attention this issue. The battle to preserve this wilderness will not be an easy one, and it points up the need for a Wilderness Bill which still needs to be passed by congress. All this is only supplementary to Frank Little's excellent regular column on conservation.

Robert E. Blackstone, Editor

The familiar Barn Swallow and House Sparrow greeted us at London Airport. The first new bird was the European Blackbird, sighted next day in Leeds. Swifts soon appeared, the first of hundreds seen by the end of the trip. At that time of year in Yorkshire, there was usually a fair interval between one bird and the next, and so we had time to notice that Europe's Blackbird, unlike any of ours, is a thrush, quite similar to our Robin, which in turn looks hardly at all like the little European Robin. Two new species were chalked up when a sizeable faction of the city pigeons, at first carelessly noted as Rock Doves, turned out on closer inspection to be Stock Doves; and when, a day or two later, we learned to recognize the black cheek-spot that distinguishes the European Tree Sparrows often mingling with the House Sparrows.

Fortunately, we weren't always left to our own resources. Among the few dozen fellow mathematicians attending the international congress at University of Leeds, we found a fellow member of the field-glass fraternity. This was Professor Haskell Curry, of Pennsylvania State University, long known to us as a friend and famous logician but never, in our benighted pre-birding era, as a birder of nearly fifty years' standing. Even on the homeward leg of a world tour that had netted him hundreds of species, he enthusiastically noted every bird we saw on our little walks through the campus. At the appearance or mention of any bird, he had at his fingertips its family tree, the names by which it is known over the world, its field marks, habitat, range, timetable and personality. We had our one good view of a Willow Warbler just before joining him one morning; this was such an elusive, non-descript little bird that we would have had little confidence in identifying it without his confirmation. A week later, when we again met Professor Curry in Stockholm, we were able to report that

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CONSERVATION NEWS

FROM FRANK LITTLE

The protection of the golden eagle is at best shaky. The Golden Eagle Bill as finally passed by Congress picked up a very weakening amendment: namely, that the Secretary of the Interior must authorize the killing of golden eagles for the protection of livestock if the governor of any state so requests (the original amendment used the word may). The Secretary would still, however, have the power to regulate such killing as to time, place, and method.

As expected, the governor of Texas promptly requested permission to kill golden eagles on the grounds that they are a menace at lambing time. Many conservationists tensely waited (with their fingers crossed) for the Secretary's decision. Would he allow the continued hunting by airplane which is so obnoxious to conservationists? Would he allow the use of poison which could be disastrous to other wildlife? These and other questions plagued the conservationists as they anxiously waited. Well, last month the Secretary announced his decision, and, much to our relief, he banned the use of both airplanes and poison. He also made a few other minor restrictions.

However, before we settle back, satisfied by this victory, we should take pause. The Secretary is bombarded on all sides by requests, threats, and promises; these decisions don't come easily. He will now, no doubt, be deluged by letters from angry Texas ranchers protesting these restrictions. At this very moment there is mounting pressure being generated by several wealthy Texas ranchers working through the Texas Fish and Game Commission to reinstate the hunting from airplanes.

Our duty is clear. We must bury the Secretary with letters praising his decision and reminding him of our steadfast support in his ban of poison and airplanes. The Los Angeles Audubon Society has already sent an official letter in this regard. But we need personal letters, lots of them. How about you? Will you write one? Do it right now! Address it to: Honorable Stuart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C. You'll feel better if you do.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Members who have photographs which they would like to have considered for display in the Nature Photography Salon at the Western Conference at Asilomar are urged to bring their prints to the Evening Meeting on March 12, or to bring or send them to Audubon House in Plummer Park in advance of that meeting.



THE WESTERN TANGER
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA
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OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR 1963-1964

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Gene Rose (Chairman), Mrs. William Jenner, and Bob Blackstone, have proposed the following slate of officers for the 1963-64 season:

Arnold Small.....President
Donald Adams.....1st Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Catherine Freeman.2nd Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Russell Wilson.....Exec. Sec.
Hubert Weiser.....Treasurer
Mrs. Donald Adams.....Rec. Sec.
Mrs. Rose Bussey.....Registrar

Article III of the By-Laws of the Los Angeles Audubon Society provides as follows for the election of officers:

Section 3. Not later than January of each year, there shall be appointed three members of the Society to serve as a committee on Nomination of officers for the ensuing year. Such members are to be selected as follows: the chairman, by the President, one by the Executive Board, and one by the members at large.

Section 4. (a) The Nominating Committee shall submit its slate of candidates at all regular meetings in April. Additional candidates for any elective office may be nominated from the floor at any regular meeting in April, provided such nominations are supported by written petition signed by at least fifteen (15) members of the Society.

(b) If additional candidates are nominated for any office, there shall be a vote for such office on a ballot printed in the May TANGER. Ballots shall be sent to the Executive Secretary, and the Executive Board shall make necessary provisions for counting the ballots.

(c) If no additional candidates are nominated, the Executive Secretary shall cast a unanimous vote for the nominees at the first regular meeting in May.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

BY ELIZABETH ROSE

A record crowd, including many new members and guests, returned, in a sense, to the classroom at the regular Tuesday night meeting February 12 to hear the learned Dr. Thomas R. Howell of the Department of Zoology at UCLA. The lecture permitted one to dip into results of recent field studies by Dr. Howell and his scientific colleagues in Nicaragua. He briefly traced the turbulent history of this "mosquito kingdom" to show that, "It's not the political but the biological boundaries that count."

Illustrating with slides, Dr. Howell divided this "land of lakes and volcanoes" by habitat and described what was to be found in the different areas: Arid Pacific Coast, Broad Leaf Forest, Subtropical Forest, Volcanic Pine Forest, Cloud Forest, Caribbean Coast and finally the Pine Savannah. He showed characteristic bird fauna and mammal fauna from each region.

Nicaragua, until Dr. Howell did his year's work, was relatively lacking in study. The purpose of the collecting there was to synthesize their findings and make deductions. The composite picture indicates Nicaragua is an important "gap filler" ecologically speaking.

Bird interest in the lecture centered largely on the two endemic species of Grackle and Finch. Other singular bird pictures were those of a Flint-billed Woodpecker, a Subtropical Forest Night-Jar, a Sable-winged Hummingbird, a Harpie Eagle, and a White-tailed Hawk. But, the flying mammals, bats, stole the show.

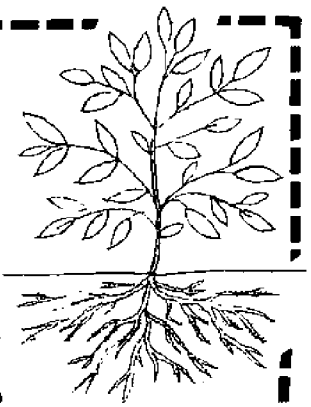
In another vein, Second Vice-president Mrs. Catherine Freeman, writes of the recent Thursday Morning Meeting, January 24: "Everyone had a good time and went away laughing and hoping they'd remember what they'd learned." The program on which she reported was presented by the Southwest Bird Study Group. Mrs. Alice Lewis was chairman. Assistants were Mrs. Kaler and Mrs. Dunn. Silhouettes were used to learn to identify roadside, shore, and water birds. This was followed by a merry "spell-down". It was most revealing that many of the answers to the 1001 questions on local birds were unknown to attending members but they would like to express their appreciation to the Southwest Club notwithstanding.



"We've talked about nothing else since", said the Lee Eppers of the January 27th pelagic trip. But, it wasn't the Rhinoceros Auklet, which was seen, of which they were speaking but a creature known as a sea elephant! It was spotted first by the group on the second boat, which had been hired to accommodate the overflow on this very



visiting the house



ARBOR DAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, March 10th. 2 p.m.

All members and friends are cordially invited to attend Arbor Day ceremonies at Plummer Park and an Open House at Audubon House. There will be a tree planting by the Camp Fire Girls at 2:00 P.M. and at 2:30 P.M. a tree will be planted in the yard at Audubon House and dedicated to Mr. George T. Hastings, Editor Emeritus of the TANAGER. This planting will signal an extensive planting program using native trees, shrubs and flowers which will provide food and shelter for birds and serve as a study area for members and youth groups. Anyone wishing to help with this new project either by donating funds for plants or time for planting and maintaining the yard please contact Mr. Otto Widmann, CA 1 8973. Mr. Widmann is a new member of the Headquarters Staff in charge of yard planning, planting and maintenance.

popular trip directed by Arnold Small. All sixty birders had a good view of the monster. Running second in comments were remarks on the pleasant accommodations on the "Corsair", which sported a galley, bunks, a place to play cards and an interested crew. But comfort and a calm ocean meant less activity on the part of the birds which inhabit the waters. For instance, there were no Shearwaters. Thousands and thousands of Brown Pelicans and cormorants covered the Santa Barbara Islands, but no Oyster-catchers were spotted. Bonaparte Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes mingled with Western Gulls off the stern of the boat, but no terns were sighted. Some-what unexpectedly, a flock of Cinnamon Teal flew overhead.



Much wetter than the pelagic trip was the Saturday morning (February 9) Bixby Slough expedition led by Frank Little. The birds were there, and even under conditions of rain on glasses, rain on binoculars and rain on scopes, 42 species were seen. More amazing, perhaps, was the fact that there were thirty hardy birders present. Mr. E. W. Anacker, of the Parks Department, explained just what had been done and what was

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BEGINNERS BIRDING ABROAD

(CONTINUED)

we had seen the Paradise Duck (New Zealand Shelduck) at Slimbridge and that, as he had cautioned us in Leeds, Scott's "Coloured Key" shows the breast and back coloring rather inaccurately. With his help, we decided that the puzzling gull on the roof overlooking our hotel window in Stockholm was an immature Black-headed, and that the terns seen from Stockholm's many bridges were Common rather than Arctic. We had received other helpful information before leaving Leeds (and in fact, after we left England, residents seemed comparatively uninformed about birds, even though they were friendly and willing to discuss them). At Devonshire Hall, where the members of the Congress were housed, we saw what we thought was a Song Thrush, but hesitated to identify it without first seeing the Mistle Thrush for comparison. A gardener quickly resolved our difficulty, giving us hints that proved useful when we eventually saw the Mistle Thrush. While we were chatting, he alerted us to a Greenfinch's song just before the bird appeared, so briefly that we would otherwise have missed it. Mr. Strudwick, Gatekeeper of Devonshire Hall, showed us the way through a "snicket" (a narrow, walled public passage across private property) to a lovely park where birds were most likely to be seen. There we first saw the Great Tit and Blue Tit, closely resembling their American relatives the chickadees. A bird hovered briefly, like a Sparrow Hawk, but the only matching flight pattern in Peterson's field guide was that of Montagu's Harrier. We were saved from wrong identification when, a few days later, we visited Alfred Gilpin, the Uni-

versity Chief Surveyor. Mr. Gilpin had been recommended as the local authority on birds. He identified our "harrier" as the European Kestrel, a species differing slightly from our Sparrow Hawk, and pointed out that Peterson's illustration gives the harriers far too much sweepback and the Kestrel far too little. Mr. Gilpin proved to be a gracious source of information. He recommended rich birding areas all the way to the east coast and along it. He offered to conduct us on a private local field trip if we could stay the weekend. It was when we realized that our schedule could accommodate none of these golden opportunities that we first felt the cruel pressure of time.

We drove out of Leeds intending to spend four days en route to London, at least one of them reserved for the Wildfowl Trust's main establishment, at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Most people, including our travel agent and everyone we had met in England, knew surprisingly little about Slimbridge. So we were relieved to find it on the Esso map in our rented car. Distances looked encouragingly small, but by noon we had lost any illusions about covering them rapidly. It was Bank Holiday, and traffic was formidable. Road signs in the rural areas we had chosen for our route were sparse and often confusing, so that usually we took a wrong exit from a "roundabout" and went several laborious miles before discovering our error. Still, the English countryside was so attractive that we enjoyed ourselves even when we were lost.

We reached Slimbridge on the second afternoon, having seen Moorhen, Great Black-backed Gull, Rook, Magpie and one of the memorable sights of the trip -- a field full of Lapwing. We had found birding from a car no easier in England than in Southern California. There were surprisingly few stretches where it was safe to stop the car; and often, sighting an inviting field in the distance, we would come into viewing range only to find it hidden by hedgerows.

* * * * *

Looking back on our visit, we feel that an attempt to describe the Wildfowl Trust in any detail would fall flat. We spent our day in the enclosures on the New Grounds, having no time to explore the establishment's other vast acreages along the Severn. We walked all day, in the most delightful surroundings imaginable, in the midst of ducks, geese and swans gathered from the four corners of the earth. Our companions for the day were friendly little Hawaiian Nene geese, who shared the biscuits and meat pies we purchased from refreshment stands conveniently located about the grounds. Using the "Coloured Key" as a field guide, we catalogued perhaps half of the 147 species known today. From this center, the Trust maintains operations of world-wide scope; one quaint way of doing this is through a five-shilling subscription

(Continued on page 65)

**AUDUBON
WILDLIFE
FILMS**

**LAST
CHANCE**



**THURSDAY
MARCH 14
7:45 P.M.**



KARL H. MASLOWSKI

★ *Gone with the Wilderness*

JOHN BURROUGHS JR. HIGH SCHOOL

600 S. McCADDEN PL., LOS ANGELES



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MRS. RUSSELL WILSON, *Executive Secretary*

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march 1963

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March

Mar. 2 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:30 A.M. Headquarters of Audubon Center of Southern California, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., left to N. Durfee, left to Audubon Center. Soup will be served. Bring lunch and binoculars.

Host: Paul Howard, Director

Mar. 2 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Meet at Plummer Park to tour Audubon House, Headquarters of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. For further information call John Peebles: HO 7-1661.

Leader: Staff of Los Angeles Audubon Society

Mar. 7 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.

Mar. 9 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Pacific Coast Highway at Malibu Creek bridge (just past Malibu pier). Birding along coast at Malibu Lagoon, Point Dume, possibly as far as Point Mugu.

Leader: Dave Robison PO 1-0217

Mar. 10 SUNDAY ARBOR DAY OPEN HOUSE 2:00-5:00 P.M. Audubon House in Plummer Park. All members and friends are cordially invited to attend. For further details see page 61.

Headquarters Chairman: Mrs. Russell Wilson PO 1-7635

Mar. 12 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. James W. Huffman will present a program on, "Identifying the Gulls and Terns". Mr. Huffman is one of our most expert field observers and this program will be of real help to all of us who have experienced some difficulty with the identification of these oceanic and shore birds.

Program Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

Mar. 14 AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM "Gone With the Wilderness" by Karl H. Maslowski, is an eloquent appraisal of the value of conservation. Superb color photography with sound effects and time-lapse features. John Burroughs Junior High School auditorium, 7:45 P.M. Single admission \$1.00, students \$.50.

Chairman: Miss Laura Lou Jenner RI 8-7510

Mar. 24 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Los Angeles Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., north on Rosemead to Huntington Dr., east on Huntington to Baldwin Ave., then north on Baldwin to the Arboretum. Bring lunch and binoculars (since there are no picnic facilities at the Arboretum, it is planned to lunch at Audubon Center).

Leaders: Hannah Walker and Irving Goldhaber
Chairman: Dave Robison PO 1-0217

Mar. 28 THURSDAY MORNING MEETING - 10:00 A.M. Long Hall, Plummer Park. A set of pictures on "Spring Wildflowers", arranged by the Sierra Club, will be presented this morning. These slides are both beautiful and well-organized, and will help everyone in identification.

Chairman: Mrs. Catherine Freeman CL 7-7038

CALENDAR CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE

CALENDAR

CONTINUED

- Apr. 4 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.
- Apr. 6 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Griffith Park Zoo Commissary. For information call John Peebles HO 7-1661.
- Leader: Earl Aubert
- Apr. 9 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. Norman McGary, artist and illustrator, will present the Disney film "White Wilderness". This is one of the best Disney documentaries, and if you missed seeing it, you will be wise to see it now; if you saw it previously, you will surely agree it is worth seeing again.

Program Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635

HELP PRESERVE SAN GORGONIO!

WHAT IS THE SAN GORGONIO WILD AREA?

In the words of San Bernardino National Forest, "An Island of Wilderness in a Sea of Civilization." It is 34,718 acres of high mountains protected from commercial development and roads by Federal regulations. Its boundaries are 30 miles by road from Redlands, and within them are such places as Slushy (South Fork) Meadows, Dollar Lake, Dry Lake, and Old Greyback (Mt. San Gorgonio); all well known to Southern California hikers.

WHAT IS THE THREAT?

The north face of Mt. San Gorgonio contains some fine ski bowls, and these are used every winter by cross-country skiers. But Southern California downhill skiers and certain businessmen want to build a large network of ski lifts inside what is now the wild area.

There are many other opportunities for new ski lifts nearby, but the downhill skiers and businessmen are putting strong pressure on San Gorgonio. If they succeed, the last remaining high mountain in Southern California will have been developed.

WHY SHOULD IT STAY WILDERNESS?

Although the downhill skiers and businessmen would benefit from the proposed ski lifts, the following people would lose:

Hikers, campers, hunters, fishermen, horsemen---About 40,000 people each year use the wild area these ways, and nearly half of them are young people.

Cross-country skiers---No other place in Southern California offers a good chance for this original, and still finest form of the sport.

Organization camps and youth groups---There are over 30 camps next to San Gorgonio, run by the Boy Scouts, YMCA's, and similar groups. They are successful because the undeveloped wild area creates the all-

important environment for camping.

Water users---The local water company, which has experience with water loss from other ski lifts, opposes them on San Gorgonio.

Naturalists---The only sample of the Arctic-Alpine Life Zone in Southern California is on Mt. San Gorgonio.

WHAT CAN I DO?

The San Gorgonio Wild Area belongs to you, and you are the only one who can keep it natural. You will need to write your Congressmen and other public officials; you may need to appear at hearings. You will need to tell your friends so they can help also.

To do these things you will need information---information about how the controversy stands; information about the wild area itself; information about what government agencies are doing and how they affect the wild area; specific information about what you can do and when.

HOW CAN I GET INFORMATION?

Through the Defenders of San Gorgonio Wilderness, a group formed by experienced Southern California conservationists primarily so that the public could learn about the problem at San Gorgonio. Members will receive a newsletter as needed to keep them fully up to date.

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

Anyone, regardless of age, who agrees that the San Gorgonio Wild Area should remain wilderness. Any such person or organization is eligible to join.

There are no dues. Mailing the newsletter will cost money, however, and a donation of \$1.00 or more to cover these costs will be appreciated very much.

Members of the Defenders of San Gorgonio Wilderness will participate in an outstanding example of American democracy in action.

DEFENDERS OF SAN GORGONIO WILDERNESS

Post Office Box 777, San Bernardino, California

BEGINNERS BIRDING ABROAD

(CONTINUED)

entitling anyone to "adopt" and name a banded duck and receive all subsequent news of its travels.

The rest of the English tour had its own highlights. A liquid song made us pause as we approached Malmsey, giving us our one view of the European Goldfinch. Assorted wild ducks on an idyllic stretch of the Thames were our alarm clocks at a Maidenhead hotel.

In Stockholm, we understood for the first time the "Problem of Subspecies" so often discussed by European writers. The White Wagtail of the continent and the Pied Wagtail of England belong to the same species, yet even to us they were obviously different birds. Other Stockholm contributions to our list were the Common and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Jackdaw and European Nuthatch.

In Germany, our trip became an art-history-culture tour conducted in an expert and whirlwind fashion by our son Arthur, on leave from a U.S. Army installation near Frankfurt. Even with this change of tempo and emphasis, birds were everywhere for the watching. They were in eighteenth century prints adorning the walls of our hotel, designated in archaic nomenclature but still identifiable; in the paintings of old masters and German Expressionists; in tapestries, friezes, sculpture and Riemenschneider wood-carvings. Arthur looked askance at his father's game of indoor birding, but he did his share in the field. It was Arthur who spotted the Short-toed Creeper at Bad Nauheim. Two notable features of Bad Nauheim's extensive park were a multitude of resident ducks and a large, conveniently posted, illustrated checklist, with German and Latin names. We found Latin nomenclature to be a great boon in Europe. Although Peterson's field guide gives Latin, English, Dutch, German, Swedish and French names, there is so much local variation in common names that often the Latin binomial furnishes the only clue. Peterson, by the way, pictures the Wood Pigeon with a middle-sized white neck patch. We saw these huge birds everywhere, and to our surprise this mark always appeared almost as a collar, visible even at extreme range.

On a sylvan path in Munich's Englischergarten, following the example of other strollers, we held bits of bread in our outstretched hands. To our delight, Great Tits dropped from nowhere, like thistledown, and lighted fleetingly to accept our offer. Less venturesome, Chaffinches, Greenfinches and fairy-like Blue Tits -- seen so sparingly two weeks before -- waited virtually underfoot for our attention. The newcomer to Europe will be surprised to find that the Chaffinch, the "commonest finch," is such an uncommonly beautiful bird.

At Hohenschwangau, near the strange castle of Ludwig II, we saw the Garden Warbler: Like the Willow Warbler, this bird didn't exactly dazzle us with field marks. The European and American warblers belong to different families, but apparently they share a talent for hiding from the watcher.

The Garden Warbler was the last addition to our list. Not counting Slimbridge, we had logged forty-odd species, including at least thirty strictly Old World species. Like anglers, we remember the ones that got away: a huge bird, almost certainly a Capercaillie, seen too briefly as we sped along the Autobahn; a probable Great Crested Grebe glimpsed from the airport bus to Stockholm; a possible Hazel Hen, barely sighted as it melted into a thicket beside an English road.

Paris, the Enchantress, charmed us without exhibiting a single new bird. It was enough to wander through the Bois de Boulogne and review a few birds as recently acquired friends; and to leave Europe from Orly Airport, where little birds fluttered through vast, lofty waiting-rooms and lived happily on crumbs.

About the AUTHOR

In contrast to some of our previous authors, whose interest in birds dates back to their boyhood days, Gene Rose has been actively birding for little more than a year. In this short time, however, Gene and his wife Elizabeth have acquired a knowledge of birds which many birders of much longer standing might envy. The Roses, originally from Ohio and western Pennsylvania, moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1952, and to southern California in 1955. Their son Arthur is now serving with the U. S. Army in Europe. By profession Gene is a research mathematician with Systems Development Corporation. The Roses plunged right into the various activities of the Society; Gene is serving as Sales Chairman, while Elizabeth is Publicity Chairman and writes the Audubon Activities column in the TANAGER. Both are doing first rate jobs. Gene and Liz are an extremely likeable pair, and immediately began to make friends as soon as they joined the Society a little over a year ago.

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

planned for this area, expressing the hope that the Audubon Society would co-operate financially and otherwise. Among the birds seen were the Long-billed Marsh Wren, Ring-necked Duck, Loggerhead Shrike (giving an unusual call), the Avocet and three kinds of swallows. Several youthful enthusiasts were there. Richard Milne was using a new scope recently purchased from his allowance.

(P.S. The wounded Lesser Scaup drake rescued by Larry Sansone is reported doing well)

A REPORT ON THE AUDUBON LIBRARY



FROM BILL WATSON

It has been suggested to me that some of our members do not realize what a fine and growing library we have at Audubon House. Any member is entitled to take out any of our circulating books which may be kept out for one month. Furthermore, we have some fine reference material in the shape of books and magazines and other publications to which any member has access whenever Audubon House is open, and by appointment with me at other times. Non-members use our library for reference work, and a lot of research is being done on Christmas Bird Count records which your library has on hand by those of our members who have special interests in such information.

The Audubon Library is your library, and indeed, it does merit your interest and usage. A new two-drawer catalogue file has been established in the library room in which the books are catalogued by both title and author separately. The library's circulating books have been organized on the shelves in these sections:

Life Histories of Birds
Regional Birds
Ornithology

Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Gray H. Bernard
3412 Palm St., Manhattan Beach
Miss Frances Bloom
3425 Holyoke Dr., L. A. 65
Mr. Don Brandenburgh
11651 Easy, Garden Grove
Mr. & Mrs. Dustin W. Carter
9533 San Miguel, South Gate
Mr. Laurance Collister
8172 A Chestnut, South Gate
Mr. David Gaines
3045 McConnell Dr., L. A. 64
Miss Madeline Glidden
101 W. Broadway, Apt. B, San Gabriel
Miss Irene E. Greenhut
24663 Pennsylvania, Lomita
Dr. John V. Haralson
3765 San Rafael Ave., L. A. 65
Miss Ellen T. Marshall
2322 Lemoyne St., L. A. 26
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Rosenfeld
2819 Hutton Dr., Beverly Hills
Mrs. Robert Smith
17050 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades
Miss Henriette Van Greveld
1561 Benedict Canyon, Beverly Hills

Bird Study
Nature Writing: Birds
Nature Writing
Biography
Ecology
Conservation
Marine Life
Animals
Insects
Botany
Nature Study

In the long career of the Society, a number of the very finest books on birds and other nature subjects have been acquired for your library. Come to Audubon House and look over these books. There is sure to be much to tempt the reading and study interests of our Audubon people.

Among the books on the shelves, you will find these new titles that have been acquired during the last year and a half:

"The Murres" - Leslie M. Tuck
"The Wandering Albatross"
William Jameson
"The Kirtland's Warbler"
- Harold Mayfield
"Shearwaters" R. M. Lockley
"Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl"
"Life Histories of North American Shore Birds"
"Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey"
Arthur Cleveland Bent
"Life Histories of Central American Birds"
Alexander F. Skutch
"Bird Study" Andrew J. Berger
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Peter Scott
"Birds' Nests of the West"
- Richard Headstrom
"Penguin Summer"
- Eleanor Rice Pettingill
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- Joseph Wood Krutch
"The Voice of the Desert"
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"The Sea Around Us"
- Rachel Carson
"Silent Spring"- Rachel Carson
"Our Wildlife Legacy"
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They Wouldn't Estivate

BY OTTO WIDMAN



Editor's Note:

By way of providing a setting for Mr. Widmann's article, we must explain that his home is on top of a hill overlooking the Arroyo Seco. Below him is land which was to have been an extension of Sycamore Grove Park, but which was never developed. So, although he lives in the midst of the city, in the Lincoln Heights-Highland Park area, he is very favorably situated for observing many kinds of birds. The Arroyo Seco is almost one continuous park all the way to the foothills, and must be a veritable highway for birds.

The word estivate is more commonly understood among naturalists in a more restricted meaning of "spending the summer in a torpor" (corresponding to hibernate), but is here used in its wider meaning "to pass the summer"
Ed.

The first I knew of it was when a great mass of blue activated the bird bath for a few minutes and then six Mountain Bluebirds lined up on the wash line for a good preening. I thought how nice it would be to have that continued activity. Another day yellow-rumped Audubon Warblers took up where the Bluebirds left off. While they were gavotting in and out of the water, a House Wren methodically scanned my bougainvillea. A great thrill one October day was 14 Canadian Geese, flapping slowly 30 feet over the house. What a sight this would have been to have them

grace my yard. Bush-Tits have scampered in and out of the Monterey Cypress hedge for too short a time. And along about October White-crowned and Yellow-crowned Sparrows start filling the yard with a sweet yet noisy song that lasts well into winter. While this business is going on in the rose bushes, high overhead the migrating Turkey Vultures soar current-wise, swiftly or slowly, off towards the east for a Mexican rendezvous.

This year (a first for my yard) a California Thrasher drank and dined daily for three days but then other havens (well remembered) beckoned him away. My greatest thrill lasted 2 minutes and 20 seconds when a Rufous Hummingbird whirled about my ears in a close inspection of my climbing Charlotte Armstrong rose. One day while I was watching a gopher draw my favorite chrysanthemum down its hole, a group of 12 Rock Doves landed on the driveway, promenaded majestically, completing the graveled circle, then en masse departed, never to return. This spring a Rufous-sided Towhee filled the yard with a loud song for weeks on end, but his purpose accomplished, he soon left for other parts. Then there was the sad case of the Loggerhead Shrike, who had lost his mate against a plate glass picture window. He moped, indifferent to the apparent danger of neighborhood cats, for several weeks, until his sorrow abated, he left perhaps for other romances, a different environ less reminiscent. When the Coffee-berry bush ripens, the Band-tailed Pigeons appear from nowhere and brazen it out with the Mockingbird who has established residence there. He is a constant guardian of the yard (having no part in this story), driving the Robin away in Spring when he comes to survey my lawn.

In Spring and Fall the Cedar Waxwings descend on my berries (boysenberry and pyracantha), but their hunger sated, they move on, following their migrating urge. Sometimes a Sparrow Hawk cleans out the Chinese Doves' nests of young, but once this has been accomplished, I see no more of him. Rarely a Marsh Hawk will ravish the yard with his presence, stand in the bird bath for a full half hour, then flap away after drinking; but this is in the Spring. Sometimes later I will see him soaring in his constant vigil on the hill slopes across the way. This year for another first the White-throated Swifts, four of them, weave endless circles overhead. The Hooded Oriole raids my loquat tree, but fruit gone, bird gone.

But they wouldn't estivate. As much as I tried to lure them and as much as I wanted them, they were off after their brief stay and their varied presence left little memories. Sometimes I wonder what such a populace would do just for fly-ways, roosting space, and nesting material. How my yard and neighborhood could support them sets me to wondering and then I think it is just as well that they can find other, happier summering places.

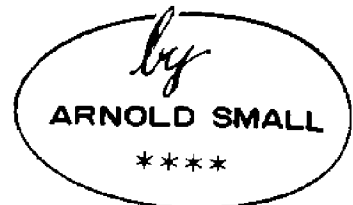
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- "Wildlife Conservation"
- Ira N. Gabrielson
- "Desert Wildflowers"
- Edmund C. Jaeger
- "Birds of the World"
- Oliver L. Austin, Jr.
- "Bird Doctor" - Katharine Tottenham
- "American Wild Life and Plants"
- Martin, Zim, Nelson
- "Handbook of North American Birds"
Vol. I - Ralph S. Palmer

There is, however, a need in the library for back issues of Bird Lore, early issues of Audubon Magazine, and Audubon Field Notes. If any members feel that they can bear to part with any material of this kind, I hope they will notify me so that I can tell them just what our specific needs are. A most important gap in our files of the WESTERN TANAGER is one solitary issue: Volume III - No. 1 November, 1936. If the library had this one issue our file would be complete. Who is going to be the one to complete this monument to our Society?

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS



The prolonged drought in southern California was not alleviated until Feb. 9. Between July 1, 1962 and early February 1963, less than 1 inch of rain had fallen on most of southern California. The mountains were virtually bare of snow during most of this time also. Although the storm of Feb. 9-11 helped to alleviate the drought, the rainfall totals by this time were still very far short of normal, and still considerably less than had fallen by the same date last year.

Birders almost universally commented on the continued lack of Robins and Cedar Waxwings. Similarly, Oregon Juncos and Hermit thrushes were conspicuous by their absence. Only Red Crossbills seemed to have increased their numbers this winter as they were conspicuous at the parking lot below the summit of Mt. Pinos, and on the summit itself. As for water birds--they seemed to have fared no better. Along the coast, loons and grebes were far down. Indeed, there were virtually no large flocks of Western Grebes to be seen anywhere along our southern coast. Cormorants and Brown Pelicans were also scarce. Although Black Turnstones could be seen in fair numbers at Malibu and a few other places, Surf-birds were very hard to find anywhere. However, large numbers of gulls (mostly California and Ring-billed) congregated along the beaches, Mew and Glaucous-winged Gulls were down in numbers.

On our pelagic trip of January 27 we encountered a small number of Kittiwakes, only 1 Parasitic Jaeger, 1 Sooty Shearwater, and no Red phalaropes at all. However, good views of Ancient and Xantus' Murrelets and Rhinoceros Auklets were obtained, as well as a fleeting glimpse of a lone Cassin's Auklet.

The Rusty Blackbird, found by McCaskie and Jim Lane was still at the Santa Ana River flood channel in late January, and a male Harlequin Duck played hide-and-peek for more than a month at Glorietta Bay, San Diego. Although most species of waterfowl were low in numbers at upper Newport Bay in January, some interest was added by the Whistling Swan, White Pelicans, Hooded Mergansers, and Common Mergansers there. Nearby, at Bolsa Chica, a Red-necked Grebe was found Feb. 2. A Black-legged Kittiwake was at the Newport Pier Jan. 11 and a White-throated Sparrow was a regular visitor to the feeders at Tucker Sanctuary during most of the winter. At the Ventura County Gunclubs, a number of White-faced Ibis, a few White-tailed Kites, a single Sandhill Crane, and thousands of Blackbirds, including many Tricolors, a few Yellowheads, and some Starlings were seen Feb. 3.

During March, look for early migrating flocks of Turkey Vultures, loons, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds.

LOS ANGELES CITY SCHOOLS

AUDUBON JUNIOR PROGRAM PROMOTION

An event of major impact in the dissemination of information about the Audubon Junior Program occurred this Fall with the placement of a complete Kit of materials on the Audubon Junior Tree Program in EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in the City of Los Angeles. Four hundred and thirty-seven such Kits were distributed, thus providing teachers with the opportunity to study the contents of this Program in their own schools and at their leisure.

Thus, it seems timely that the Western Office of the National Audubon Society should take full cognizance of this action and recognize those who brought such a project to fulfillment. To Mr. Burton Oliver, Supervisor, Thrift, Conservation and School Savings Office of the Los Angeles

Board of Education, our sincere thanks. Long an ardent supporter of Audubon programs including the Wildlife Films and Audubon Camps, Mr. Oliver is to be commended for his efforts in helping to bring this teaching resource in natural science to the attention of Los Angeles City teachers.

Throughout, he has had the able assistance and cooperation of the Officers and Board members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, a branch of the National Society. As so often in the past, they worked together on this new project to provide teachers in Los Angeles with information helpful to the enrichment of their classroom programs. We are delighted over this achievement.

William N. Goodall
Western Representative
National Audubon Society

KEEP THE CONDORS FLYING • • CONTRIBUTE NOW!