

# AFRICAN BIRD ADVENTURES

BY ELNA BAKKER

**I**f I should return to Africa for the third time, it would be for two reasons primarily: its fabulous bird life, and the colorful wild flowers of the Cape. My zoologist husband is attracted mainly by the mammals for which Africa is justly famed, but I want to see again the flashing jewel that is a Sunbird and listen to the squeaking door-hinge call of a Gray Lourie.

Our adventure started in Cape Town at the height of the wild flower season. Wherever the Proteas and Leucospermums were blooming, Malachite, Orange-breasted and Double-collared Sunbirds were feeding. Often they were joined by the Sugar Bird with its long tail. Botanical gardens became places of delightful frustration. We literally ran with our cameras from flower to bird and back again, trying to capture on film the rainbow array.

On our drives around the Cape we began hearing birds' songs that would be with us for the next eight months. The Cape Turtle Dove introduced us to the soft calls that are so characteristic of the bush. Later we added the Laughing Dove, Namaqua Dove and the plaintive Tambourine Dove. Bulbuls are everywhere and keep up a chatter that varies from locality to locality. They are so noisy in some places that only colonies of Weaver Birds can drown them out.

There are several bird sanctuaries near Cape Town. Our favorite, perhaps because we know the director so well, is Rondevlei, which means round pond. It is out on the sandy flats that lie between the mountainous backbone of the Cape Peninsula and the sea. Flamingoes, Pelicans, Egrets, and

many other water birds congregate here in large numbers. Mr. Middlemiss does a splendid job of seeing to the upkeep of the sanctuary as well as doing a lot of scientific research.

On the way to Saldanha Bay where we photographed Jackass Penguins and Gannets, we saw the famed Bokmakierie, one of the colorful Shrikes. His yellow and black plumage is not quite as striking as that of the Four-colored or Gorgeous Bush Shrike with its red, green, black, and yellow, but its loud call, so like its name, is unmistakable. Cape Robins, Prinias, and Mousebirds darted in the scrubby vegetation that lined the side of the road.

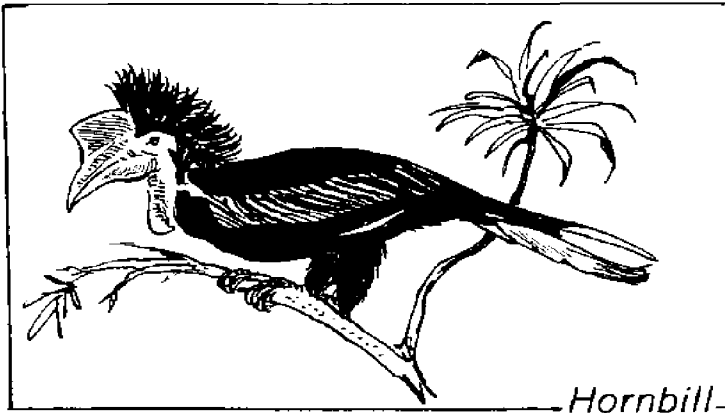
Our next major birding area was in the low veld, or thorny bush, of Natal and the eastern Transvaal. The reserves of Umfolosi and Hluhluwe are excellent birding grounds. Paradise Flycatchers were nesting beside streams and waterholes. They are indeed striking with their long tails of rufous red and crests of blue-gray. We remembered that Dr. Raymond Cowles of UCLA had called a Trogon for us, the Narina, the only member of its family in Southern Africa. This was on a delightful day in Oribi gorge when a fine mist was softening the greens of this small patch of coastal jungle. Hadeda Ibises were calling as they flew along the stream bed. But the Trogon was deep in the forest on our return visit, and the Ibises and Barbets were absent. It certainly makes a difference when you see a place in the spring of the year!

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# AFRICAN BIRD ADVENTURES

(CONTINUED)

Almost any lagoon or waterhole in the low veld will have the nest of its resident Hamerkop nearby. It is a huge mess of grass, sticks, and other bits of debris hardened and solidified with guano. Other Storks will visit the waterhole from time to time: Saddle-bills, Marabous, White, Black and Open-bills. We saw all of them in the five or six game reserves that are in the thorn veld of south and central Africa. If the lagoon is large enough, a Fishing Eagle will be at his station high on a snag. His call is one of the truly great sounds of wild Africa. We never failed to be thrilled by it whenever we heard it.



Birding was particularly good around the rest camps of Kruger Park. We had arranged our schedule so that we visited the park in the spring (our stay in Natal was postponed this time to the fall on our return from East Africa). Hornbills, Starlings, Emerald and Klaus' Cuckoos were busy in the shade trees overhead. One morning we saw a Woodpecker fussing around the roots of one of the fig trees. No doubt it was nesting nearby. Seedeaters or Finches of all colors fluttered in little flocks from grass patch to grass patch, blue, yellow, orange, and red.

The roadsides were alive with birds. Gray Louries seemed to be in every tree. Secretary Birds strutted through the grass. Ground Hornbills foraged along with Guinea-fowl. Francolins numbered in the hundreds. Almost every twig had its Lilac-breasted Roller whose common name, Blue-jay, seemed more appropriate when it flew. The blue of its wings isn't so noticeable as the lovely pink of its breast when it is sitting quietly.

Hoopoes with their gay orange and black top-knots walked down the road ahead of our slowly moving Volkswagen innumerable times. I always hoped we could startle him enough so that he would raise that bright crest. One of the most common

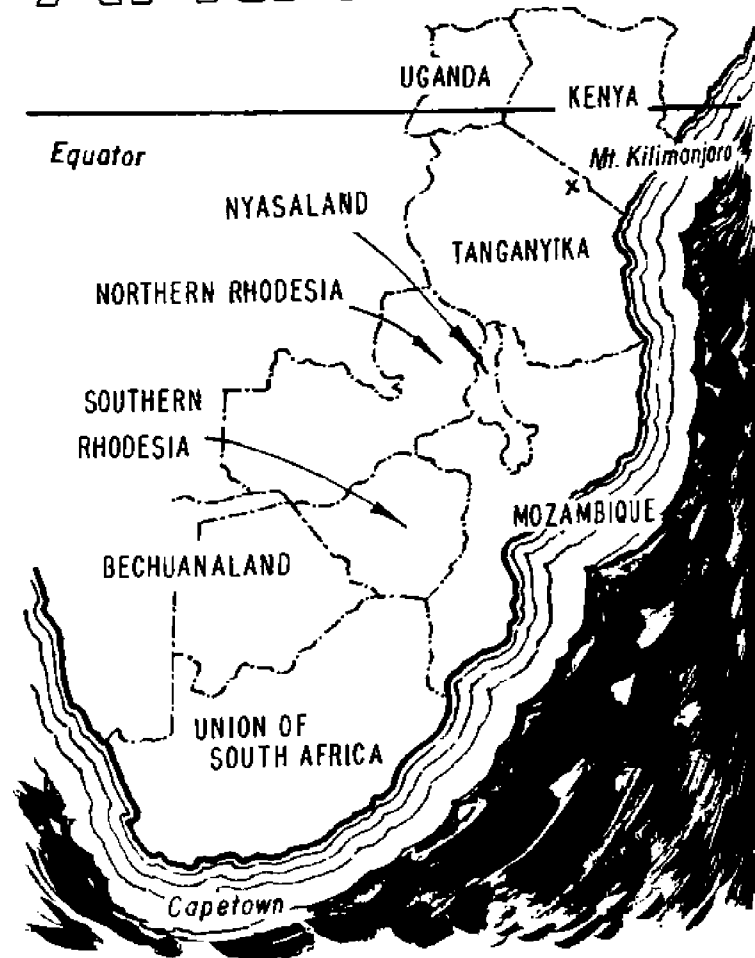
birds was the Fork-tailed Drongo. It is all black and about the size of our Blackbird. Swallows were everywhere, especially around bridges where their orange and blue-black showed up nicely against the shadows under the concrete structures.

By the time we left the Republic of South Africa, the Purple or Plum-backed Starlings were beginning to come south. How we love the beautiful Starlings of Africa! Nowhere are they the pests of dubious fame that we know. Most of them are gloriously plumaged, and if they occur in flocks at all, their numbers are small enough so that little damage is done to crops.

The Rhodesias were wonderful to bird watchers. It was the beginning of the nesting season, and we watched the activity all around us with great interest. Weaver Birds were busy beginning the rings of fibers that will later be part of the sturdy balls that hang from so many African trees. The male does the work, and a hard job it is, too! The female contributes nothing but her approval of the finished nest. If she doesn't like it, well, too

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## SOUTHEASTERN AFRICA



bad; he must start all over again! Crested, Black-collared and Tinker Barbets shared the trees with the Weaver Birds. When the rainy season began the plink-plink of the Tinker Barbets was incessant and almost drove us mad.

The Shrikes of this part of Africa were not too colorful, at least the ones that we saw were not. But we loved hearing the Puff-back Shrike as he zipped from bush to bush. Orioles that looked much like ours (though of different family) were golden and black. Coucals skulked around the bases of trees. They were most noticeable when they left the shadow momentarily. Then the black head, white breast, rufous wings, and brown tail show nicely.

We began seeing little flocks of Red-billed and Scimitar-billed Hoopoes. They appear black from any distance at all except for the red bills of the former. They had an interesting habit of clinging to the side of a tree trunk and screeching.

Though not very many species of parrots are found in Africa, if you know where to go you can see them by the thousands. Luangwa Valley Game Reserve had hundreds of flocks of tiny green parakeets with red heads. But the Rhodesian reserves are justly famed for their Bee-eaters. The beautiful Carmine-throated Bee-eater nests in banks along rivers of the Zambesi drainage. European, White-fronted, Little, and Boehm's Bee-eaters were regular visitors to waterholes and streams.

Crakes, Skimmers, Jacanas, Spoonbills, Herons, and Kingfishers paraded constantly along the shores of lagoons and streams. It got to the point that I wouldn't even look at elephants if bird life was plentiful.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

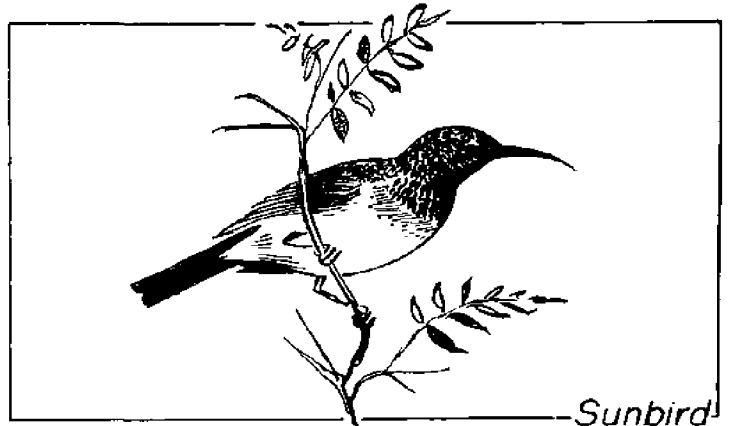
Both Elna Bakker and her husband, Gerhard, are dedicated members of the teaching profession. Mrs. Bakker is a teacher at the Toland Way Elementary School, while he teaches life sciences at Los Angeles City College. Although her article deals almost wholly with the birds observed by her on their African trip, Mrs. Bakker's interest in nature is much more wide-ranging. Her special enthusiasm, she says, is ecology. She has been a member of the National Audubon Society and of our Los Angeles branch for several years. Both of the Bakkers are native-born southern Californians. The African trip of which Mrs. Bakker writes here was their second within the past nine years, both having been made while they were on sabbatical leave. As a result of these African experiences, she has been invited by her school administrators to teach an experimental unit on Africa.



# AFRICAN BIRD ADVENTURES

(CONTINUED)

East Africa added more to the list. The Starlings became even more beautiful. The Superb and Golden-breasted were glowing coals of orange and gold and blue-black. We saw the former in most of the game reserves around Mt. Kilimanjaro, especially in the rest camps where they were very common. The latter we noted in the scrub of the Northern Frontier near the town of Isiolo.



Sunbird

The glorious Golden-winged Sunbird was a delightful surprise one morning while we were out with Bill Woodley, warden of the Kenya Mountain Parks, seeing the magnificent vegetation of the Aberdare Mountains.

To me the most wonderful bird experience of Uganda was the Black-headed Gonolek, the magnificent black and crimson breasted shrike of the thorn trees along the side of Kasinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth Park. Here, too, are Malachite Kingfishers with their gold and turquoise blue top-knots.

The list is long, but what I have not mentioned is even longer! All I know is that I must go back someday. There are many I want to meet and love again, and many I will greet as new friends.

## SEEK INFORMATION REGARDING PARROTS

Dr. John Hardy, of Occidental College, who favored us last September with an outstanding lecture on the Orange-fronted Parakeet of Mexico, is seeking information on parrots (of whatever species) which have been found living in the wild in southern California. Anyone having such information please contact Dr. Hardy at the Moore Laboratory of Ornithology at Occidental College. Telephone: CL 6-3037.



Several items of local interest have come up recently. One is legislation recently introduced in Congress to establish a Channel Islands National Seashore off the coast of Southern California. This legislation would provide for limited recreational development, but, as in other National Seashores, would provide strong protection for the natural features, flora, and fauna. Five islands, namely, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara would be included. Only two of these islands, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz, are not already in public ownership, so acquisition does not seem to be a major problem. Judging from recent actions in Congress on similar legislation, this bill (or rather, bills) would seem to have a chance. We certainly hope so! Anyone wishing to express an opinion on these bills should write to either Senator Clair Engle (S1303) or Representative Edward R. Roybal (HR 5597)--or better yet, both!

Another matter of interest is the bill in Sacramento to abolish the archaic bounty on mountain lions in California. There are very few reliable records of mountain lion attacks on cattle or sheep and no California records of unprovoked attacks on man. Yet we go on paying \$50 for each male lion shot and \$60 for each female. Sensible control would be to shoot only those very few lions that actually do prey on livestock. If we are going to save the magnificent mountain lion we had better act soon: there are less than 600 left in the entire state. At this writing, the

The Los Angeles Audubon Society very much regrets the passing of two of our greatest friends and members:

Mr. S. Paul Lindau was an active member of our Society for many years. He was also very active in Boy Scout work, devoting a lot of time and effort to boys. Mr. Lindau specialized in wild flower photography and generously provided us with many Thursday morning meeting programs featuring his excellent slides.

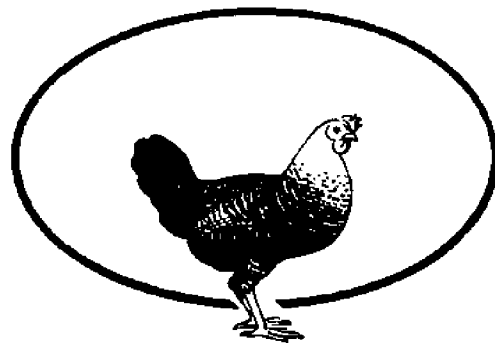
Mr. Theodore Payne is familiar to all of us as the great pioneer in creating public appreciation of our California wild flowers. Mr. Payne was a Life Member in the National Audubon Society. His loss is also keenly felt for one of his last, unfulfilled desires was to replant our Audubon House grounds with native plants. This work will now have to be carried out without his services.

bill (S65) has not yet come up for action, so that there may still be time to express opinions on the matter. Letters should be written to the sponsor, Senator Fred Farr, State Capitol, Sacramento 4.

The third matter has to do with our own Santa Monica Mountains. There is a move under way, initiated by a group of interested citizens, to create a large mountain park in the land lying between the San Diego Freeway and Topanga Canyon and between the Pacific Palisades and Ventura Boulevard. The move is aimed at relieving space in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area.

The first step in this initiative action is to petition the County Board of Supervisors to hold hearings on the establishment of a Regional Park District. If, after the hearings, the Supervisors approve the establishment of the Park District, the issue will be placed on the next general election ballot. If the voters approve, then the Park District can begin to acquire the land.

The Executive Board of the Los Angeles Audubon Society approved the first step (petitioning the Supervisors for a hearing), and at the last Tuesday night meeting, many of our members signed petitions and volunteered to circulate them. We will report more on this matter as it develops.



GOOFED AGAIN

In spite of what it said, last month's issue was that of May, 1963.

## HELP NEEDED AT AUDUBON HOUSE

Members are needed to keep Audubon House open afternoons of the first, second, and fifth Saturdays of the month, also to speak to youth groups and counsel for merit badges. If you are planning to retire, or otherwise find that you have free time, and can serve in this way, please contact Audubon House by mail or telephone.



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MRS. RUSSELL WILSON, *Executive Secretary*

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Youth groups by appointment 3-5 P.M.  
Open before and after each meeting

Telephone: HO 7-9495--Mon., Wed., Thurs. --10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.  
PO 1-7635--Tues., Fri.

June 1963

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AUDUBON HOUSE  
NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER  
876-0202

# June

- June 1 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neill Park.  
For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661
- June 6 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M. Audubon House.
- June 8 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Buckhorn Flats and Chilao. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the parking area at the entrance to Buckhorn Campground on the 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: Russ and Marion Wilson PO 1-7635
- June 11 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. Great Hall, Plummer Park. Mr. Allen Ryan, Chairman of the Natural Science Section, Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, will present a slide and sound program on the Channel Islands National Monument. This is of especial interest in view of the recent introduction in Congress of bills to create a Channel Islands National Seashore, of which the present Monument would be a part. Mr. Ryan will no doubt discuss the implications of this.  
Chairman: Russ Wilson PO 1-7635
- June 15 SATURDAY ECOLOGY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. Chantry Flats to study the botany and other aspects of the ecology of this area. To reach Chantry Flats take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., turn north on Rosemead to Foothill Blvd., right on Foothill to Santa Anita Canyon Rd., follow Santa Anita Canyon Rd. to Chantry Flats.  
Leader: Bill Watson (Call Audubon House HO 7-9495 for information)
- June 22 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Overnight camping trip to the Greenhorn Mountains. Meet at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 22, at the Salad Bowl Restaurant on Highway 99 at the south side of Bakersfield before reaching the Bakersfield archway. Group will caravan to Greenhorn Mountain Park to camp Saturday night. The return to Los Angeles on Sunday will be via Lake Isabella and the Kern River Canyon. There should be good foothill and mountain birding and possibly Condors. Bring food for two days.  
For information call: Dave Robison PO 1-0217

CALENDAR CONTINUED  
ON NEXT PAGE

# CALENDAR

Continued...

July 1963

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July 6 SATURDAY JUNIOR NATURALISTS 9:45-11:15 A.M. Cabrillo Beach Marine Museum.

For information call: Ed Anacker HO 7-1661

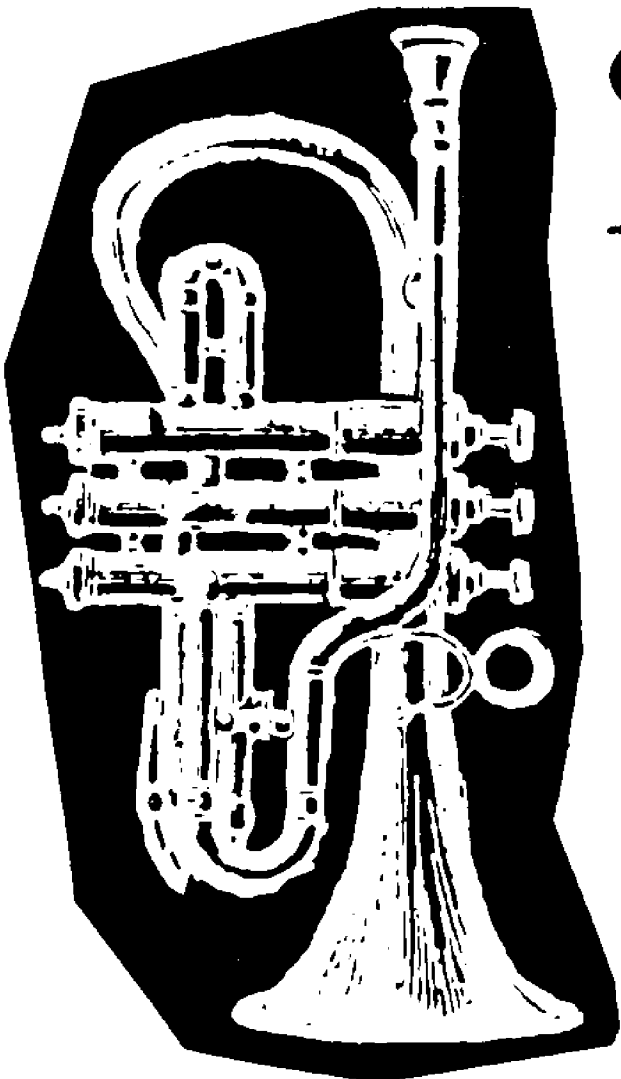
Note: The Junior Naturalists are sponsored by the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Membership is open to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 12. Parents are welcome on all field trips. Annual dues only 50¢.

July 13 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:00 A.M. - Tucker Bird Sanctuary, Upper Newport Bay. Take Santa Ana Freeway to Chapman Ave., take East turnoff; drive through Orange to Tucker Sanctuary where four species of hummingbirds may be seen. Early migrating shorebirds and nesting Least Terns will be looked for at Upper Newport Bay.

Leader to be announced.

*excuse it  
please*

if we toot our own horn...



Now that June is here don't face the long hot summer without some of our specialty items from Audubon House. For gifts - for graduation for weddings (no hope chest is complete without a field guide).

And a purchase from Audubon House will, if you'll pardon the expression, kill two birds (heaven forbid) with one stone--you get excellent merchandise and at the same time support Audubon activities.

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# NEW MEMBERS

- Mr. Christopher Adams  
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- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Blatt  
8817 Pinto Place, L. A. 69
- Mr. W. Brown  
9000 8th Ave., Inglewood
- Mrs. Naomi F. Chapman  
1200 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach 2
- Miss Chelta W. Dawson  
8363 E. Elm Ave., San Gabriel
- Miss Helen L. Diggs  
44 E. Mariposa, Altadena
- Miss Aki Hatakeda  
1530 1/2 S. Westgate Ave., L. A. 25
- Miss Molly D. Hudson  
4930 Monte Vista St., L. A. 42
- Miss Edith J. Keltner  
1954 N. Kenmore Ave., L. A. 27
- Mr. & Mrs. L. E. Moyer  
400 S. Normandie Ave., L. A. 5
- Mr. Hugo O. Olsen  
1330 Grant St., Santa Monica
- Mrs. Katheryn M. Robeson  
2801 Nichols Canyon Pl., L. A. 46
- Dr. Alexander Rogawski  
416 N. Bedford Dr., Beverly Hills
- Mr. Winston N. Salsbery  
143 E. 132nd St., Apt. F, Hawthorne
- Miss Margaret Thayer  
1800 Penna Ave., Apt. 6, L. A. 33
- Mr. R. Van Blaricom  
P. O. Box 1233, Westwood

# AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

FROM ELIZABETH ROSE

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Have you ever glanced over a month's Society Activities and realized that you had, unfortunately, missed quite a few? This is our problem this time, so, most of the reports are second hand!

After hearing an excited account from Dave Robison that he had Lazuli Buntings at his home bird bath, we were able to learn that the trip he led Saturday, April 13 from Tujunga Wash and on to Hansen Dam had, indeed, been productive. Looking over into the quarry at Tujunga Wash, there were good views of swallows and a Tricolored Red-wing. Much walking yielded an eventual list of 54 birds. The 35 people present were delighted to see a Cactus Wren and a Bewick's Wren nesting. Added to this they saw Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers.

Catherine Mangold reported to us on the Saturday, April 20, Ecology Field Trip led again by botanist Jack Clark. Mr. Clark always precedes these Tapia Park trips with a helpful talk; this time on the "Food Chain". Starting with energy from the sun, he briefly noted that the plants are producers; then come the consumers, the leaf eaters, the bug eaters, the bird eaters, and the eaters of fox and so forth; finally, there are the decomposers such as the cow--the manure, back to earth. A long list of plants were then observed in streamside woodland, in chaparral, and in oak woodlands. New members Gladys and Kenneth Barr were with this group and Dorothy and Lee Chase enjoyed a first field trip.

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A very enjoyable time was had by those who attended the Thursday morning meeting in Long Hall, Plummer Park, April 25. Elizabeth Fulton opened the program with a very interesting talk on bush-tits which she illustrated with drawings showing the comparative sizes, first, of these small birds and the Anna Hummingbird--just 1/4 smaller than the bush-tit, and second, of the bush-tit and its long pocket-like nest.

Robert Blackstone then showed us a delightful series of his slides taken on several trips to Canada. His pictures of birds and animals were particularly outstanding, but all were delightfully refreshing and alluring to city-bound dwellers who wished they, too, might some day view gorgeous sunset on Lake MacDonald, Glacier National Park, travel the glacier trail to Jasper, or visit the far northern Peace River Country. As Chaucer said in his Canterbury Tales, "Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,..."

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Migration certainly was in "full swing" for the Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28 field trip

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# annual picnic



Our Annual Picnic is planned for Sunday, July 27, at 5:00 P.M. in Rustic Canyon Park in Santa Monica. Make your plans now to attend this always enjoyable event. This will be a pot luck affair. Further details will appear in the July issue of the TANAGER.

# \* DEBITS & CREDITS \* Conservation-wise

BY HUGH WEISER  
TREASURER

Los Angeles Audubon Society, Inc. has work to do, a lot of work. This work consists of much individual effort, more concerted effort. These many efforts must be backed by money. Money mostly produces the necessities of life and the entertainments of leisure hours. We like to think our Society's money produces things for the soul.

Los Angeles Audubon has for the most part eight sources of revenue. Chosen at random they are: local dues, branch dues, Wildlife Films, sales, interest and dividends on investments, miscellaneous donations, Condor Sanctuary Fund, Christmas bazaar.

Every cent our good members send us for the Condor Fund goes for just that. We are not a wealthy society. Our only giving drive every year is for the Condor Sanctuary, which is supported mainly by National Audubon and federal funds. Therefore, those few other donations received come from people generous beyond call.

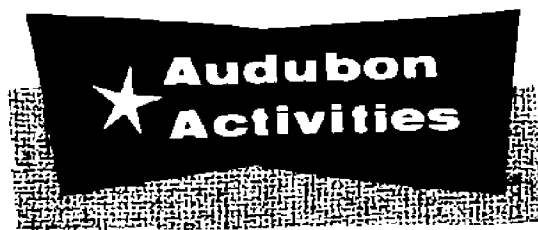
Our investment portfolio is small, but for our Society to grow the portfolio must grow. And growing it is, thanks to canny investment by an alert financial committee. The plowing back of dividends helps.

The Christmas bazaar is becoming more successful. Audubon House's recent new look is due to this operation. Very fine displays and display cases would otherwise have not become realities.

Profits from Wildlife Films, a big undertaking, go for some of our most vital work. That includes scholarships to Audubon summer camp which does so great a job in conservation. The recipients are most deserving and grateful.

What then do we do with money coming in from annual dues and our fine Sales department? A thousand things: run the WESTERN Tanager, second to none, operate Audubon House, a herculean job. If there were an S.P.C.P. (People) we would be forced to pay salaries, big ones! Have you noticed the library lately? It is wonderful. There are Saturday field trips. There is a Sunday field trip. There are Tuesday evening and Thursday morning meetings. All yours for the accepting.

Audubon House and Audubon Society are here for you to use. Use them as often as your time permits. Always use them well.

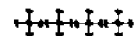


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to the desert. One hundred and forty-nine species of birds were seen and fifty-one people "migrated" to see them. This trip was reported to us by Marion Wilson and everyone else who was lucky enough to be there. The trip began in Covington Park where three pair of Vermilion Flycatchers, four species of orioles, the Blue Grosbeak, and the Chat began the day. Lunch at 1000 Palms yielded the Prairie Falcon. Twenty-three camped out at Finney Lake and some of the others who had taken motel accommodations joined the evening campfire for hot cider, cocoa, and donuts. The next morning, as they said, they "finished up the warblers" on the list and added the White-winged and Ground Doves. Also, seen in the early morning were Lesser Nighthawks and Vaux Swifts.

Some birders "got all the swallows". From the quality of the list, one can guess that Arnold Small was leading the trip and that there were several excellent birders assisting. Near the north end of the Salton Sea Blue-winged Teal and Greater

Scaup were seen. A new area at the south end of the Salton Sea was excellent. Shorebirds, waterbirds, and land birds were found along New River as it enters the Salton Sea. After lunch there Sunday, the people "migrated" back to Los Angeles.



Tapia Park arrayed itself in its best spring plumage for the Saturday, May 11, field trip under Warren Blazer's leadership. Thirty-six birders, many new at the game, saw Western Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, warblers, vireos, and finch all in their best spring plumage. It was a gay congenial group with Laura Jenner and Jim Deholtz providing witty asides. Much pleasure older members came from showing guests, Evelyn Schutty of Kansas City, Missouri and Mrs. Phil Olson of Seattle, Washington some interesting birds as the hundreds of nesting C. Swallows. Gordon Nelson, Ray Shoemaker, Pe Dick, Dorothy Dekoven, Connie Smith, Roland Kasper, and Richard Spero learned much about "birders" and "birding" on this trip. Those who time and energy continued after lunch at Malli Lagoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson visited Audubon House the day of our Tanager mailing party and stepped in to help with the folding and stuffing of the May Tanager. They seemed to enjoy this as much as we all enjoyed their company.



# BIRDING IN THE WEST

## BIRDING AT MALHEUR

BY CAROLINE ADAMS

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge offers good birding in the summer as well as during the spring and fall migration. Located in southeastern Oregon on the Pacific Flyway the refuge comprises 184,000 acres of lakes, marshes, and some sagebrush uplands. It was established primarily for nesting and migrating waterfowl. Since 1926 over 50,000 ducks and geese have been banded, and reports from 6,000 of these birds have been received from points as distant as Alaska and Columbia, South America. Over 230 species of birds have been recorded on the refuge, and successful transplants of the Trumpeter Swan have been made there.

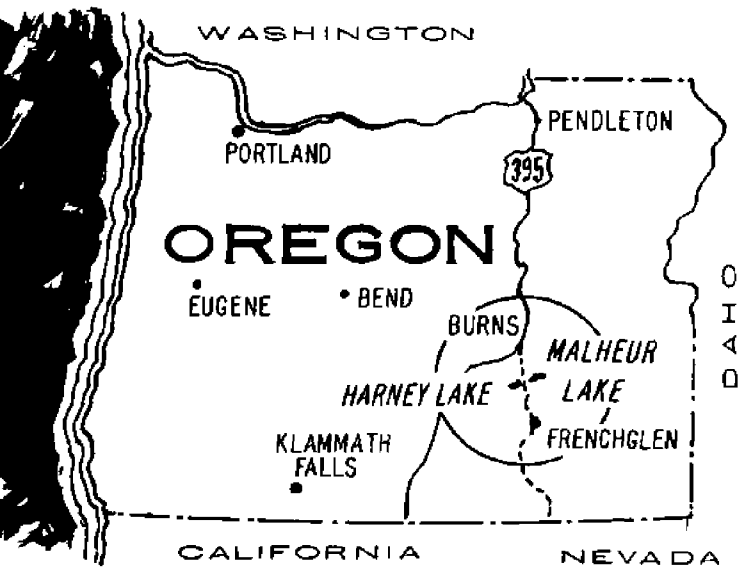
To reach the refuge leave U.S. Route 395 at Burns, Oregon, go east 2 miles on State 78, then south on State 205, the Frenchglen road, for 25 miles to a marked road which leads east 5 miles to the headquarters. It is wise to allow at least a couple of days to explore the many dike roads that lead through the marsh and offer vantage points for observation. Motel accommodations are plentiful in Burns, or one may stay at the clean, comfortable, country hotel in Frenchglen, which provides delicious meals at very reasonable rates. The proprietor is interested in birds, and his cottonwood trees have nests of Yellow Warblers, which he protects from the ranch cats by wrapping the trunks with wide bands of sheet metal. He also helps the bird population by refusing to spray the mosquitoes which are numerous in midsummer. If he did, "What would the birds eat?" he asked a complaining guest more interested in fishing than birding. Reservations should be made, for space at Frenchglen Hotel is limited.

There is a small museum at refuge headquarters, and a stop will provide the orientation necessary to see the refuge to the best advantage. It has excellent displays of mounted birds of the area, and pamphlets are available which have historical notes, bird and mammal lists, and a map showing the whole refuge. There is a large fenced pen nearby containing a pond and an excellent blind constructed of stone which gives cool shelter as well as advantageous views to those who want to photograph Canada Geese, Snow Geese, Whistling and Trumpeter Swans (excellent comparisons of these two can be made) and ducks. The record of ducks nesting at Malheur includes Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged, Blue-winged, and Cinnamon Teal, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, and Common Merganser.



Common Nighthawks are abundant in the trees near the museum and may be seen flying about in midday. A drive from the headquarters to "P" Ranch (original ranchhouse of Peter French, famous cattle baron of the late 19th century) yielded a total of 50 of these birds perching on the fenceposts along the way or flying off if our car approached too close. From this road may also be seen Common and Snowy Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, White-faced Ibis, Black-crowned Night Heron, Coot, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed Grebe, large numbers of California and Ring-billed Gulls, and Forster's and Black Tern. When we were there last July we particularly enjoyed watching the Black Tern feeding young, a baby Kildeer freezing in the road while the parent lurched off in a broken-wing act, and the beauty of one little pond where an American Bittern solemnly fished, Virginia Rails skulked along the edge, and muskrats paddled back and forth while large rain drops dappled the surface from a thunder shower in the nearby Steen Mountains. Other well remembered sights were the stately Sandhill Cranes in a sunny meadow near Buena Vista Station (their mating dance may be seen at the refuge in the late spring) and a Least Bittern near a little bridge feeding in the coolness of early morning.

The upland game birds inhabiting the refuge include the Sage Grouse, California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Chukar. Marsh, Swainson's, and Red-tailed Hawks are abundant, and one also might see the Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks, Golden and Bald Eagles, Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, and the Sparrow Hawk. Shorebirds include Avocets in the shallows, Long-billed Curlews in the saltgrass flats, and Willets everywhere. The cooing call of the Wilson's Phalarope and the flight song of the Snipe may be heard. The blackbirds--Red-winged, Yellow-headed, and Brewer's--are present, as are Meadowlarks, Yellow-throats, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Loggerhead Shrikes, Black-billed Magpies, and Common Ravens. The Sage Thrasher was new for us and easy to find. The rim rock cliffs bounding the Blitzen Valley provide nest-



Continued on page 96

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



BY ARNOLD SMALL

**Birds**

The best birding season of the year in southern California has come and gone, but the spring migration proved to be only fair. Late rains during April probably delayed the season somewhat, but not many really rare migrants were located. Good flights of warblers were encountered in desert areas during the last week of April, but by the following week, most of these birds had moved on through. Several Lucy's Warblers were located in Morongo Valley late in April. In addition, there were at least 4 pairs of Vermilion Flycatchers there, and perhaps no more than one pair of Summer Tanagers.



A large flight of warblers was noted through the San Diego area, particularly along the coast, during the first week in May. The flight of Swainson's Thrushes started about the same time, but Western Tanagers seemed somewhat early with a distinct lag between the first large influx and the second. Large flights of Vaux Swifts were noted along the coast during the first week in May. Low overcast skies probably precipitated such a flight as the birds are forced to descend to lower levels for migration on such days.

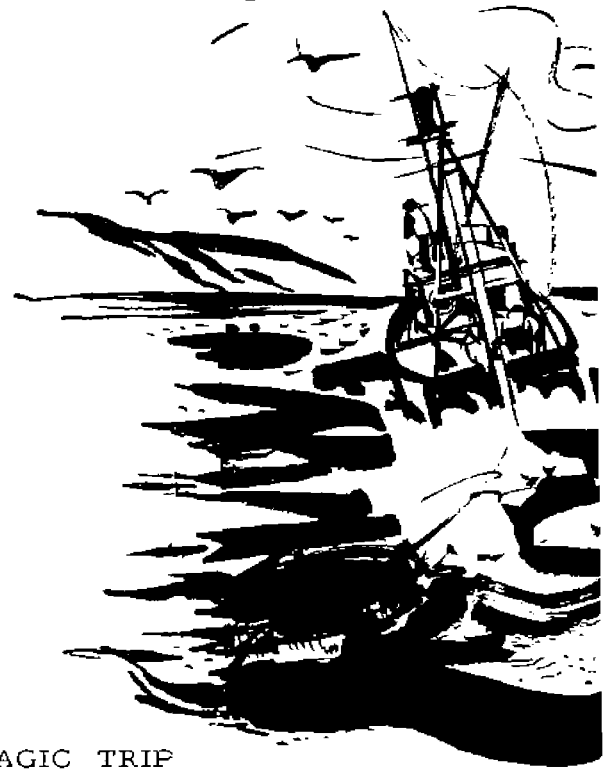


Four Elf Owls at Cottonwood Springs proved very easy to find, but only after it became dark enough to stimulate the little birds to commence calling. Their occurrence here is really quite remarkable when one considers that their normal range does not carry them much farther west than the belt of Saguaro Cacti near Phoenix and Tucson and down through Organpipe Cactus National Monument. A Gray Vireo was at Thousand Palms Oasis April 27, and they were later found at their usual haunts near Phelan. A nest of a Long-eared Owl was also discovered near Oak Springs at the same time. Strong winds blowing in desert areas late in April probably hindered the migrants somewhat, while those following the coastal route encountered little to deter them.



The flight of shorebirds was about normal. Small numbers of Black Brant were still present at the north end of the Salton Sea late in April, together with a few Wilson's Phalaropes and a pair of Blue-winged Teal. Small numbers of Black Brant were also found along the coast at this time. By the middle of June, most of the migrants will have moved through, but shorebirding should continue good through the summer, while pelagic birding should improve.

## PLAN PELAGIC TRIP AUGUST 31st.



### PELAGIC TRIP

A pelagic birding trip is planned for Saturday, August 31 aboard the fishing boat "Corsair", which will leave the 22nd Street Landing at San Pedro at 5:30 A.M. to cruise to the vicinity of San Clemente Island and return to port about 6:00 P.M. This is your chance to see albatross, petrels, jaegers, and possibly Tropic-birds or other rarities. Forty (40) reservations are available, and will be taken on a first come, first served basis. The fare will be \$8.00--checks to be made payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society. Send reservations to: Mr. Irwin Woldman, 7205 Fountain Ave., Apt. 10, Los Angeles 46, Calif. Further details will be found in the Calendar of the July TANAGER. For information call:  
Irwin Woldman - HO 7-7070  
Don Adams - FR 2-5536

## BIRDING AT MALHEUR

(CONTINUED)

ing sites for swallows, and all the western varieties have nested there except Cave Swallow and Purple Martin.

The refuge provides habitat for many mammals of which we found the Pronghorn or American Antelope the most interesting. These beautiful creatures may be glimpsed briefly as one tours the roads. If one had time to drive to Fish Lake in the Steen Mountains, reached by a 16 mile dirt road from Frenchglen, the number of species to be seen would be increased to include mountain varieties.