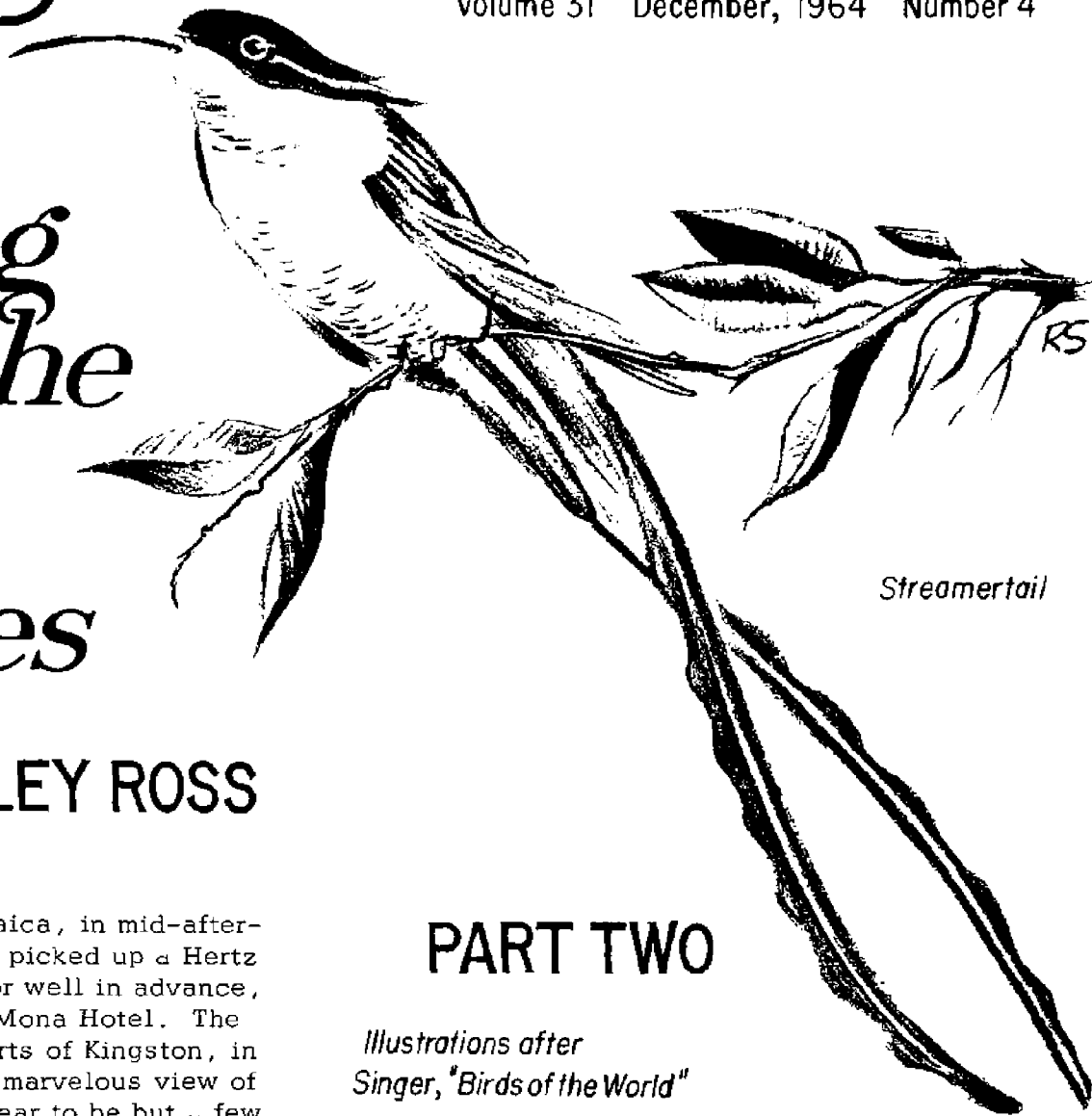


Birding in the West Indies

By R. DUDLEY ROSS



Arriving at Kingston, Jamaica, in mid-afternoon of the following day, we picked up a Hertz car, which we had arranged for well in advance, and immediately drove to the Mona Hotel. The Mona is located on the outskirts of Kingston, in a beautiful setting and with a marvelous view of the Blue Mountains which appear to be but a few hundred yards away. Just as we drove into the hotel's parking area, a Streamertail zoomed to a flowering shrub directly in front of the car, hovering at eyelevel as it fed avidly, its long streaming tail feathers waving gently. What an introduction to Jamaica! This was one of the birds we had most wanted to see and there it was before we could even leave the car. As we were rather weary, we ordered rum punches and sat on the big upstairs porch outside our room, sipping gently. As we admired the hotel grounds and the surrounding scenery, our binoculars were at the ready. First, along came another Streamertail and then a Saffron Finch, followed soon by a Jamaican Oriole and several Antillean Palm-swifts, all new for the three of us. In the hour and a half spent there we saw fifteen species of birds which, in addition to those already mentioned, included Common Ground-Dove, Smooth-billed Ani, the West Indian race of the Common Nighthawk (with its katydid-like call),



Streamertail

PART TWO

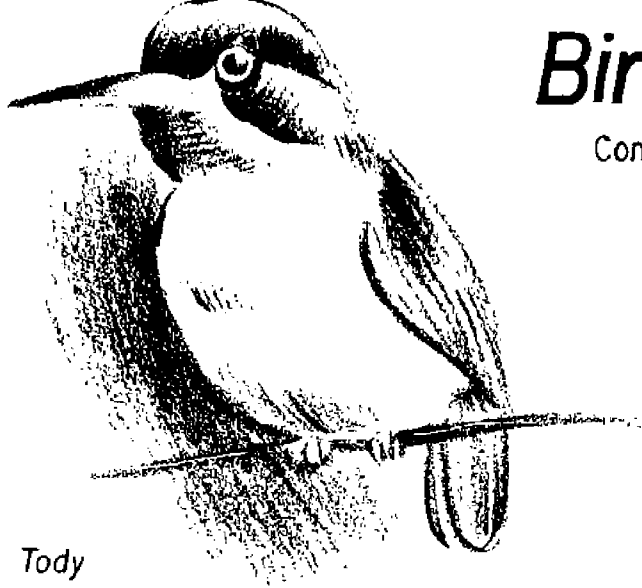
Illustrations after
Singer, "Birds of the World"

Black Swift, Gray Kingbird, Black-whiskered Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Bananaquit and Yellow-faced Grassquit. All in all, this was the laziest birding I have ever been guilty of, but it was pleasant and relaxing and productive.

Next morning we birded around the hotel grounds and vicinity and also around the Mona Reservoir which is close by, and after lunch went into Kingston to meet Mr. C. Bernard Lewis of the Institute of Jamaica. He had been very helpful in giving us information concerning the birds of his country and we had promised to look him up. During our morning birding we saw Least Grebe, Plain Pigeon, Zenaida Dove, Guiana Parrotlet, Antillean Palm-swift, Jamaican Mango, Streamertail, Vervain Hummingbird, Jamaican Woodpecker, Loggerhead Kingbird, Greater Antillean Elaenia, Banana-

Birding in the West Indies

Continued...



Tody

quit, Jamaican Euphonia, Greater Antillean Grackle, Jamaican Oriole, Saffron Finch, Yellow-faced, Black-faced and Yellow-shouldered Grassquits and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Additional birding along the coast east of Kingston and between that city and Spanish Town produced Stolid Flycatcher, Loggerhead Flycatcher, Olive-throated Parakeet, among other things.

Our next objective was to bird in Jamaica's famous Blue Mountains, especially in the vicinity of Hardwar Gap. To do this we had made reservations at Green Hills, a simple guest house, amid beautiful surroundings at about 4,000 feet altitude, and operated by the Misses Sibley. Although only eighteen miles by car from the Mona, the road is narrow, steep and winding. In addition, you bird your way up and, as we all know, this takes time. We left the Mona at 3:00 p.m. and arrived at Green Hills at 6:20 p.m. just as darkness closed in. On the way up, in addition to many of the commoner birds, such as all three hummingbirds, we had White-crowned Pigeon, Greater Antillean Pewee, White-eyed and White-chinned Thrushes, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, several Rufous-throated Solitaires and the Blue Mountain Vireo. The solitaire's haunting song was heard in many places late in the afternoon.

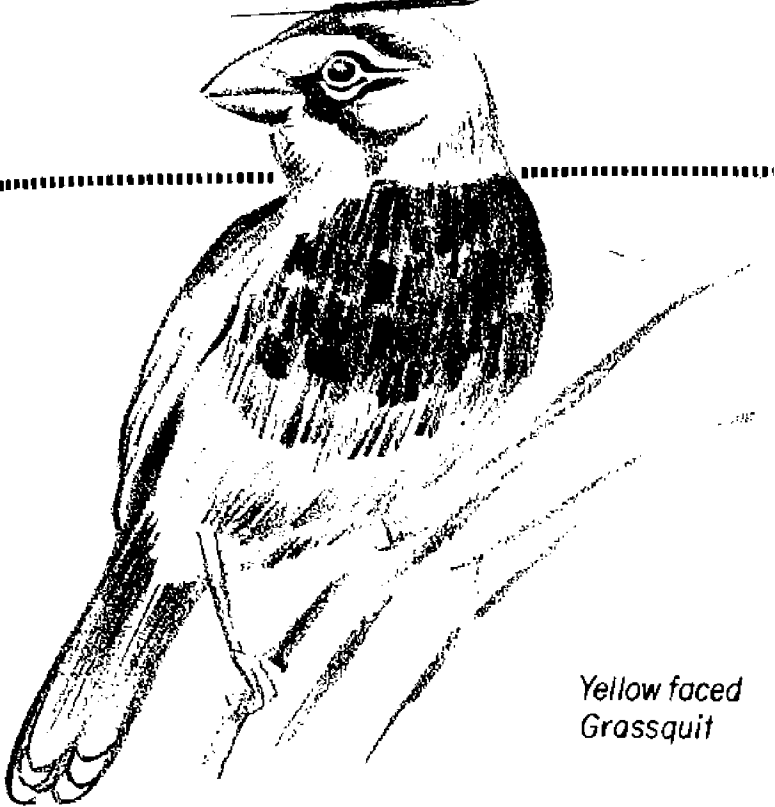
The garden at Green Hills is very pretty and, with feeders strategically placed, there is heavy avian traffic. One of the commonest birds at the feeders is the Orangequit, a honeycreeper of unusual coloration and endemic to Jamaica. The following morning we birded around the house until time for breakfast and saw such things as the Jamaican Tody, Jamaican Yellow-crowned Elaenia, Stripe-headed Tanager and Greater Antillean Bullfinch. Then, off to Hardwar Gap, only a mile away, where we explored the trails and found the Crested Quail-Dove, Sad Flycatcher, Jamaican White-eyed

Vireo, Arrow-headed Warbler, Jamaican Blackbird and Yellow-shouldered Grassquit. The minute Tody always takes everyone's fancy. It has personality, if I may be permitted to say this of a bird. Its coloring is vivid and the bird is an alert, perky creature. So small that it reminds one of a hummingbird, it is a cavity-nesting species and is closely related to the kingfishers.

Long before the day was over we had caught up with all the specialties to be found here! James Bond, the authority on West Indian birds, had told me that the Hardwar Gap region was by far the best birding spot in Jamaica and our experience certainly confirmed this. Looking for more worlds to conquer, we left after breakfast the next day, stopping in Kingston for a little shopping and then heading north through the Mt. Diablo and Moneague area, which we did not find especially productive. We had some birds but no great quantity and, of course, the heat of mid-afternoon undoubtedly had something to do with the lack of activity. We did get our first look at the Jamaican Crow, known locally as the Jabbering Crow, slightly smaller than the Common Crow, which does not occur in Jamaica. To say that we felt the appearance of this bird was something less than sensational, is but to tell the truth. Just another crow. In two or three locations we had been hoping to find another, smaller black bird, the Jamaican Becard. This somberly-clad cotinga was to prove most elusive. That night we stayed at the Eaton Hall Hotel on the north coast. A refreshing swim, followed by rum punch, an excellent dinner and some dancing, left us with barely enough time to write up our notes and so to bed.

Next morning our destination was the Cockpit Country, where we hoped to see, and did see, both endemic species of parrot (Black-billed and Yellow-billed), Ring-tailed Pigeon and the Jamaican Crow, in addition to many other species whose acquaintance we had already made. After a long and tiring day's birding, we ended up at the Mayflower Hotel in Mandeville, for our last night's stay in Jamaica.

Our car had turned out to be a Vauxhall Velox, with automatic transmission - a very nice, compact automobile. This we had engaged for a week, picking it up at the Kingston airport, and had arranged to turn it in at the Montego Bay airport, just before leaving for home. As Kingston is on the southeast coast and Montego Bay on the northwest coast, this sort of arrangement made it possible for us to visit all those places which interested us, with an absolute minimum of backtracking. Therefore, after leaving the Mayflower Hotel, early on the morning



*Yellow faced
Grassquit*

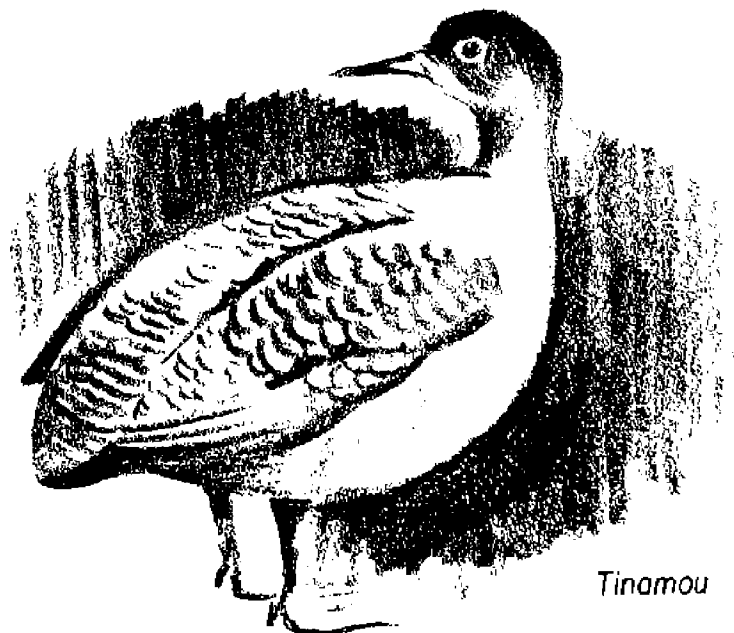
of May 10th, we had nothing much to do except to drive the 72 miles to Montego Bay. However, by driving from Mandeville to Black River, on the southwestern coast, then along the coast to Savanna-Mar and north to Montego Bay, we managed to stretch this to over 100 miles. We had decided that, en route to Montego Bay, we would pay a visit to the little town of Anchovy where, we had been told, Miss Lisa Salmon had a bird sanctuary and where we would have one last chance of finding the becard. Yes, Miss Salmon had had two nesting pairs. One pair had disappeared but, while the other nest was active, the female would not come out and the male was usually seen only very early or very late in the day. This was fairly early afternoon. Some birders from Texas (whom we had first run into in Trinidad and then again in Kingston) had been there the previous day but, after a long wait, had had to content themselves with photographing the bulky, hanging nest, high up in a large tree. Things did not look at all promising but we went to the nesting sight with Miss Salmon nevertheless. Miss Salmon very kindly tried to whistle the bird in but things seemed rather hopeless when, suddenly, there came an answering whistle and a few moments later the male appeared and we all had very good views of it for several minutes before it left. This was a fitting, last-minute climax to a fine trip. We did stay as long as time permitted at Miss Salmon's house where she feeds an impressive number of Saffron Finches and Ground-Doves. It was possible to take pictures of them at very close range. She also has many other interesting birds on her property and does a good deal of banding. To say we birded until the last minute is but to tell the truth. We stopped to look at a few Black-necked

Stilts as we approached the airport and finally left Jamaica at 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening, arriving home at 2:15 a.m. and to bed just before the witching hour of "three o'clock in the morning. That was really carrying on to the bitter end.

NOTES: I have long felt that many persons reading an article of this kind would like details as to transportation, lodgings, etc. With this in mind, I list such data below in the hope that it will prove helpful at some future time. The places we stayed in are by no means the only ones available and, in some cases, were perhaps not the best. However, we found all of them both satisfactory and convenient. To stay at Spring Hill Estate with Mrs. Wright is an experience that should not be missed. Special mention should also be made of Arnos Vale Beach Hotel and Bird of Paradise Inn, both on Tobago, and the Mona Hotel in Kingston. The Blue Mountain Inn, on the outskirts of Kingston, is a very fine, and fairly expensive, eating place. Visit it if you can.

We flew by jet coach from New York City to Trinidad on British Overseas Airways Corporation, with brief stops at Antigua and Barbados. From April 15th through June 14th BOAC has an especially attractive tourist excursion rate, appreciably cheaper than that of any other airline. From Trinidad to Tobago we flew with British West Indian Airways, a subsidiary of BOAC, and also used that line from Trinidad to Jamaica and from Jamaica to Miami. This arrangement made it possible for us to stop over in Jamaica at an additional cost of only \$32.00 per person, not possible with any other line. On the flight from Trinidad to Jamaica, short stops were made at Barbados Antigua and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Continued on page 39



Tinamou

Palaver and Dedication

A Visit to the New Jaeger Desert Sanctuary

by Betty Jenner



The outstanding authority on North American deserts--and more important, an outstanding human being--was the man whom a broad spectrum of conservationists had the privilege of honoring on November 14 and 15.

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger is the "John Muir of the desert"; moreover, he has the quality of transmitting his enthusiasm to young people who are looking for a way of life that has purpose and meaning.

One hundred and sixty acres of typical Lower Sonoran desert, including the site of Dr. Jaeger's discovery of the hibernating poor-will, has been acquired from the government through the instrumentality of Nature Conservancy, and will remain forever in its primitive state as a sanctuary bearing Dr. Jaeger's name. Nature trails, and a small camping and picnicking area will be available for the convenience of those who wish to study the flora and fauna of the desert, or to relax and "recreate".

On the afternoon of the 14th, work parties picked up the litter left by years of picnickers and hunters. At 7:00 P.M. a roaring campfire was started; for a while all of us turned 'round and 'round beside it, warming front and derriere against the chill of the coldest evening of autumn.

Then, with the vigorous summons of a cowbell, came what would be called the "palaver" on Dr. Jaeger's field trips with his students. He speaks as beautifully as he writes; in measured prose he introduced a number of outstanding naturalists and biologists who in turn described memorable adventures encountered on their world travels. Space doesn't permit detailed accounts of these tales but Laura or I will be happy to relate what we can to anyone who's interested.

At 11:00 A.M. on November 15, in the heart of the sanctuary--a lovely natural amphitheatre--Mrs. Tasker L. Edmiston, the guiding spirit of the entire project, introduced many leading conservationists who traced the sanctuary's history and told of its aims. The large gathering was then honored by a moving address by Dr. Jaeger.

I am purposely omitting names because I would not want to inadvertently leave out any of the luminaries in the world of wildlife conservation who were in attendance.

The sanctuary may be reached by an unpaved road, about 2 1/2 miles west of Desert Center, leading south 1 1/2 miles toward the Chuckawalla Mountains. Our heartfelt thanks to Nature Conservancy! ■

EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTIONS



The following actions were taken by the Executive Board of the Los Angeles Audubon Society at its regular meeting on November 5, 1964:

Voted to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Vernon Mangold for his splendid paintings which furnish the background for the exhibits in the lobby of Audubon House.

Voted to renew the Society's membership in the Nature Conservancy. Voted to provide scholarships to Audubon Camp in 1965 to three teachers, one each in elementary, junior high and high school.

Discussed reprinting of the field check list in improved and more readable form but without revision.

Appropriated the sum of \$50.00 toward the cost of maintaining the Audubon exhibit at the 1965 Los Angeles County Fair.

Voted to support the establishment of a National Park in California for the preservation of significant remnants of the original redwood forests and directed the Conservation Chairman to write letters to the appropriate agencies. ■



NEW BOOKS may now be purchased
CARDS from Service Department
Audubon House

- NEW BOOKS ON SALE:
- Blake - Birds of Mexico..... 8.50
 - Edwards Finding Birds in Panama..... 1.50
 - Eisenmann The Species of Middle
American Birds..... 3.50
 - Kobaly & Elliott - Guide to Morongo
Valley Wildflowers..... 2.00
 - de Schauensee The Birds of Colombia.... 10.00

AUDUBON 1964 CHRISTMAS CARDS (Bob Whites)
20¢ each, 10 for \$1.75, 25 and over, 15¢ each,
incl. envelopes.
(Orders are being taken at Audubon House. To
ensure delivery, place your order as soon as pos-
sible.)



HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY AND NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE
 PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46. 876-0202
 HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. MARTHA EDENS
 REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: MRS. RUSSELL WILSON

ARNOLD SMALL, *President*
 MRS. DONALD L. ADAMS, *Executive Secretary*

DECEMBER 1964

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	31		

DECEMBER



- Dec. 3 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.
- Dec. 8 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING - 8:00 P.M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. "Follow the Crested Crane", by Arnold Small. This is the second part of Arnold Small's African adventure of 1963, and it takes place solely in Uganda. During their circuit of the country, Bob Smart, Jim Huffman and Arnold Small listed more than 600 species of birds in 28 days, as well as numerous herds of great game animals, climaxed by a climb into the Virunga Volcanoes to encounter the Mountain Gorilla. Mr. Small's pictures will include numerous east African birds as well as many of the strikingly beautiful country of Uganda. Refreshments will be served.

Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536

- Dec. 12 SATURDAY - SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - Carrizo Plains. Meet at 8:30 A.M. in Maricopa at the junction of State Highway 166 and U.S. 399. (Take U.S. 99 north from Los Angeles to junction with State Highway 166 about eight miles north of Grapevine, go west on 166 about 25 miles to Maricopa) Bring lunch, drinking water and wear warm clothing. We will spend the night at California Valley Lodge in order to be on the Plains early Sunday morning. If you do not already have a reservation for lodging, call Mrs. Vi Neil--Carrizo Plains 614 (via Paso Robles).

Leader: Jim Huffman - 372-7124

- Dec. 27 SUNDAY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT We want as many observers as possible again this year, in order to make the count as complete and thorough as we can. You do not have to be an expert to be able to help; if you can recognize the common birds, you are qualified to participate. There will be enough 'experts' in each party to deal with difficult identifications. Be sure to contact the chairman if you can be available.

Chairman: Bill Watson 1249 N. Edgemont Ave., Apt. 12, LA 90029
 or call Audubon House 876-0202

- Jan. 7 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.
- Jan. 9 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Lake Norconian. Meet at the Union Oil Co. station on Milliken Avenue in Norco at 8:00 A.M. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to a point about ten miles east of Ontario. Take Milliken Avenue turnoff and continue south to Norco. An alternate route would be the Santa Ana Freeway and Riverside Freeway (91) to Corona, then north to Norco. We should find a good concentration of wintering ducks and water birds. Bring lunch.

Leader: Arnold Small VE 7-2272

Note: When unfavorable weather conditions might indicate a change in, or cancellation of, a scheduled Field Trip as announced, please call the leader or Audubon House.

Russ Wilson Field Trips Chairman

AUDUBON

ACTIVITIES

By Otto Widman



Oct. 10

Irwin Woldman led the field trip out of Oxnard for a tour around Santa Cruz Island and parts of Anacapa. The sea was glass smooth, except for a few swells around one end. The birds were few. A first for me was the oystercatcher, sighting 7 of them; there was a Sooty Shearwater and many Double-crested Cormorants. On one of the beaches a Wandering Tattler was the sole occupant. Right out of the harbor were Red and Northern Phalaropes. The only terns were Elegant. The gulls were Western, Heerman, and Herring. In all 12 species. Mr. Al Ryan of the San Fernando Audubon Society was our guest.

Bill Watson in the meantime was having more luck at Cabrillo Beach and Harbor Park. On the beach were Sanderlings and Knots and Snowy Plovers. Here was a seldom seen Golden Plover along with Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers. Least and Western Sandpipers seemed plentiful. At the park there were 11 Black-crowned Night Herons. Overhead were Rough-winged Swallows and in the reeds the Marsh Wren. Thirty-nine species were sighted, including a Marsh Hawk and Snowy Egrets. Richard Milne and family came along for the day. Eva Millsap and Irene Greenhut enjoyed the birding.

Oct. 13

President Arnold Small outlined our membership drive and told us the benefits we would receive from more members. The sighting of Red-throated Pipits by Guy McCaskie of the San Diego Audubon Society was the 'bird of the evening, a Eurasian visitant to southern California for the first recorded time. Mr. George Venatta called attention to redstarts in San Diego County. A new book by Peterson and Fisher "World of Birds" was called to our attention. The Walt Disney film was a composite of all California parks. The many highlights showed what we have and the need for more. Mr. Don K. Porter of the Angeles National Forest Service showed his slides of the second National Forest to be created in the United States back in 1892. The 2 million acres comprise our most abrupt and precipitous mountains and many of his slides showed us why. He named the many campsites and nature trails that are available (Wolf tree, Chilao, Beetree among them) with some of them guided tours by naturalists.

Oct. 17

The staff at the El Monte Audubon Center met the members of the Los Angeles Audubon

Continued on page 31

MEMO

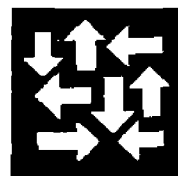


December Evening Meeting Special

See Calendar, page 35

CALENDAR

Continued...



Don't forget



Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 27th.

Jan. 12 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M. WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd. (between Santa Monica Blvd. and Melrose Ave.). Dr. Kenneth Stager, Curator of Birds and Mammals of the Los Angeles County Museum, will speak on "The Cheney Ornithological Expedition to the Uluguru Mountains of Tanganyika, East Africa". Dr. Stager has been a good friend of the Society for many years and his always interesting programs are favorites with our members. His talk will be illustrated with color slides. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE--FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.

Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536



¡VISTAS!



Here's Your Chance to Bird Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is sponsoring a birding tour to Guatemala, Costa Rica and Panama in August 1965, under the leadership of Herb and Olga Clarke. This will be 16 days (July 31 through August 15) of intensive birding in some of the most exciting ornithological spots of the world. Over 1400 species have been recorded in Central America.

The cost of the trip will be \$800.00 per person. This includes air fare by Pan American scheduled Jet Clipper between Los Angeles, San Jose, Guatemala City and Panama City. Also included are: lodging, most meals, tips and ground and other air transportation.

We tentatively plan to visit and bird in and around the ancient Mayan city of Tikal in the jungles of Guatemala as well as the highland country of Guatemala. Also, we will bird the Panama Canal Zone and the mountains of Panama, after which a short stay in Costa Rica will be included.

In addition to the birding, there will be a limited amount of time for sightseeing, shopping, dining out on the town, resting, etc.

A total deposit of \$100.00 must be received by March 1, 1965. This cannot be returned for any reason except if the tour is cancelled or oversubscribed. The balance must be received by July 1, 1965. The number of people on the tour will be restricted to less than 20 people including the two leaders.

A \$5.00 earnest fee which can apply against the initial deposit must accompany your request for further details. Also, this fee will entitle you to attend the series of information meetings which the tour leaders plan to hold.

If interested, please contact:

Herb Clarke
2027 El Arbolita Drive
Glendale, California 91208
CH 9-5537 ■

Fredric Haerich
11060 San Bernardino St., Loma Linda
Mrs. Charles E. Martin
4320 The Strand, Manhattan Beach
Ruth E. Myers
137 W. Channel Islands Blvd., Port Hueneme
Robert W. Pann
1440 1/2 Brockton Ave., LA
Mrs. Ernest Powell
5832 David Ave., LA
Mrs. Warren R. Reeves
257 Cumberland Rd., Glendale
Bess Shanks
817 C Sixth St., Santa Monica
Mrs. Reese Taylor
1255 Shenandoah Rd., San Marino

Society for the 'See How and Hear What' lecture tour. It actually is an ecology trip, where all the elements are correlated, a sort of "Balance of Nature in El Monte", from geology to weather. The function of the Nature Museum was explained.

Oct. 25

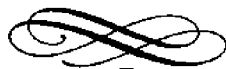
Eighty-two birds--that's what we saw on our Sunday trip to Bolsa Chica Beach and Newport Bay. Before we left the beach there were 37 birds on the list. The birder had a chance to see the differences between the Franklin's and Bonaparte's Gull, the Eared, Pied-billed, and Western Grebes, the Snowy and Common Egrets, the Elegant and Common Terns. On a mud flat a Sora Rail walked in and out of the grasses. Nearer were the Blue and Green-winged Teals. The two ducks were the Pintail and the Ruddy. Among the plovers were Black-bellied, the Snowy, Killdeer. It was a good day for birding; the air was very still and the ocean calm. Pomarine Jaegers were diving about a school of fishing boats. On the mud flats were the little ones, the Dunlins, sandpipers.

Mr. and Mrs. Swanton joined us to bring our group to 34. Mr. Lowell Boland, Mr. R. W. Jackson and Mr. Earle R. Greene joined the regulars. At Newport Bay we saw 9 Great Blue Herons. Clapper Rails were in the weeds right at our feet. Up a small canyon were Cactus Wrens and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. A Short-eared Owl and a Prairie Falcon wove a pattern overhead. The bird for the day was the Golden Plover, sparingly seen on the west coast. A White Pelican flew for us and then rested on the back bay. The warblers were the Yellow-throat, Orange-crowned and Audubon. Don and Caroline led the group of 34 members for the day.

Oct. 29

The three children of Albert J. Wool ride their ponies through the canyons, hillsides and beach of the La Honda Ranch up Santa Cruz way and they introduce us to the intimacies of 'Ranch Life and Wildlife' through Mr. Wool's excellent camera work.

Continued on page 38



Welcome! _____ NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Anna J. Baun
14450 Sunset Blvd., Pacific Palisades
Mrs. Lowell Boland
659 Silver Lake Blvd., LA
Kathleen Byrom
823 C 18th St., Santa Monica
Alice E. Fries
27041 Calle Maria, Capistrano Beach

CONSERVATION *Notes*

By
BILL WATSON

the 60th Annual **NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION**

The 60th annual convention of the National Audubon Society is now history. It was the first I ever attended and I think it was one of the most historic. At this convention, held in Tucson, Arizona, November 7-11, Dr. Alden H. Miller, along with Ian and Eben McMillan, presented the long awaited Condor report. Basically they said that the Condor population has decreased from about 60 to 40. It seems that illegal shooting accounts for the greatest losses among Condors. This is followed by some possible deaths due to the 1080 poisoning used in rodent control. Next is the increasing encroachment of civilization in the refuges, seen in the road and trail access, which brings in hunters to the buffer zones along with too much of any kind of people which disturbs the breeding activities of the great birds.



CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Obviously, then, the California Condor has not been doing as well as we all have hoped. What is to be done? President Carl Buchheister pledged, at the convention, that the National Society would employ an additional "Condor warden" and would launch an educational program designed to reach persons who might shoot at the birds, not knowing they are members of an endangered species. We will all be hearing and seeing a lot of new action on behalf of the Condors soon. Carl Buchheister assured me that he and Bill Goodall will be visiting all the California Societies soon to enlist our aid in this cause. Roland C. Clement, staff biologist of the National Audubon Society, also assured me that he would be out here soon to help with the Condor problem.

With the California Condor and the Tule Elk both in danger of becoming extinct, we Californians have a deep responsibility to the cause of conservation.

A happier note was heard several days later when Dr. Enrique Beltran and Dr. Bernardo Rudolpho Corzo, high officials of the Republic of Mexico, announced the establishment of a government refuge to protect hundreds of thousands of Heerman's Gulls and Elegant Terns that nest on Isla Raza, a small island in the Gulf of Califor-

nia. The National Audubon Society cooperated with the Mexican conservation leaders in getting the island set aside.

The Sierra Club and the Save-the-Redwoods League were both campaigning at the convention for our redwoods. Those organizations are strongly in favor of having a Redwoods National Park established. The Los Angeles Audubon Society has sent an official statement to the National Park Service strongly urging that everything be done to make such a national park a reality.

California virtually inundated the convention with members, and the Los Angeles Audubon Society was represented by its President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, and Recording Secretary, along with Kay Binder, Martha Edens, Betty Jenner, Virginia Lee, Gudrun Pepke, Beverly Vidana, Otis Wade, and Shirley Wells.

It is difficult to tell how exciting it is to attend a National Audubon Society Convention. I met all the National officers and staff members, wildlife film lecturers, went birding with Allan Cruickshank, saw Roger Tory Peterson up and around after his auto accident, still wearing a cast on his arm. I picked up a lot of information and news and made new friends, and I certainly do recommend the National Audubon Society Conventions to everyone. However, the next one will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. I will skip that one myself, because in the following year we will be conventioning in Sacramento, California. ■

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Nov. 10

Our officers were all at the National Audubon Society Convention in Tucson, so Russ Wilson graciously led the group for the evening. Gene Rose announced two new books for sale: "Mexican Field Guide" and "Birds of Columbia". Mrs. Caroline Adams read a thank you note from Mrs. Roger Tory Peterson, a reply to our earlier get-well letter to Mr. Peterson. Mrs. Olga Clarke announced the Los Angeles Audubon Society sponsored birding trip to Central America which Herb Clarke and George Venatta are conducting this coming year.

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger dominated the evening with a fascinating, illustrated lecture on "Diapause, Estivation and Hibernation". Very carefully he spelled out the exact differences between the three means animals and birds use to preserve themselves against cold, food shortage, or unlikely weather changes. He showed many slides of his beloved desert. ■

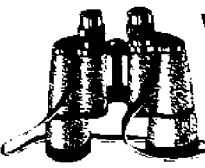
URGENT!!

ATTENTION

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT December 27 th.



VOLUNTEER NOW
Your Help is Needed
Call Audubon House
876-0202



**Are you
ready?**

The Western Tanager

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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FREE TO MEMBERS OTHERS \$1.50 ANNUALLY

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Arnold Small

CONSERVATION

Bill Watson

AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

Otto Widman

TYPING

Helen Sandmeyer
Caroline Adams

FOLDING & MAILING

Shirley Wells
Marion Wilson
Catherine B
Stefanie Mangold

!NOTICE!

ANNUAL DINNER

DETAILS IN NEXT Tanager
BUT RESERVE THE DATE!



ROGER
YOUNG
AUDITORIUM



BIRDING IN THE WEST INDIES

Continued..

In Trinidad we had a car and driver, arranged for through Mrs. Wright. Our driver knew the birds and their calls and was remarkably proficient in imitating them. Due to his skill we even saw a Little Tinamou and also a Black-faced Antthrush, both at very close range. In Tobago and Jamaica we had a Hertz car. In both places the cars were right-hand drive as one keeps to the left of the road. This is not difficult and one soon becomes quite accustomed to it.

In Trinidad and Tobago the medium of exchange is BWI dollars and cents. In the days of British sovereignty, BWI was the abbreviation for British West Indies and the currency was known as Biwi. One would say "\$1.58 Biwi" or "\$5.00 Biwi" as the case may be. \$1.00 Biwi is equivalent to approximately 60¢ U.S. In Jamaica you have to deal in sterling, with its pounds, shillings and pence but you soon get the hang of it and many places show their prices in U.S. dollars as well as in the local currency.

The only bird book for Trinidad is "The Birds of Trinidad and Tobago" by Herklotz. It leaves a lot to be desired but it does help. "Aves Venezolanas" by Kathleen Deery de Phelps, although in Spanish, contains colored illustrations of one hundred species of Venezuelan birds, quite a few of which occur in Trinidad. Since our trip "The Birds of Colombia" by R. M. de Schauensee has appeared. It would also

be useful for Trinidad and even for Central America. The colored plates are excellent. I should like to mention one other not very well known book, "De Vogels van de Nederlandse Antillen" by Dr. K. H. Voous. Although written in Dutch, there is a short resume in English for each species and there are several rather well done colored plates illustrating a number of birds which are found in Trinidad.

For Jamaica, as well as the entire West Indies except Trinidad and Tobago, the standard work is "Birds of the West Indies" by James Bond.

If I have neglected to include any pertinent data of importance, I am sorry, but will gladly answer, to the best of my ability, any questions which may be put to me. I shall be happy to help all I can anyone who contemplates a visit to any of the areas mentioned.

Spring Hill Estate, Arima, Trinidad, W.I.-
Mrs. A. N. Wright.

Arnos Vale Beach Hotel, Tobago, W.I.
Bird of Paradise Inn, Speyside, Tobago, W.I.-
Mr. Egbert Lau.

Bel Air Motel, Piarco Airport, Trinidad, W.I.
Mona Hotel, P.O. Box 4, Liguanea P.O.,
Jamaica, W.I.

Green Hills, New Castle P.O., Jamaica, W.I.
Eaton Hall Hotel, Runaway Bay, Jamaica, W.I.
Mayflower Hotel, Mandeville, Jamaica, W.I.
Chatham Hotel, Montego Bay, Jamaica, W.I. ■



By Arnold Small

This fall migration has demonstrated to many people, that if one is afield in the proper season, and has prepared oneself for the unexpected by careful and thorough study of the field guides, rare and unusual birds can be found. And most birders should be convinced by now that the latter half of September and the month of October are the best birding months in southern California. I feel that much of this revelation is due to the consistent efforts and results of Guy McCaskie in San Diego. He is careful, thorough and exact in his field observations, and his results seem to be above question. Certainly, many of us are in his debt for many good birds and good days in the field.

I cannot emphasize too strongly how important are prior preparation and careful field observations. It is not enough to find an unusual bird and then to describe it as "looking just like the picture in the book" or "exactly fitting the description in the guides". There is no substitute for carrying into the field, a small notebook and pencil, and noting down all the pertinent marks as they are seen from the bird in question. And experience will soon reveal what to look for. After this is done, one then refers to the guides for positive identification.

As usual, McCaskie discovered many interesting things in the San Diego area again this fall, but clearly the most important discovery of his career was the flock of RED-THROATED PIPITS. This is a Eurasian species, recently discovered breeding in small numbers in Alaska. While carefully and painstakingly perusing flock of Water Pipits in hopes of a striped-backed Sprague's Pipit, he came upon a smaller pipit with heavily streaked back and neck, and which was generally darker than the accompanying Water Pipits. In his own words, "these birds all looked alike from the back--they were a dark, blackish brown with conspicuous streakings from the top of the head to the rump (these stripings were conspicuous because the back feathers were edged with buffy-brown.

"From the front, they appeared to be somewhat varied--one bird had a bright rusty-pink throat, which was unmarked, and this rusty-pink color extended down the breast to the upper belly, and extended up into the face and was most conspicuous on the cheeks and on the stripe above the eye (this bird looked like the illustration in Peterson's European Guide, but was a brighter red on the throat). One of the birds that we collected looked very much like the illustration in Pough's Western Bird Guide, having the pinkish color restricted to the throat area only. The other bird that we collected had no pink on

the throat at all, but had an unmarked, yellowish, buff-colored throat. The upper breast on all the birds was heavily marked with blackish streakings, and these streakings faded out on the lower chest, but continued on down the flanks. The belly looked off-white, and in the hand was pinkish, buff-white. The birds had the outer tail feathers mostly white, and there was a little white on the second outermost tail feathers. The legs were a pale yellowish-pink color, and were easily seen to be pale in the field. The bill was dark, and looked just like the bill of the Water Pipits, and were most easily separated from these birds by the well-marked back and by the rusty-pink color on the throat if it was present.

I have included all of McCaskie's remarks to illustrate my foregoing statement; virtually all of his notes were made in the field, before he consulted the guides! The birds (some 20 in all) first were discovered in a field in the Tiajuana River valley about Oct. 10, were subsequently seen by scores of observers from all over the state, and finally departed about two weeks later. His other finds in the San Diego area during late September and through October included American Golden Plovers (about 20), Stilt Sandpipers (at Solano Beach), Franklin's Gulls, Red-eyed Vireo (1), Black and White Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers (2), Tennessee Warblers (7), Virginia's Warblers (25), Blackpoll Warblers (more than 15), Prairie Warblers (3), Palm Warblers (3), Northern Waterthrush (1), American Redstart (12), Bobolink (up to 20), Scarlet Tanager (1), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1), Indigo Bunting (1), Clay-colored Sparrow (3), and McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Most of these sightings were in the Tiajuana River Valley-Imperial Beach area, but a few were made at Doheny Beach State Park. Franklin's Gulls appeared in so many other locations that we seem to have experienced an invasion of sorts this year. A few were at Goleta in late October; 7 were at Malibu; one was at Harbor Park; and another was at Bolsa Chica October 25. Upper Newport Bay and Bolsa Chica provided such good birds as Prairie Falcon, Short-eared Owl, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Golden Plover (4), White Pelican, White-fronted Goose (5), White-faced Ibis (2), Wood Duck (1), and White-tailed Kites (7), in addition to thousands of ducks and shorebirds on October 25. On October 31, a single Louisiana Heron was at Bolsa Chica with 2 sighted there a week later.

Other good finds included a probable Sprague's Pipit at Goleta in early September, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler at the Audubon Center of Southern California in late October, and a male Hepatic Tanager again at Hillcrest Country Club, Los Angeles.

During December, look for loons and grebes along the coast, and careful scrutiny of the breakers and piers should produce some alcids. Also, look for Old Squaws and Common Scoters in larger bays and estuaries. Wintering landbirds might produce such things as White-throated Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos, Harris Sparrows, Gray-headed Juncos, Bohemian Waxwings (among great flocks of Cedars) and other choice birds. ■