

A Tribute to

Alma Stultz

by John H. Baker

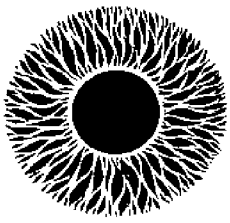
President Emeritus, National Audubon Society



Mrs. Alma Stultz was a very remarkable person. Her capacity for friendship was limitless and her character such as to command the greatest respect and affection. This was reflected in the dedication and devotion of the members of the staff that she directed for the National Audubon Society.

She first became a staff member on January 2, 1948 when she was engaged as the Director of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary in Southern California, some sixteen miles distant from the Los Angeles Town Hall. Prior to that, she had been the Chairman of Birds of California Garden Clubs, and had been President of

Continued on page 60



A Tribute to Alma Stultz . (Continued)

the Los Angeles Audubon Society from 1937 to 1939. Mrs. Stultz had taken part in many civic affairs and was Native Daughter of California, her father having been well-known as leader in the early development of the Santa Barbara Community.

I first met Mrs. Stultz in her capacity, in 1939, as Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee of the California Audubon Society. It was in that way that the National Society established, with the assistance and encouragement of a sanctuary committee made up of representatives of the numerous local Audubon Societies in Southern California, the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, the name of which was changed in 1948 to the Audubon Center of Southern California. Mrs. Stultz was the first Director and held that position until her retirement in 1959 under the provisions of the employee retirement policy of the National Society. Throughout her period of direction of the Center, the attendance by groups of children, coming by appointment with their teachers or other youth leaders, consistently grew as the influence of the Center as a successful institution for a worthy purpose expanded throughout an ever increasing radius and, by the time of her retirement in 1959, involved group visitation totalling more than 35,000 children per annum.

In April 1955, a devastating fire swept some 45 acres of the sanctuary and I received from Mrs. Stultz the following telegram: "Entire forty-five acres sanctuary lease burned in 2 1/2 hours Wednesday P.M. All building and headquarters area and new property safe. Origin of fire unknown. Started Whittier Woodland line. Fire under control. Fire fighters staying. This is the beginning, not the end! Want to take advantage of widespread publicity in securing practical help. We are not cancelling appointments.

On March 13, 1958 the Affiliated Teachers Organizations of Los Angeles informed Mrs. Stultz that the Audubon Center of Southern California had been chosen to receive an award for its unselfish and generous service to the youth of Los Angeles in the area of science. This is known as the Atola Award. Mrs. Stultz, in receiving the award for the Center, said:

"I accept this great honor in the name of the National Audubon Society and for the staff of Audubon Center of Southern California. It will always be an inspiration to continue working with the children in opening their eyes and minds to the natural world around them, to increase their enjoyment and to make them aware of their responsibility for the conservation and wise use of our natural resources.

"We are grateful to the teachers who so carefully prepare their classes for a visit to Audubon Center and who follow through afterwards. This is very evident in the letters the children write, and their return to Audubon Center with their families and friends.

"I would like to thank the man who first endorsed a visit to Audubon Center for the Los Angeles City Schools over nine years ago and who has been our good friend ever since, Supervisor Burton M. Oliver.

"I would like to thank my wonderful staff and all the people whom I represent in this place of honor tonight.

At the time of her retirement in 1959, the Board of Directors of the Society adopted the following resolution:

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society express to Alma Johnson Stultz profound appreciation of her ten years and seven months of dedicated service as Director of the Audubon Center of Southern California and of the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as of her absolute loyalty and devotion to the Society's interests, her demonstrated ability as a leader and administrator and her maintenance of fine public relations with all organizations and individuals in the Center's and Sanctuary's field of interest.

Resolved further that, as a tangible token of the Board's appreciation and of its recognition of her dedication and devotion in never complaining at inadequate rate of compensation, there be promptly paid to her a bonus of \$ _____.

When Mrs. Stultz retired, she and her husband, Miller Stultz, purchased a house at San Luis Obispo, close to the waterfront at Morro Bay. Their home then became a mecca for birding en-

Continued on page 61

A Tribute to Alma Stultz

CONTINUED

thusiasts, especially from Central California. To the distress of her countless friends, Mrs. Stultz was not in good health in 1964 and passed away in her home at San Luis Obispo on January 24, 1965. The Audubon cause has lost one of its staunchest and most devoted supporters, but she leaves an outstanding example of character and accomplishment, which will undoubtedly continue to stimulate appreciation and interest in conservation education on the part not only of many surviving friends, but of some three and a half million or more persons who participated as children in the programs at the San Gabriel River Wildlife Sanctuary and the Audubon Center of Southern California during Alma Stultz's terms as their director during the period 1948-59.



Mrs. O.M. (Alma) Stultz 1893 - 1965

We might give a history, complete with dates, of Alma Stultz' service to the Los Angeles Audubon Society, including her years as president from 1937-39, of her service to the National Audubon Society and of her lifetime of devotion to the cause of wildlife and conservation. Impressive though this record is, it cannot reveal the warmth of character which made her so well loved by all who knew her. Mrs. Stultz was a true practitioner of that "reverence for life" taught by Dr. Schweitzer. Unlike some who have a great feeling for wildlife, Alma Stultz' feeling for her fellow human beings was not thereby diminished.

Your editor will long remember the occasion several years ago when he was sent as a delegate to the National Audubon Society Convention in New York City, and how Miller and Alma Stultz took him under their wing. They took him to dinner on the evening of his arrival, and throughout the convention made sure he was not left out of any important activity or meeting and that he met just about everybody.

Besides her work at Audubon Center of Southern California, which exposed thousands of children to Audubon ideas, Alma Stultz personally inspired and encouraged a number of young men known to the editor, to make their careers in the biology and wildlife fields. Others who have followed other lines of work have nevertheless retained a lasting interest in nature and conservation as a result of her influence.

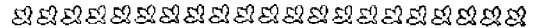
Because of his long association with Mrs. Stultz in his capacity as president of the National Audubon Society, we asked Mr. John H. Baker, now President Emeritus, to write a tribute to her for the WESTERN TANAGER. Mr. Baker kindly consented to do so and sent us the accompanying article.

Grasslands Field Trip

Time has come again to announce plans for our annual overnight field trip to the Grasslands Area of western Merced County. Many of us who have participated in past field trips to this fabulous birding area look forward each year with anticipation of returning. If you have never attended one of these field trips, set aside the weekend of March 20-21 for one of the most memorable outdoor experiences you will ever enjoy.

The Grassland Water District will again play host to the Audubon Society and people interested in touring their 45,000 acres of privately owned wetlands. On Saturday, March 20, we will meet at 1:30 P.M. in Los Banos at the Canal Farm Inn. Motorcades will be formed to tour the flooded gun club lands in the south end of the Grasslands and the little known San Luis Island. A dinner will be arranged Saturday night at which Arthur Barr of Pasadena will show the color movies he filmed last May of the heron-egret rookery found on San Luis Island. Sunday, the group will reassemble at the Canal Farm Inn at 9:00 A.M. and take in the Los Banos and San Luis Wasteway Waterfowl Management Areas and the northern end of the grasslands.

If you plan to attend, drop a card to Howard Leach, 3828 French Avenue, Sacramento (phone IV 9-1618), so that he can get some idea of attendance.



After each mailing, a number of WESTERN TANAGERS are returned for lack of proper address; it costs the Society a total of 16¢ to remail these. Members and subscribers could help us effect a not inconsiderable saving by notifying us immediately of a change of address. This can be done simply on a postal card to us or on a form supplied by the Post Office. When you notify us of a change of address, please include your old address also and send to: Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90046.



California Condor Conservation Project

BY ROLAND C. CLEMENT

We have agreed that the true objective of an Audubon Society is to serve as the ecological conscience of its community. The California Condor conservation effort is an outstanding example of this broad objective, one which allows us to focus our efforts closely, dramatize our cause, and rally public interest and support.

I have just spent the first week of February installing John C. Borneman as the Nation Audubon Society's full time field naturalist assigned specifically to the problems of Condor conservation. Mr. Borneman has been, for three and one-half years, on the interpretive naturalist staff of the Audubon Center of Southern California in El Monte. It was a week of introductions, first with the California Fish and Game Department's Region V staff in Los Angeles, with the U. S. Forest Service officials and field men in the Los Padre National Forest, and with ranchers and Audubon members in the region. We were enthusiastically welcomed everywhere, and it is evident that the two services and almost everyone in the region, as individuals or organizations, are pleased at the prospect of Mr. Borneman's leadership in studying the Condor and its needs, and in interesting the people of the region in the significance of this rare species and the importance of a concerted protection effort.

Our explorations and discussions unearthed new alternatives that will almost surely help solve the recent controversy over the proposal to build a road through the Sespe Wildlife Area (the Condor refuge), so that this is only a temporary problem.

Mr. Borneman, now a resident of Covina, will shortly take up residence nearer the focal point of his program, and will be our go-between with Forest Service and Fish and Game personnel, ac-

Alma Stultz Memorial

There is universal feeling among Audubon members in southern California that a suitable memorial to Alma Stultz should be established. As Mr. William N. Goodall, Western Representative of the National Audubon Society, announced at the Annual Dinner, there have been no plans formulated as yet in this regard. Already, however, contributions have been received at Audubon Center of Southern California toward a memorial to her. Mr. Goodall announces that Audubon Center will be glad to continue to receive any such contributions, and will hold them until such time as a decision has been made as to what form the memorial will take. Address:

Audubon Center of Southern California
1000 N. Durfee Avenue
El Monte, California

cept occasional engagements to talk before school and other community groups, and cover the entire range of the Condor in time.

The importance of this Condor conservation effort was perhaps best expressed for us at the recent Tucson, Arizona, convention of the National Audubon Society, when Mr. Ben Glading of the California Division of Fish and Game pointed out that the success of this conservation effort would be a "measure of the level of our civilization".

Our challenge in developing The Great Society that President Johnson speaks of is to satisfy our varied needs without despoiling our environment. We must avoid pollution and leave space for those forms of life which, like the Condor, require undisturbed nesting grounds. Birds like the Condor, which have persisted through all the millenia of geologic time, are, like us, the time-tested few that are living evidence of the evolutionary process. Every species is such a treasure house that must be handed down unimpaired to future generations.

It is our generation, whose numbers and technological power have become decisive, who must draw the line to protect threatened species like the Condor, and agree to develop alternative means of satisfying our own needs when the "easiest course" might pose dangers. I am confident that intelligence and good will can and will solve the problems that now beset the California Condor.



CONDOR FUND

Each year at this time the Los Angeles Audubon Society launches a campaign for funds to aid in the preservation of the California Condor. This has an especial significance this year in that the National Audubon Society is now in the midst of an all-out campaign to save the Condor from extinction, in the face of numerous threats to its existence.

Enclosed with this issue of the TANAGER you will find an envelope and card for your convenience in making your contribution to the Condor Fund. If our willingness to work to preserve such species as the Condor from extinction is "measure of our civilization", let us not be "measured and found wanting".

Mr. Roland C. Clement, staff biologist of the National Audubon Society, on a visit to the west coast in connection with the Condor campaign, was a guest at our Annual Dinner. We asked him to write a short article for the WESTERN TANAGER to keynote our Condor Fund appeal. Mr. Clement graciously obliged with the accompanying article.



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

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

1965		MARCH							1965	
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MARCH

- Mar. 4 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.

- Mar. 6 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP 8:30 A.M. at AUDUBON CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, 1000 N. Durfee Ave., El Monte. Take the San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd., go south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd. then left to N. Durfee and Audubon Center. Bring sack lunch. Sea and Sage, Pomona Valley and Whittier Audubon Societies are also invited on this field trip.

Host: Paul Howard, Director

- Mar. 9 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P.M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. "Call of the High Country", by James F. Clements. Jim will tell of the Clements family's mountain climbing and high birding experiences in the Tetons, the Sierra Nevada and the Cascades, illustrating his talk with color slides.

Program Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536

- Mar. 10 WEDNESDAY - WILDLIFE FILM "New England Saga", by John D. Bulger 7:45 P.M. at John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Place. The rugged beauty of New England from the mountains to the sea, and the story of its wildlife--an absorbing narrative in color--produced and directed by Dr. Bulger. Single admission: \$1.25; Students: \$0.50.

Wildlife Films Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

- Mar. 13 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP Tujunga Wash. Meet at 8:00 A.M. on the north side of the Foothill Blvd. bridge over Tujunga Wash in Sunland. Bring lunch.

Leader: Dave Robison 761-0217

- Mar. 17 WEDNESDAY CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 P.M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. These meetings are designed to serve as a clearing house for all sorts of local conservation information. Specifically, from this meeting on, news and developments of the California Condor Patrol will be discussed. But look for a discussion this time on saving Malibu Lagoon from a new threat, too. Nowhere else can you discuss conservation problems in such depth.

Conservation Chairman: Bill Watson

- Mar. 25 THURSDAY WILDLIFE FILM - "Delta of the Orinoco" by Robert C. Hermes - 7:45 P.M. at John Burroughs Junior High School, 600 S. McCadden Place. Mr. Hermes, certainly one of our favorite Wildlife Film lecturers, will show his film of one of the untouched natural areas of the world, the delta of the Orinoco River in Venezuela. Single admission: \$1.25; Students: \$0.50.

Wildlife Films Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

- Mar. 28 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Irvine Park, Tucker Sanctuary and O'Neil Park. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the entrance to Irvine Park. Take the Santa Ana Freeway to Chapman Ave., Santa Ana. Take east turnoff through Orange to Irvine Park. Bring lunch.

Leader: Laura Jenner 748-7510

- Apr. 1 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.

Here's Your Opportunity to BIRD IN CENTRAL AMERICA



There are still a few openings left to join the group heading for Central America this summer for birding in Panama, Guatemala and Mexico. The trip will cover a great variety of habitats wherein dwell 1400 species of birds, visiting Colon, Guatemala City, Yucatan, Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango, and surrounding areas. Here are a few of the salient facts about this trip:

- 16 days, July 31 to August 15, 1965
- Costs--\$800 including all expenses
- Congenial group of travelers
- Deadline: April 1, 1965
- An earnest fee of \$5.00, applicable to the total amount, is required for full details
- Contact Herb Clarke, 2027 El Arbolita Drive, Glendale, Calif. 91208, Phone: 249-5537

Los Angeles



But Hurry!



**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS
APRIL 1st**



Audubon Wildlife Films



SEE CALENDAR FOR DETAILS

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 10

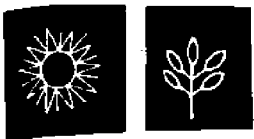
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Apr. 10 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Arroyo Seco. From the Foothill Freeway take the Oak Grove and Berkshire off-ramp. Go north to Oak Grove Park. Bring lunch and meet at 8:00 A.M.

Leaders: Don and Caroline Adams 372-5536

Apr. 13 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 P. M., Great Hall, Plummer Park. "Tips on Field Identifications of Birds", a talk by Eleanor Pugh, Regional Editor of Audubon Field Notes.

Program Chairman: Don Adams 372-5536



PERIODICALS SECTION

Summer Activities

CONSERVATION

By
BILL WATSON

NOTES

PERIODICALS SECTION

A number of us had been aroused to the urgency of the need to protect our Condors when Carl Buchheister urged the California Audubon branches to do everything they can to help the Condor. This was at the Audubon Convention in Tucson last November. I personally spoke with Roland Clement while at the Convention. As Conservation Chairman of this Society, I assured him that we would do all we could to help.

Later, Roland wrote to me and suggested, "Concerning the condor, it is plain that we must do two things. The first is to convince everyone in the region that the Sespe Wildlife Area and some generous buffer zones around it in the Los Padres National Forest must be held inviolate for the perpetuation of this bird...I would suggest that you should perhaps contact the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and perhaps join with them in instituting a condor patrol, whereby members of our local Audubon groups will undertake to pay periodic visits to the condor area and report on the status of things."

Taking these two aims, education and observation, as our program, the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society simultaneously began to study how to organize this program and to enlist support from those of you who would like to help the Condor in these very material ways. Our two societies are working hand-in-hand and we have accumulated about sixty volunteers, including a number of Sierra Clubbers from several of their groups. Apparently, and happily, there is a great desire then on the part of many of us to perform some tangible work for conservation by doing something to save the California Condor.

There are several kinks to be ironed out before we can get so large a program as this off the ground. Roland Clement was in Los Angeles during the first week of February, here to assist John Borneman, our new Audubon Condor Warden, in getting acclimated to his new job. About thirty of us met with him in Audubon House on Feb. 6, and Roland carefully elaborated the program for all of us to follow. He told us that the National Audubon Society is in the process of getting together a brochure to be passed out freely to better educate everyone about the Condor. The full McMillan report on the present status and needs of the Condor will be published soon. The older Koford study needs to be reprinted and made available again and there are some plans to that end, too.

According to Roland Clement, the U. S. Forest Service and our California State Department of Fish and Game are sympathetic to the needs of the Condor and are cooperating with us in every way possible. Our new Audubon Condor Warden will devote himself largely to assisting

The editor has received information on the following summer activities which will no doubt be of interest to some of our readers. Those wishing more information may call Audubon House, or write to the addresses below:

Dr. and Mrs. John D. Goodman are organizing three safaris to East Africa this coming summer which will be devoted to wildlife, photography and nature study. Many will remember Dr. Goodman's East African film "Jambo", which he presented at our Annual Dinner three years ago.
Mahali Juani Safaris, Mill Creek Canyon
Box 314, Mentone, California

Wilderness Workshop Program at Camp Denali, located on the north boundary of Mt. McKinley National Park. Opportunity to explore and enjoy the tundra world in the northern wilderness in McKinley Park and Katishna.
Camp Denali, Box D, College, Alaska - Sept. 10-June 1
Camp Denali, McKinley Park, Alaska June 1-Sept. 10.

Game Wardens and to carrying out an educational program. It is astonishing how many people living in southern California have never heard of a California Condor. Roland has urged us to start a lecture bureau and to go to any and all organizations which would like to hear us with the story of the California Condor. He urges teams of us to go out throughout the range of the Condor to conduct simultaneous counts of the great birds. To make our observations of Condors most effective and helpful, he urges that we learn how to identify Condors and by their age levels, too. The name California Condor Patrol means much more than patrolling the road in the Sespe Wildlife Area.

There are many ways in which you can help. Plans are under way to have interested Auduboners spend weekend afternoons at the Condor exhibit in the Los Angeles County Museum. We will need good speakers and writers and even clerical help. And we will need outdoors people to go out in the field on weekends to help. If you are interested in helping this extremely important program, let us know. If you have any constructive ideas, let us know about them.

As your Conservation Chairman, I will use our new Conservation Meetings as a clearing house of information on the Condor and the California Condor Patrol. If there is anything you want to know, come to the Conservation meetings and find out. Perhaps your questions could make hitherto unvoiced information available to others. The Conservation meetings are being held in Great Hall in Plummer Park on the third Wednesday evening of every month at 8:00 P.M.

You have all been alerted by Carl Buchheister that there is danger of a proposed Topatopa Dam

Continued on page 68

AUDUBON

BY OTTO WIDMAN

Activities

At the Conservation Meeting of the Los Angeles Audubon Society on January 20, conducted by Bill Watson, problems of preserving the California Condor were discussed. A principal topic was the proposed Condor Patrol (see Bill Watson's Conservation Notes in this issue). Also discussed were: means of getting favorable publicity for the campaign to save the Condor; enlisting the aid of other conservation organizations; and educating the public in regard to preservation of the California Condor.

So what birds can you see in our city parks? If you are looking for those that like the chaparral, why Griffith Park is the place to look. Here on our January 24 Field Trip we found Brown Towhees, Bush-Tits, and California Thrashers (in song by the way). White-crowned Sparrows were everywhere and they also were in song. In any picnic area you are sure to see titmouse, and wren-tits will call from any covered slope. Red-shafted Flickers noisily flew about us as we climbed the trails above Ferndell.

If you are interested in water birds, McArthur and Echo Park are recommended. Bill Watson led us to 150 Lesser Scaups that fed from our hands. Three gulls were on hand for close inspection: Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed, and California. Some Pied-billed Grebes were diving farther out. At Elysian Park quite a flock of Cedar Waxwings flew over, while on the trails we saw Oregon Junco and the Black Phoebe. As a guest we welcome Miss Lucy C. Dalmus.

The Pelagic Trip of January 31 (postponed from the previous weekend on account of the weather) turned out to be one of the finest ever. Thirty-one birders boarded the 'Old Timer' at Oxnard and logged a total of 70 species for the trip, including many land birds on Santa Cruz, where a landing was made. The sea was calm and there was some fog. Some 250 Rhinoceros Auklets were counted and a like number of Cassin's Auklets as well as some 300 Kittiwake Gulls. The four Xantus' Murrelets, the four Ancient Murrelets and the one each of Common Murre, Fulmar and Sooty Shearwater seen were also noteworthy. However, the highlights of the trip were the Tufted Puffin and the three Harlequin Ducks which were seen.

The Annual Dinner of the Los Angeles Audubon Society on February 5 proved a complete success. Mr. Roland C. Clements, Staff Biologist of the National Audubon Society, spoke of the Society's campaign to save the California Condor. Mr. and Mrs. William Goodall were guests also and Bill Goodall spoke of Alma Stultz and the feeling shared by all that a fitting memorial in her honor should be established. Donations for this purpose have already been received at Audubon Center. Other guests were: Paul Howard, Director of Audubon Center of Southern California, and Mrs. Howard; John Borneman, newly appointed Condor Warden, and Mrs. Borneman; Dr. and

Mrs. Wesley Young; Mrs. McIntyre and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Furman; Mr. David Marqua; Mr. Burton Oliver; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Capwell; Miss Louise Luckan of the Pasadena Audubon Society.

A plaque was presented to Mrs. Muriel France, honoring her for her many years' work with sick and injured birds. Herb and Olga Clarke climaxed the program with their beautiful slides and talk on the "Lure of Florida Birding". Herb's studies of the Roseate Spoonbill and the Swallow-tailed Kite were outstanding. The Clarkes presented their slides in a very unique and effective way, using two projectors and two screens.

The Audubon Society has 30 sanctuaries in 9 states and Mr. Charles T. Hotchkiss took us to most on "Wilderness Trails" of rare beauty at our Audubon Wildlife Film on February 10. We spent much enjoyable time in the Florida Everglades, where we were shown rare views of the Everglade Kite, and of the Florida Turkey. There were 'gators' 12 feet long and marvelous views of the Snake Bird, swimming under water, his feathers soaking up the water. In the East River Rookery we got to see the fast disappearing Wood Ibis. In the Rocky Mountains there were some seldom seen views of mountain goat and sheep and the equally rare Three-toed Woodpecker.

Mr. Hotchkiss stresses the fact that it takes constant vigilance to patrol these areas to see that our remaining birds and animals are not destroyed.

Over 50 Los Angeles birders met early Saturday morning, February 13, at the foot of Morro Rock. They were joined by a handful of members of the Paso Robles Audubon Society, including Mr. Charles Taubert, formerly a member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Mr. Taubert kindly assisted in making arrangements for the field trip and accompanied the group all day Saturday. Also with us was Charlotte (Mrs. John L.) McBride of Los Altos, a past president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

The highlight Saturday was the visit to Rancho Montaña de Oro, a few miles south of Morro Bay. Black Oyster-catchers were seen here in numbers, as well as Black Turnstones, Surfbirds and others, including an immature Golden Eagle. However, most of all, everyone was captivated by the site. Rancho Montaña de Oro, comprising 4400 acres with some two miles of rocky coastline, is in the process of being acquired by the state for a park.

After a picnic lunch in Spooner's Cove at the Rancho, the group birded around the mud flats of the bay and then proceeded to the museum at Morro Bay State Park, where the naturalist, Mr. Leonard Penhale, spoke to the group and showed a film on herons. That evening 33 birders gathered at the Golden Tee for dinner.

Sunday morning a smaller group gathered in the State Park to observe the flocks of shore birds and wildfowl in the marsh and bay. The two days netted a total of 97 species. On the way home many stopped at Avila Beach to look (unsuccessfully) for the American Oyster-catcher to which we had been alerted by Mr. Hyland of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society.

BIRDS

By Arnold Small

Mid-winter birding proved to be fairly exciting at times, especially at coastal areas. However, the populations of a number of species seemed to be very far below normal. For example, loons of all species, and Western and Horned Grebes, while not completely absent, were certainly scarce. As for scoters--numbers of Surf Scoters seemed a bit low, but White-winged and Common Scoters were virtually absent from our area as compared with their status for the past few winters. In fact, only a few years ago, the White-winged Scoters actually outnumbered Surf Scoters in many areas.

The Blue-footed Boobies continued to delight people who sought them at Puddingstone Reservoir, and one of them seems no worse for the fact it had apparently swallowed a fish hook. The Louisiana Heron was still present at Bolsa Chica during February. At least 4 White Pelicans were present at Upper Newport Bay during most of the winter. Some interesting waterfowl in our area included an Old Squaw at Seal Beach Pier during January, female Hooded Merganser at Bolsa Chica in February, a male European Widgeon at Upper Newport Bay, at least 7 Blue-winged Teal at Upper Newport Bay, and a Blue Goose at the south end of the Salton Sea.

Some changes were also noted in the wintering populations of birds of prey. White-tailed Kites seemed to be present in very good numbers despite reduction of their feeding areas and elimination of many of their nesting sites. Small groups of Rough-legged Hawks have infiltrated our area and they were reported from Santa Barbara, Seal Beach, Tustin, and Calabasas. But the present status of both the Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Peregrine Falcon seems in doubt. There has been a marked decline in the numbers of wintering and migrant birds of both of these species in southern California, and indeed, the outlook for the Peregrine Falcon worldwide is discouraging as there seems to be little doubt of a cosmopolitan decline in their population. I regret to relate that we saw neither Peregrine Falcon or Bald Eagles on our recent visit to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands.

Wintering Black-necked Stilts in very good numbers were at Bolsa Chica and Upper Newport Bay in February. At least one, and possibly two Rock Sandpipers were found at the Playa del Rey breakwaters on Feb. 7 by David Gaines, and an American Oystercatcher was reported wintering on the rocks near Avila. Our pelagic trip to Anacapa and Santa Cruz Islands on January 24 proved to be one of the best ever taken. While we saw but one Sooty Shearwater and no jaegers, it developed into a marvelous day for Kittiwakes and alcids. Literally hundreds of Black-legged Kittiwakes

being built on the perimeter of the Sespe Wildlife Area, and that he urges you to write to your representatives in Sacramento and in Washington to protest. As long as we voice our objections strongly, vociferously, and in great numbers, this danger will not materialize.

Do not be discouraged! This is important! We can save the California Condor. We can preserve its last refuge. But we can not do it by "letting George do it!"

Here is something you can do right now. Carl Buchheister urges us to alert our members to support our California Legislature's Senate Bill 261. This bill will double the penalty for taking or injuring a Condor. Specifically the penalty is now a fine of \$500, or a jail sentence of up to 6 months, or both. Senate Bill 261 would double the penalty, making a violation affecting the Condor punishable by "imprisonment in the county jail for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both." This bill was initially proposed by the State Fish and Game Department and was introduced by Senators Lagomarsino, McCarthy, Christensen, Burns, and Stiern. It is co-sponsored by Assemblyman Henson.

Let's support Senate Bill 261 as strongly as we can. It has been referred to the Senate Fish and Game Committee, of which Senator Aaron W. Quick is chairman; and to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, of which Mrs. Pauline Davis is chairman. Hearings on this bill could be called at any time now, so hurry with those letters!

wakes were seen throughout the day and our alcid list included several hundred each of Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets (some affording excellent views at close range), 4 Ancient Murrelets, 1 Common Murre, 6 Xantus' Murrelets, and 1 Tufted Puffin. As if this weren't enough, we added 3 Harlequin Ducks to the list. We had an opportunity to disembark on Santa Cruz Island and spent a profitable two hours birding in the beautiful oak canyons at Prisoner's Harbor. Here, we found the larger, darker, more brilliant island race of the Scrub Jay as well as the endemic non-migratory race of the Allen's Hummingbird.

Cedar Waxwings finally appeared in good numbers, but Robins were very scarce during February. Five Yellow-headed Parrots were reported by Dr. Herbert Aigner as coming to his garden in West Los Angeles to feed on *Eugenia* berries. These birds are often seen in the vicinity of Westwood Blvd. and Pico Blvd. Starlings seem to be everywhere this winter, and many are already commencing nesting in the tall fan palms. A male Vermilion Flycatcher was at Upper Newport Bay in February and both the Summer and Hepatic Tanagers could still be found at Rancho and Hillcrest Country Clubs in West Los Angeles.