

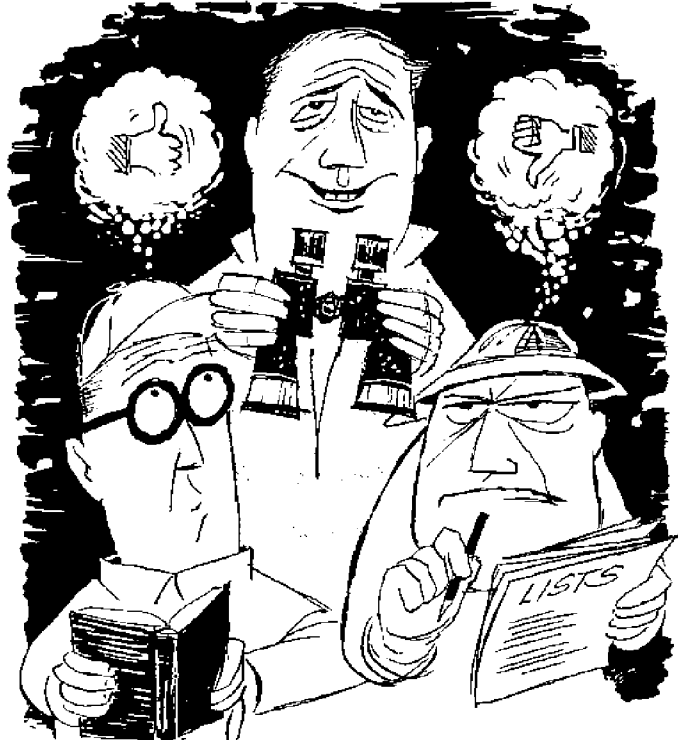
Some

Classifications

of

Classifiers

By Douglas M. Dick
PART TWO



A Shaky-Middle Lower Birdsman may be forgiven a short delay in promotion; he may need a restful pause, especially if he is wallowing in defeat after a really good Shorebird Day, as even Otherwise Secure-Middles have been observed teetering precariously after a Marvelous Fall Warbler Migration.

However, after reaching Permanent Upper-Lower (acquired perhaps by one "Gee, what's that?" which turned out to be a Parula) one is caught up into the hierarchy. In the beginning it might have been the very protesting of hierarchies, competition and Organization Mansmanship that first attracted the birder to birding, but for the incipient Middle Birder all that is down the drain, and it's back to Status and Ambition.

II. As for (A) Promotion or (B) Demotion of the eager birder, in the first place eagerness itself must be carefully handled since over-eagerness may sometimes seem hysteria, but on the other hand, who-the-devil-cares is original sin."

One of the pleasanter aspects of the Lower Lower, or Slob, group is that he is in no position to be demoted, giving him such a comfortable feeling of security that he may be reluctant to give it up. This refusal to assume the class obligations that come with the Middle grades cannot be tolerated. He must be exposed by his Immediate Superiors--in this case these are his True Equals because he has been one of the Humble Humilities, Sly Pretender Division.

Even Middle Lowers must restrain themselves from complaining about caravans that go too fast, or too slow, and must cheerfully accept being toward the tail end of a long column of choking dust that obliterates everything beyond his fender, remembering that finally there will be a wonderful flight of cranes. Maybe. Small silhouettes against the distant mountains. Anyway, the developing drizzle will help to settle the dust by the time the group races back in the opposite direction.

Upper-Lowers should try to hold off the more asinine questions ("What difference does it make, really, I mean labeling them?") until 9 or 10 a.m., the Middles and Uppers having mobilized defenses

SOME CLASSIFICATIONS OF CLASSIFIERS. Continued

by then. And they should begin to restrain bad jokes about pre-dawn hours, about birds People Watching, or about birds behaving uncharacteristically because of not having read Peterson. This Bad Joke Qualification has, of necessity, been liberalized not to say abandoned as a lost cause. Only the Summit Group seems to have the discipline.

So much for Lowerers.

Middles are, of course, by far the largest in number and influence, and they enjoy certain advantages denied both their Inferiors and Superiors. No longer does a Middle birder tramp through watery weeds clapping like a madman to flush a rail; this is the business of Naive Lowerers and Obsessed Upper Birders only.

Unfortunately, this laudable self-sacrifice of the Lower can in no way boost his status; on the contrary, when dry ground is finally regained, he will find that the rest of the group has folded telescopes and themselves into cars and are pulling out and away at a speedy clip, and his fellow-flusher, the Upper, has meantime decided to take a few pictures and head home early.



Most of the Good Jokes are made by the Middle Grades and minor plus points are thereby scored. Such things as, "Whatever it was through your binoculars, through mine it was a Bonaparte's" or "- but feeding the Hummers all that sugar water--terrible for their teeth, or, after a late night the night before and a bad misidentification, "Yes, you're right. Afraid my eyes are out of collimation.

A word of caution to Middles: being the first to sight a good bird, don't endanger your plus point by jumping in with a rash commitment. Say something like, "Hey, there's a --" and stop, inarticulate with your own absorption; or "Will somebody check the bird at eleven o'clock in the far Oak--I may be mistaken but it looks like a--" and then the Non-committal Absorption Stop Ploy.



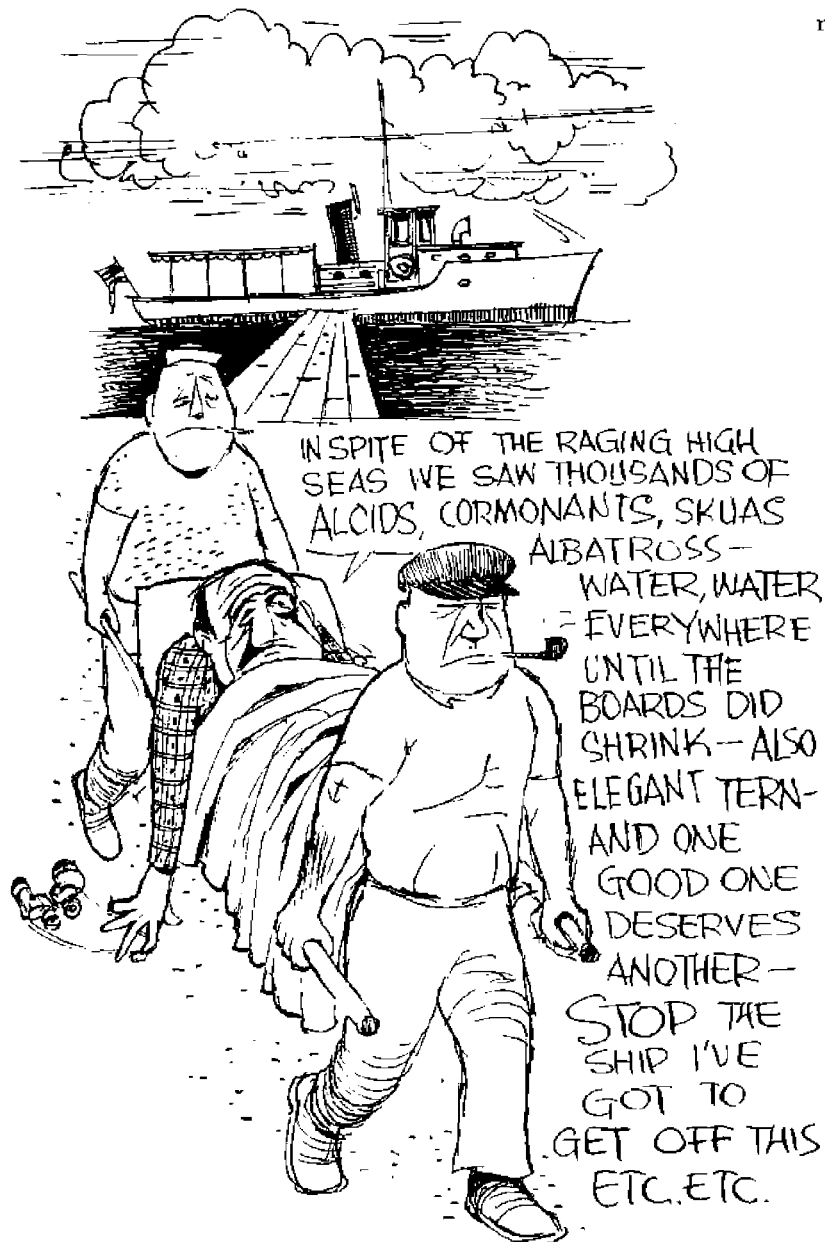
A sure demotion is in store for any Middle who relaxes his self-control upon seeing a quietly excited group up ahead, and trots quickly forward to find out what has been sighted. He has spooked the one Golden Plover into the hundreds of Black-bellied and presented a fine opportunity for Fellow Middles to be magnanimous and forgive with an obvious grace that puts them a point up. Sulking back to the slow group just compounds the offence, there being no restitution for the time being--he can only grit his teeth and wait for a chance for his reinstatement into the pecking order.

As for Reinstatement Ploys, a Middle will find that a Lower may be useful. The Lower might, while comparing a Sandpiper with Peterson pictures come out with something like: "Well, I'm sure it's not a Rufous-necked--there's no buffy color!" quickly come in with: "Very good, Old Buddy!" take his book and read aloud, "yes--let's see--'found North east Siberia, Southeast Asia, breeds in Northwest Alaska.' Hmmm." And hand the book back to him. Granted that this sort of thing would be a very lucky Coup and impossible to engineer, it does pay to keep alert.

It also helps to have quick command of a few obscure facts, however meaningless, for Reinstatement Gambits; such as why there are so few dead birds seen when there must be so many,

or the newest theories of the migration instinct, or Birding Among the Ancient Incas or some such thing.

Uppers have such assurance, superiority and long practice that it is next to impossible for any Inferior to make a successful ploy of any kind, and the chance of making glaring errors are minute. (Seasickness is de trop, but Monterey Uppers seem to emerge unscathed and undemoted upon landing on solid ground; it would have been murder for a Middle and a seasick Lower is beneath contempt.)



This must suffice. In this short space, I, as a Middle Middle Birder--I believe that to be my station, but it is difficult, not to say reckless, to rank one's self--anyway, I have been able to give no more than a few indications and the barest of guide lines for further study. The writer would be happy to hear from fellow Middles, honored to hear from an Olympian, and promises to give at least careful attention to all Those Others.

ELYSIAN PARK PROTEST

The Los Angeles Audubon Society is joining efforts with the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park for the People in observing "Leaves for Parks Week", July 11-18, 1965.

Members and friends are urged to send a tree leaf to the Clerk of the City Council preferably, or to the Mayor, as a symbol of protest against the building of a convention center there. Additional publicity is being released to dramatize this committee's efforts to save the park. Target date for this effort has been set as July 14, 1965.

Place a leaf of any tree in an envelope and mail it to:

Clerk of the City Council
City Hall
Los Angeles 90012
or
Hon. Samuel Yorty, Mayor
(same address)

* PELAGIC TRIP



Plans are already well advanced for the annual pelagic trip from Monterey in cooperation with the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The date is Saturday, Oct. 2 and the cost will be \$4.50, as before. On previous occasions this trip has provided some of the most exciting birding to be found on our coast. Among the leaders will be Arnold Small and Guy McCaskie.

Put the date in your calendar, make your check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail it to Russell E. Wilson, 4548 Farmdale Ave., No. Hollywood, Calif. 91602. If your check covers more than one person, please list the names of all who are included. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish an acknowledgment.

ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

Saturday, July 10th.

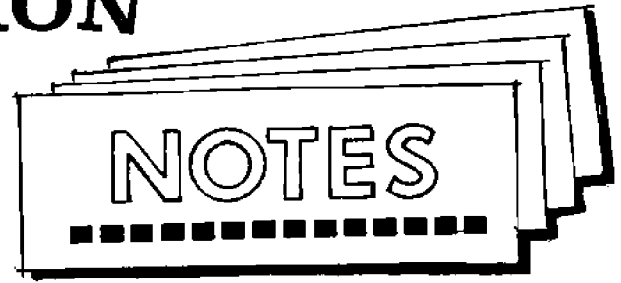
Fern Dell Griffith Park

* See Calendar Page for further details



CONSERVATION

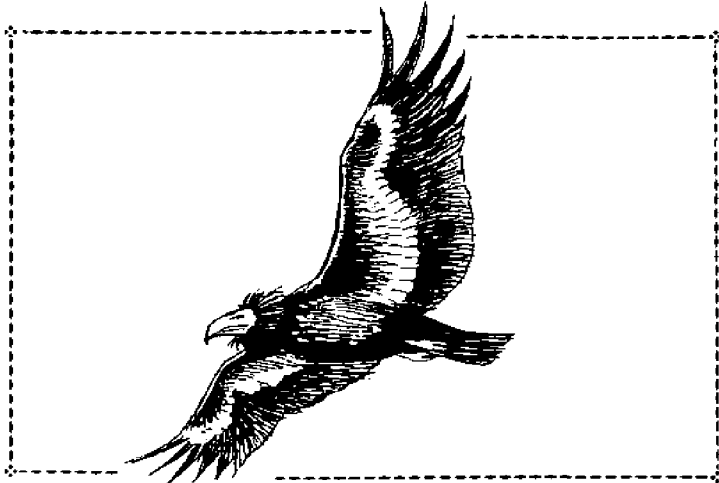
By
**BILL
WATSON**



Let's start off this issue with a few announcements.

The problems of conservation do not take a summer vacation, and so we will continue our Conservation Meetings in Great Hall, Plummer Park, during the months of July and August. See the Calendar in this issue for actual dates and times. Some of these meetings recently have been very rewarding. In April, we finally got off the ground in our condor preservation program. John Borneman, Audubon Condor Warden, was our speaker that evening. In May, the meeting was devoted to the controversial proposal to put a convention center in Elysian Park and Councilman John Holland was our speaker. Then, in June, we had Frances Kohn on hand to organize the activities of her condor preservation group.

While on the subject of the California Condor, I would like to inform you that the new research report on the condor is available. It is called "The Current Status and Welfare of the California Condor" (Research Report No. 6 of the National Audubon Society), by Alden H. Miller, Ian I. McMillan, and Eben McMillan. A paper-bound booklet of 61 pages, it is illustrated and will cost you \$3.25 postpaid. It can be ordered from National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10028.

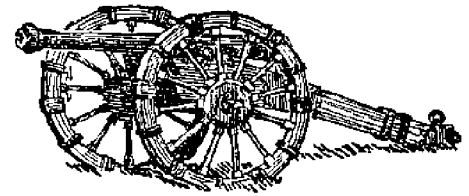


All active Audubon members are being asked lots of questions about the condor, and if you want to do a good job in helping to educate everyone on the needs of the condor for its preservation, it is necessary to have the latest knowledge on the subject at your finger-tips. As approved by your Executive Board, the Library at Audubon House will have several copies on hand, one of which may be borrowed.

So much for announcements. Do you remember the Conservation column I wrote last year for our summer issue? I tried to encourage you by telling you of the new atmosphere in this nation that exhibited positive gains for conservation. Since then we have the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, and our own \$150 million park bond fund all passed.

Now we have a President and First Lady who are devastatingly outspoken on various conservation matters. It is at last becoming fashionable to be a conservationist. Up in Sacramento, our Legislature is close to putting some very necessary controls on the State Division of Highways. The fine for killing a condor has been increased from \$500 to \$1000 and from six months to a year in prison. This was done by California law, and the condor is getting positive support by all sorts of state and federal agencies in addition to our Legislature.

So you see, conservation is not so depressing a matter as it has been. We can't possibly win everything we might want, but we can certainly start to win more of our battles than we could have before.



One of these battles is the one over the preservation of the national wildlife refuges as true refuges for our wildlife. I was deadly serious in my proposal last month to get as many preservationists together as possible so that we might have a Duck Stamp Day here in Los Angeles. We can prove publicly that we help pay for our wildlife refuge system, too, and ought to have more to say about how the refuges are used.

This can be Los Angeles' contribution to the fight being put on by the National Audubon Society, the Defenders of Wildlife and other conservation organizations to preserve the sanctuary value of our national wildlife refuges.

If we can prove our interest with dollars, we can gain a better appearance and put down the claim that only hunters pay for the refuges and therefore have right to hunt in them.

Let's build a good, strong, vital conservation program into our Society next year with active participation in its aims. Your interest and personal involvement are every bit as important and more so than your dollars alone.

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



calendar

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

JULY 1965

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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AUGUST 1965

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30	31				

- July 10 SATURDAY ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER 5:00 P.M. in the Fern Dell picnic area, Griffith Park, Area No. 7, near the upper end, has been reserved for this occasion. Bring: hot dish, salad or dessert; table service; hot coffee or tea if desired. Plan to eat at 5:30. Fern Dell is reached from Los Feliz Ave. just east of Western Avenue.
- For addition information call: Audubon House 876-0202 or 761-7635
- July 21 WEDNESDAY - CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 P.M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park. Discussion of conservation issues with the emphasis on local problems. For people who would like to DO something about conservation.
- Chairman: Bill Watson 661-8570
- July 24 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Mt. Pinos. Last summer a number of fine observations of Condors were made from Mt. Pinos during July and August. The plan for this trip will be to spend much of the day on the summit watching for Condors. Take U.S. 99 to about three miles beyond Gorman, turn left for Frazier Park, continue to Lake of the Woods where you turn right; follow this road to its end in a large parking area. Meet at 9:00 A.M. Bring lunch and drinking water.
- Leader: Herb Clarke 249-5537
- Aug. 5 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.
- Aug. 14 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Switzer's Inlet to Charlton Flats. Take the Angeles Crest Highway to Switzer's Inlet. Meet at 8:00 A.M. Wear walking shoes and bring lunch.
- Leader: Russ Wilson 761-7635
- Aug. 18 WEDNESDAY CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 P.M. in Great Hall, Plummer Park. Continuing discussion of local conservation issues. For those who would like to DO something about conservation.
- Chairman: Bill Watson 661-8570
- Aug. 21 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP Buena Vista Lagoon. Take U.S. 101 south to Oceanside. Leave the freeway just north of Oceanside, taking the right hand road that leads through town. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at the north end of the road that crosses the lagoon. After birding here and at the mouth of Santa Margarita Creek, we will return to San Clemente State Park for a picnic dinner and a swim, if desired. There are tables and stoves, if you wish to cook. Bring food for lunch and dinner.
- Leader: Bill Lehmann
- Sept. 2 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 P.M., Audubon House.
- Sept. 11 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Malibu Lagoon to the mouth of the Santa Clara River at Ventura. Meet at 7:30 A.M. on Pacific Coast Highway just north of the bridge over Malibu Lagoon. Bring lunch.
- Leader: To be announced

By Otto Widman

May 11

President Arnold Small introduced our guests: Mrs. Donald Harrison, Miss Kathleen Byrom and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Morrison. Mr. Siemens, president of the Theodore Payne Native Plant Foundation, announced a "seed gathering" trip scheduled for May 23. Caroline Adams reported on the Morongo Valley field trips and Marion Wilson announced that Mr. Sam Levine of Morongo Valley had, with the assistance of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, posted his 160 acre ranch as a wildlife sanctuary. Frances Kohn and Les Wood gave a run down on the pelagic trip and the Elizabeth Lake Canyon trip. Frieda Dutton told of a trip to Arizona which added 36 birds to her life list, including the Coppery-tailed Trogon. Larry Sansone reported seeing 6 Cattle Egrets in the lower Salton Sea area. Arnold Small introduced the elected officers for the coming year.

Dr. Richard Holmes dove right into his "Wildlife of Arctic Alaska" slides and took us from the Pribilof Islands, through Unalaska and over snow-covered ranges to Point Barrow. His slides covered six summers of study in the arctic regions and included studies of Murres, Red-legged Kittiwakes and Horned Puffins in the Bering Sea area, King Eiders, Dunlins and Pectoral Sandpipers on the tundra. In most instances he showed the nest and eggs also. The year 1962 saw the first nesting record for Alaska of the Curlew Sandpiper, which we saw via Dr. Holmes' slides. He also showed slides of the Red Phalarope and discussed the strange reversal of plumage and nesting habits of these birds. The predators included the Pomarine Jaeger and the Snowy Owl, nesting among the arctic poppies and buttercups. All in all it was a most enjoyable evening.

May 19

Great Hall, Plummer Park had 21 placards posted about its walls, all showing scenes of the area to be cut up for the proposed Convention Center in Elysian Park. There were the 60 year old trees, the Sylvan Rustic Retreat, the picnic areas with lawns, and the city map, showing the exact locations. We saw scenes where U. S. Justice Douglas addressed the group of conservationists. Councilman John Holland said, when he began his quiet discussion of the problem, that conservation is a lifetime job, which concerns all of us. This oldest park in Los Angeles was presented to the people in perpetuity for park purposes. By no means were these all the arguments given by Councilman Holland. Conservation of our city parks truly concerns all of us.

May 23

Oh Boy! Was it cold! When Russ Wilson met us on Highway 99, he said something about 28 degrees during the night. Marion Wilson said the snow was spectacular. With two jackets on and looking for a third, I believed them. So we went another way--out towards Lancaster and Lake Elizabeth road. Those who braved the Mt. Pinos peak, saw the Red Crossbill several times. Bruce Broadbrooks was most enthusiastic about his study of them. There were several firsts: Don Tiller, just joined, enjoyed the 45 "new" birds (for him) seen during the day; Sylvia Gieselman stuck it out in spite of the cold and, later, heat of the day. We were glad to see the Wohlgemuth family of five on the trip. After several stops Laura Lou Jenner led us out into the sunlight and wind. By a pond were Spotted Sandpipers. One place we saw a Golden Eagle and Red-shouldered Hawk circling together. There were a number of Bullock's Orioles and American Goldfinches.

In the sunshine in Cottonwood Campground on the Elizabeth Lake road we ate our lunch and progressively peeled off the clothing we had piled on earlier. Here Orange-crowned Warblers sang from the hillside. The chorus of songs, all different, did not stop during our entire visit. Ash-throated Flycatchers darted about. The noisiest in song was the House Wren. Acorn, Downy, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, all were here.

June 8

With the presentation of gavels--the much used one, dating from 1913, to Bill Watson and a new one, suitably engraved, to Arnold Small in appreciation for his three years service as president, the office of president of the Los Angeles Audubon Society changed hands. Russ Wilson gave a preview of the field trips for the summer, even mentioning the Monterey pelagic trip in October.

Mrs. William Jenner introduced the speaker of the evening, noting that Mrs. Corder has been a member of the Audubon Society for 15 years. Her photographic work has been exhibited in numerous salons. We were introduced to beetles and insects which filled each frame with a brilliance of color and sharpness that was truly wonderful. A series of the metamorphosis of the Monarch Butterfly brought applause from the audience, as did another showing the struggle of a kingsnake and a rattlesnake. We were taken, via Mrs. Corder's slides, from Yosemite to the Arizona mountains, to Texas, to Florida--each locale with superb photos of birds and other wildlife. The bird studies were among the finest we have seen. When the showing was over, Arnold Small summed up the feeling of all when he said, "Just beautiful!".

THE AUDUBON SCENE

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES



'Under the supervision and direction of Dr. Mewaldt, Pt. Reyes Laboratory is rapidly and efficiently emerging from a "chrysalis" state into a remarkable reality. The Western Bird Banding Association is to be congratulated on its achievement not only in developing such an extensive project but also in getting the support and cooperation of the Park Service, the agency which has the last word in matters pertaining to the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.'

From THE AVOCET - Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society - June 1965



'For the past four years many of us from Audubon Societies throughout California have been privileged to view the heron-egret rookery on San Luis Island. This has been the highlight of our annual tour of the grasslands near Los Banos... Few are the rookeries which once existed throughout California's Central Valley and this is by far the largest now on record. Last year during the height of the nesting season, we estimated 1500 to 2000 great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, common and snowy egrets were nesting in this site...

The Sacramento Audubon Society has had a committee... actively seeking means to set aside this site as an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary... During the annual tour of the Grasslands last March... we met with other interested chapter representatives... The general consensus was that... it might be practical to... acquire as statewide Audubon Project the necessary acreage needed to preserve the integrity of the rookery...

...we hope by the time of our next newsletter to be in a position to take option on the property and to let you and others know how you can participate in this worthwhile conservation effort.'

From THE OBSERVER - Sacramento Audubon Society - May/June 1965

Again, to our chagrin, a couple of typographical errors have crept into the TANAGER despite our best efforts. In Mr. Ross' article, "Panama Birding Trip, Part Two", in our May issue, the caption to the illustration on page 80 should read Barred Antshrike instead of Banded Antshrike. Also the line immediately above the illustration of the Variable Seedeater on page 81 is repeated below; if one or the other of these lines is deleted, the text is correct. Our apologies to our readers and to the author.

The Western Tanager

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 46, CALIFORNIA
FREE TO MEMBERS OTHERS \$1.50 ANNUALLY

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<u>TYPING</u>	<u>FOLDING & MAILING</u>
Helen Sandmeyer Caroline Adams	Shirley Wells Marion Wilson Catherine B Stefanie Mongold



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By Bob Blackstone

With this issue of the WESTERN TANAGER the present editor is regretfully relinquishing the position. Regretfully, because the close association with Bob and Helen Sandmeyer and all the fine folk who make up the staff of the TANAGER, has, during the past three years, been most enjoyable. The work itself also has been enjoyable, marred only by the nagging feeling that one could do a better job of it if one only had more time to devote. And, it must be admitted, it has been a source of considerable pride to be associated with the publication which is undoubtedly one of the best, if not the best of its kind in the country. It is only the necessity of devoting more time to personal affairs that compels me to resign.

Beginning with the September issue Mrs. William (Betty) Jenner will succeed to the post of editor. We are confident that she will do a very able job of maintaining the high standards we have set for ourselves in putting out the WESTERN TANAGER.

Robert E. Blackstone, Jr.

Here's Your Opportunity to Help Produce The Tanager

Volunteers Sought for Staff of Western Tanager Need Writers, Typists and Production People

With this issue the Western Tanager closes Volume 31 and the official year 1964-65. There will be no issue for the month of August. This pause signals no rest for the Tanager staff, however, for it is during this period that the Year-book is prepared and various materials printed for the Los Angeles County Fair in September.

As usual at this time the search for talent continues. Help is needed to produce the Tanager, help of several and various kinds, and it is only because of the helps volunteered in the past that the Tanager has become the outstanding publication it is.

Writing

Writers are always needed and stories of many types are in demand. These need not be long or learned articles, but a greater participation of members in the writing of articles is urged. Check with the Editor if you have something special in mind.

Typing

There is an urgent need for typists who can work the Society's IBM Executive electric typewriter. Material for the Tanager is typed in a four-inch column and later cut and pasted into page form.

If you would be interested in typing the Tanager please contact Betty Jenner or Marion Wilson as soon as possible.

Folding and Mailing

Additional help is always needed when the time comes to fold and mail the Tanager. This occurs one evening a month and involves folding the papers and stuffing envelopes. This is light and easy work and the evening thus spent is both enjoyable and valuable to the Society. The volunteer work of addressing, folding and mailing saves the Society the money that enables it to print the Tanager, rather than mimeograph it. Call Audubon House if you'd like to get in on these evenings--they're fun and most productive.

Make-up and Production

Also being sought are people interested in the production end of the paper--art work, layout and paste-up. This phase of the work requires primarily a tolerance to rubber cement since all the typewritten articles, headlines, art work, etc. must be pasted down on a printed page form. While knowledge or skill is of great value in this area it is not absolutely essential, and none of the work too complex so that anyone interested could learn and understand it very shortly.

The production people have the last say about what is in or out of the paper and in what form--

as the art editor says--"It gives me a great feeling of power to know that no matter how well written, edited or typed an article may be, I can still foul it up at the last moment."

If you have a buried desire to try your hand at page make-up or any phase of graphic design here is an excellent opportunity to experiment. Plus the fact that the wages are high--the knowledge that you're putting out the greatest little newspaper in the west.

A little of your time and energy would be of great value to the Society if you would help with one of the phases of the Tanager. You will find the pleasure and pride of participation in this effort far outweigh the labor involved. Call Audubon House today because the Tanager wants you.



NEW MEMBERS

- Mr. S. C. Burden
8826 Burton Way, Beverly Hills
Michelle Marie Guyot
9610 Woodman Ave., Pacoima
Mr. Gordon G. Hair
7560 Hollywood Blvd., L. A.
Martha Kitchen
4066 Rhodes Ave., N. Hollywood
Wilma Massey
5659 York Blvd., L. A.
Patricia Powell
137 27th St., Hermosa Beach
Mrs. Patricia Russell
6401 Riggs Pl., L. A.
Mrs. Morris Segall
8949 Beverlywood St., L. A.
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Mr. Thomas L. Taylor
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5443 Harvey Way, Long Beach
Mrs. C. Byron Waud
2229 Straddla Rd., L. A.
Mr. Bruce D. Wilson
2300 Wayne Ave., L. A.