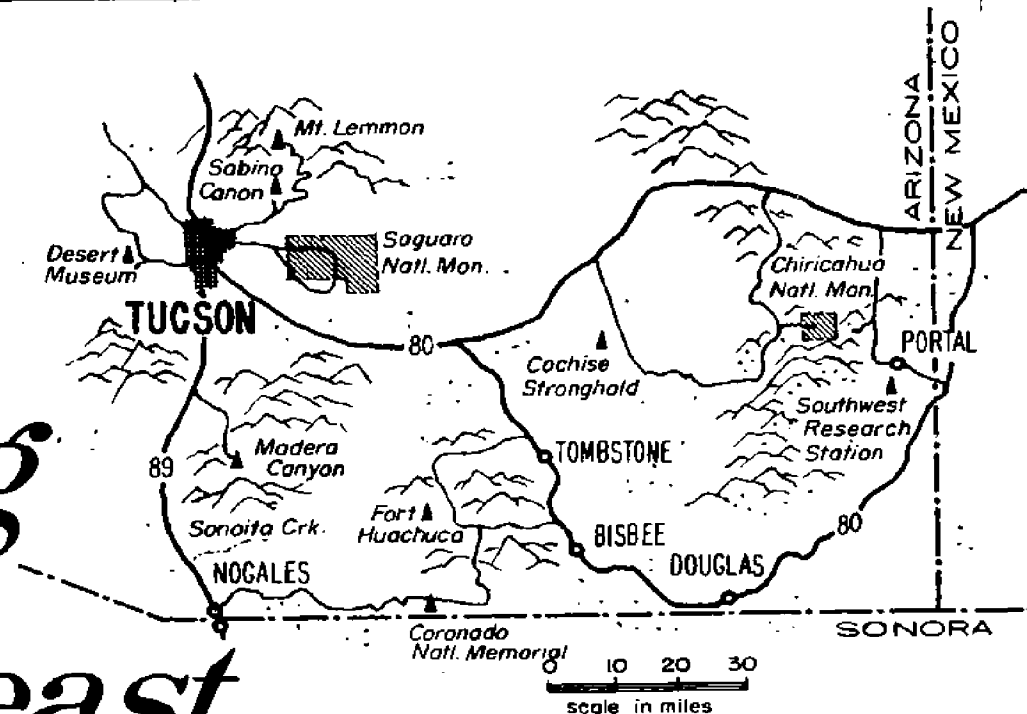


The Western Tanager

May Birding in Southeast Arizona

By Laura Smith



Twenty-nine of us assembled at the Western Look Ranch on May 15, 1965, for what proved to be two glorious weeks of birding and nature study. Included in this group were twenty-five birders from nine states; the director, Orville Crowder of Washington, D.C.; two young assistants, Robert Ohmart who holds a master's degree in ornithology and is an instructor in zoology at the University of Arizona, and Richard Crossin, a graduate in ornithology from the University of Arizona; and the bus driver, John Goldthrop of Tucson. John brought along his binoculars and joined us in the field whenever he could leave the bus. At the beginning he said he knew three birds -- "a roadrunner, a robin, a buzzard, -- and then there are all those other little things." But before the tour was over, John was doing a very good job of spotting and identifying birds.

Western Look Ranch is situated about six miles north of Tucson in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains and its seventy acres are a birder's paradise in themselves. Among the birds we saw there were the Curved-billed Thrasher, Hooded Oriole, White-winged Dove, Inca Dove, Gila Woodpecker, Gambel's Quail, and Cactus Wren and nest. I had always thought of the Cactus Wren as an elusive bird, having vainly followed its call all over Thousand Palms Oasis without once seeing it, so it was a joy to see so many and at such close range as we did at Western Look Ranch.

Most of our time was spent in several of the twelve separate portions of the Coronado National Forest; on Sunday, May 16, we went to Sabino Canyon and Mt. Lemmon. At Sabino Canyon the cactuses and desert flowers were in full bloom and it was a pleasure just to walk through it, whether we saw any birds or not. But we did see many birds including a Sparrow Hawk, a Canyon Wren, a Verdin on its nest with the side entrance, and the ever-present Roadrunner. As an extra, a pretty little garter snake glided by for all to admire. It was in this area that we passed historic Fort Lowell, one of the key posts in the war be-

Continued on page 24

May Birding in Southeast Arizona

Continued

tween the settlers and the Apache. As we left Sabin Canyon, we drove along the Molina Basin Road to Mt. Lemmon, which has an altitude of 9,180 feet. This drive took us through the whole sequence of life zones. On Mt. Lemmon some of the lucky few saw a Red-faced Warbler, and some of those who didn't made a return trip with our leaders after the official tour was over and were rewarded by good views of this warbler which was new to most of us. Also seen in this area were the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Bell's Vireo, Lucy's, and Grace's Warblers.

Monday morning was spent at the Saguaro National Monument. At the Visitor Center we were immediately attracted to the huge floor-to-ceiling windows through which we could watch birds and small animals as they came to the water hole to drink. We had to tear ourselves away from this fascinating observation post to follow our leader, Miss Barbara Lund, National Park Naturalist, who took us on a walking tour of the Monument. The saguaro is found only in the Sonoran Desert and a magnificent stand of them is located in the National Monument. During the first few years of a saguaro's life, it grows about an inch a year, and it is about seventy-five years old when it grows its first arm.

After lunch we visited the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a unique institution which exhibits out of doors an extensive living collection of the plants and animals of the Sonoran desert. The "walk-in" bird enclosure held a great attraction for our group. There we saw many exotic birds at close range - Magpie-jay, Crested Guan, parrots, etc. - also a pair of nesting Roadrunners. The tunnel exhibit was also popular with our group and showed how many of the smaller animals live underground during the day.

Our bird check for this day totalled 63 species including Scaled Quail, Mexican Jay, Mexican Junco, and Red-tailed Hawk.

The next morning, May 18, we left Western Look Ranch for Silver Spur Ranch in the Chiricahuas. En route we stopped at Lazy Creek Ranch, a private ranch just outside Tucson, where we had close-up views of Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Cardinal, Phainopepla, Bullock's Oriole, and many others. We were also delighted to see a baby colt just a few hours old trotting alongside its mother.

The proprietors of Silver Spur Ranch, Ray and Ruth Kent, gave us a warm welcome, and we shall long remember the wonderful barbecue dinners

served ranch-style out of doors. The operator of the local trading post helped serve. He looked like a young Hemingway and added a touch of the safari to the scene. It was at Silver Spur that I met my first Blue-throated Hummingbird. He mistook my red sweater for nectar, and for a few seconds we were staring each other in the face before he decided I was not good to eat and flew away. I was in this area that we visited the Chiricahua National Monument, taking the Massai Point Trail. From the observation point overlooking the Wonderland of Rocks we had an expansive view of the grotesque rock formations, including the famous Balanced Rock. From here we crossed to the eastern side of the range and spent several days near Portal. At the Southwest Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History near there, we were thrilled by the sight of three species of hummingbirds at the feeders - Blue-throated, Black-chinned, and Rivoli's like so many iridescent jewels. The Chiricahuas are known as an exciting bird-spotting area and the many species we saw there included, in addition to the hummingbirds, the Harlequin Quail, Lazuli Bunting, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, Solitary Vireo and nest, Olivaceous Flycatcher and nest, Painted Redstart and nest, Arizona Woodpecker, Black Phoebe with nest under the bridge, Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, and the nest of a Cooper's Hawk.

From the Chiricahuas we drove to Tombstone birding and sight-seeing as we went. It was along this route that we spotted a White-necked Raven. A point of interest which we passed was the Phelps-Dodge open-pit copper mine near Bisbee. This is the world's largest open-pit mine. Our motel in Tombstone faced the famous Boot Hill Cemetery. In the evenings after dinner we had an opportunity to absorb a little of the atmosphere of the Old West strolling along the streets lined with their quaint establishments reminiscent of the pioneer days. Our days were spent in the field and we had high hopes of finding some unusual birds in the canyons of the Huachuca Mountains, but the yield was very poor. However, in Ramsey Canyon we had the good fortune of being invited into the yard of Mrs. Peabody's home and were delighted to see both the Broad-billed and the Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Other birds seen in the Tombstone area included Eastern Meadowlark, Red Crossbill, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Blue Grosbeak.

On our way from Tombstone to Nogales, we went over the Montezuma Pass and through San Rafael Valley where "Oklahoma" was filmed. John, our driver, had driven some of the cast to the location and pointed out the exact spot. He said the corn stalks had to be "planted" every day. While

in this area, we walked to Coronado Peak, 6,880 feet elevation, and had a wonderful view of the country through which Coronado led his company of explorers. Near the top of the peak we found the nest of the Crissal Thrasher containing one young bird.

While in Nogales we had dinner one evening at the Cavern Restaurant in Nogales-Sonora, Mexico, and visited the bull ring, though no fights were in progress.

From Nogales we went to Patagonia which proved to be one of our best birding areas. Along Sonoita Creek we spotted the Zone-tailed Hawk, the Gray Hawk, Bridled Titmouse, Vermilion Flycatcher, Wied's Crested Flycatcher, Tropical and Thick-billed Kingbirds, Cooper's (Summer) Tanager, and were thrilled at seeing a pair of Rose-throated Becards building a nest!

From there we proceeded to Madera Canyon, visiting Tumacacori National Monument on the way. Madera Canyon was a fitting climax of our tour as it was there that we saw the pair of Coppery-tailed Trogons at their nest in the hole of a dead tree. First, we saw the male in all his glory perched outside the nest in full view. What a marvellous treat! Later, we saw the female. Our cup runneth over! While sitting there in dead silence in the early morning waiting for the birds to appear, I was surprised and delighted to see Fran Kohn and a friend coming up the trail. There was no time for conversation, and I did not see them again, but was equally surprised and delighted to see Betty and Laura Jenner at Santa Rita Lodge just as we were leaving for the termination of our tour in Tucson.

But I am getting a little ahead of myself. Also in Madera Canyon we had a good view of the Elf Owl and the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher. The last night there some of the group went owling and saw the Screech Owl, Whiskered Owl, and Flammulated Owl. A coatimundi was also seen in Madera Canyon. Other small animals seen during our two weeks in-



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Our member Laura C. Smith came to Los Angeles in 1952 from Asheville, North Carolina, where she was, and still is, a member of the Carolina Mountain Club, which Club is a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference. Although the primary interest of these organizations is hiking, they are both deeply concerned with conservation. Her specific interest in birding was sparked by her first Audubon Camp experience at Sugar Bowl Lodge, Norden, California.

cluded: Horned toad, porcupine, round-tail ground squirrel, rock squirrel, black-tailed prairie dog, bobcat, cliff chipmunk, cottontail and jack rabbits, and whitetail deer. On the road between Tombstone and Nogales we spotted a gopher snake that a Roadrunner was eyeing. One of our leaders captured it and, after the photographers in our party had taken pictures, brought it into the bus with the idea of taking it home. But one of the group refused to ride in the bus with the snake, so it was released, and perhaps the Roadrunner had his dinner after all.

It was a rewarding two weeks and a trip I can highly recommend. The advantage of the Tour is that one does not have to worry about where he will sleep or eat or even go -- the best of all three is pre-planned so we could give our full attention to birding. I am sure we had the best accommodations available for a group such as ours, and we had the leadership and advice of experts along the way in addition to our regular staff. Our bus also served as a floating library -- there were several books on Arizona birds and related subjects up on the rack for reference, and from time to time Mr. Crowder read appropriate passages to us. He was a very thoughtful and considerate leader with a delightful sense of humor. He seemed to know all points of interest, both of the world of nature and of history, and tried to see that each one of us saw the very special bird that had been spotted, or the objects of historical interest which we passed along the way.

In all, we saw 160 species of birds and the nests of 46 species.

Now that you have read Laura Smith's colorful account of birding in Arizona, you are probably planning trip there as soon as possible. A brand new book by one of the best field men of the region, Jim Lane, will help you plan your trip in the most efficient manner in order to see the maximum number of birds and mammals with the minimum of wasted effort. Eight loop trips, detailing best birding spots in each, plus suggestions as to where to stay and what to wear, are included.

"A Birdwatcher's Guide to Southeastern Arizona" may be obtained by writing L&P PHOTOGRAPHY, 2010 Hickory St., Santa Ana, California 92707, and will soon be available also at Audubon House. The cost is \$1.50; it will be worth much more than that to you



Save the date -- Tuesday, January 11, 1966 will be our ANNUAL DINNER

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Wednesday,
Nov. 3rd.

C.P. Lyons

Nature's Plans and Puzzles

Expenses are up this year...

We urgently need the support
of every member... bring your friends!

November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10	11	12	13

JOHN BURROUGHS JR. HIGH SCHOOL
600 S. McCADDEN PL., LOS ANGELES

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Your President and your editor had the privilege of attending the National Convention in Boston, October 1-6. In next month's issue we shall bring you details of this stimulating and challenging gathering of many of the nation's outstanding conservationists. After the scheduled addresses and panel discussions, there was a workshop for delegates which Bill attended. I took the pre-convention tour of picturesque Cape Cod, then stayed on an extra day after the convention to see our nation's historic shrines in Boston. Next year's convention will be in Sacramento, and I hope that many of you will start planning now to share this memorable experience.

CALIFORNIA TOMORROW

Are YOU satisfied with the way things are going in our beautiful State? If not, you can do something about it. "California Tomorrow" is a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to achieving greater public awareness of the problems we face in maintaining a beautiful and productive California. Since publishing "California Going, Going" in 1962, it has been the state's unofficial public conscience. "The Phantom Cities of California" offered jolting new insights into what can be done to stop the spread of the slurbs--sloppy, sleazy, slovenly, slipshod semi-cities -- across this bright land.

Your annual dues check of \$9 will also bring you the quarterly, "Cry California" which is concerned with the beauty of our highways and forests; the orderly growth of our cities and the preservation of valuable agricultural land; quality of architecture and of parks; cleanness of air and water; and the responsibility of our governmental bodies to see that our land is kept bright.

Seminar-field trips will be held in areas where state development problems and opportunities can be dramatically demonstrated. Write: CALIFORNIA TOMORROW 433 Forum Bldg., Sacramento 95814.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Ralph Sperry, C.P.A., has examined the financial records of the Society through June, 1965, and finds them properly maintained and all monies fully accounted for.

Total Income for Year	\$9299.62
Expenses	7971.19
Net	1328.43

Main sources of income: dues, subscriptions, Wildlife Films, sales. Main expenditures: "Tanager," scholarships, educational materials, Condor fund. The books are open for the inspection of any member at Audubon House.

THE WESTERN Tanager

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: MRS. RUSSELL WILSON

NOVEMBER 1965

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30				

- Nov. 3 WEDNESDAY WILDLIFE FILM "Nature's Plans and Puzzles" -- C.P. Lyons. A brilliant panorama of the wilds of British Columbia from the lens of an expert photographer. Season Ticket - \$5. 8:00 p.m., John Burroughs Jr. High School, 600 S. McCadden Place.
Chairman: Ken Barr 222-6853
- Nov. 4 THURSDAY . EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING- 7:30 p.m. Audubon House
- Nov 6 SATURDAY - SPECIAL FIELD TRIP, AUDUBON CENTER, EL MONTE, 1000 N. Durfee Ave. Take San Bernardino Freeway to Rosemead Blvd. south on Rosemead to San Gabriel Blvd., then left to Durfee and Audubon Center. Trip begins at Headquarters Bldg. at about 8:30 a.m. and will conclude about noon. Hot tomato soup will be furnished, but each person should bring his own sack lunch. Come and see the Cardinals!
- Nov. 9 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8 p.m. in Great Hall, Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. "Lands of the Quetzal" -- A dozen of our members made fabulous journey last August to Panama and Guatemala, rolling up a list of about 300 tropical species. Herb Clarke will show slides and narrate, ably assisted by Olga at the projector.
- Nov. 13 SATURDAY . FIELD TRIP 8:30 a.m. - Santa Barbara; Goleta Slough; campus of the University of California at Santa Barbara. As you enter Santa Barbara, turn off Highway 101 at Cabrillo Blvd., and meet at the Bird Refuge. Bring lunch.
Leader: Dave Robison 761-0217
- Nov. 17 WEDNESDAY CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 p.m. Great Hall, Plummer Park. The film, "Islands of Green" will be shown. Produced by the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Forest Service. Narration by John Daly. Subject purposes and operation of Nature Centers.
Chairman: Bill Watson 661-8570
- Nov. 28 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - 8:00 a.m. Eaton Canyon. This is a new trip added to our schedule to help acquaint members with different birding areas. We will be looking for winter visitors in the foothills. Take the Pasadena Freeway to Colorado Blvd., turn right and continue to Altadena Drive. Turn left on Altadena Drive and keep going until coming to the Eaton Canyon sign, turn right into the park. Meet in the parking area.
Leaders: Betty and Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

Always bring binoculars and lunch to field trips. Please, no pets and no collecting.

Audubon Activities

by OTTO WIDMAN

September 11 FIELD TRIP

Les and Ruth Wood greeted our guests and new members by the roadside as they drove up to Malibu Lagoon: Grace Nixon, Polly and Warren Carpenter and Frank Beckerer, Bill and Shirley Horton and their three girls. Larry Steinberg and his wife, Anita, were birding at the Lagoon and stumbled on us, not realizing this was a scheduled trip. There were 39 of us, when the last one arrived. Least expected were some Horned Larks busy at the water's edge, but not as busy as the Sandpipers; the three species were the Snowy, Least and Pectoral. There were four different Plovers, among them were several American Golden, lots of Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers Swallows and Swifts were migrating and both Vaux's and White-throated were flying with Barn, Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows. Terns were not too plentiful; those flying over were Royal, Elegant, Caspian and Least. The Surfers (teen-age variety) were having field day, so were the Pelicans (42) sitting out the waves among the many boards and wild hairdos. Jim Denholtz beat us all there and saw a Barn Owl and Sora Rail. The Long-billed Marsh Wren called repeatedly from the tules. As a delightful climax to our day, at the Santa Clara River mouth, a Parasitic Jaeger attacked some Least Terns for their catch of fish. Several Knots caused every Peterson to be opened their identity seemed to elude us for a time. The final count, 61 species.

September 14 EVENING MEETING

At the Tuesday night meeting, Bill Watson announced several new chairmanships: Les Wood for equipment; and Ruth Wood as social chairman. Our guests for the evening were Pat Powell, Valerie Neuman, and Sylvia Geiselman. How our Condor watch and count is being conducted was explained by Russ Wilson. The migration of the birds was noted: Keith Axelson saw Pectoral Sandpipers at Malibu Lagoon. Dr. Neuman saw White-

headed Glossy Ibis at Buena Vista Lagoon. Erwin Woldman has had good birding beyond San Clemente Island Albatross, Jaegers, Petrels, Ashy and Forked-tailed. The first record of a Curved-billed Thrasher was announced by David Gaines also seen in San Diego were Long-spurs and Chestnut-sided Warblers. Herb Clarke stated that 12 people of the Audubon Society saw 300 species on the Panama trip; for some it was well over 200 life birds. The progress on the Jedediah Smith Redwood Park purchase program was given by Jim Denholtz.

Eben McMillan stated that the protection we give the California Condor is a measure of the conscience of the people. The work the Audubon Society is doing represents the people of Los Angeles and their concern for this fading species of birds. Then with his camera in color he proceeded to show us the country of the Condor and his vast range from mountain tops to hills rolling beautifully into the distance and at last the plains below. But just the scenery was not enough; Mr. McMillan showed us these carrion eaters food supply, both the pure and polluted. The vast herds of sheep and cattle, plus the wildlife, supply ample food, but the scourge of the baiters and poisoners who kill the rodents with poisoned grain are making devastating attack on the remaining Condors. The concern here was evident and deep felt and I am sure it brushed off on us in vast quantities.

September 19 - Public Field Day in Elysian Park began with bird walks in the rain, led by Russ and Marion Wilson and Betty and Laura Lou Jenner. This was but a prelude to the activities for the day. Mrs. Barbara Jo Hoshizaki, who teaches Botany at City College, must be given full credit for organizing the Nature Walks. She studied the park days before the event and knew exactly where to send the people and guides: they were Frances Kramer, Dave Dixon, Merle Nelson, Dorothy Poole and Carl Gerhardy. The talks and walks continued well into the afternoon. The speakers for the day included our own Ken Barr who spoke on the need for better planning of our Nature Areas and above all the need for people becoming concerned in what is being done to our parks. Later he confided he was amazed at his own eloquence. Carl Gerhardy spoke about Malibu Lagoon and the need for it. It is our last natural

Continued on page 29



lagoon. Dr Mildred Mathias spoke on the tree planting in Elysian Park, pointing out the rarer species that are threatened. Supervisor John Anson Ford's thesis was saving the park and the need for writing to your councilman about it. The individual letter counts! Grace Simons, who is chairman of the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park, stated that the attack on Elysian Park is an attack on all our parks; what is done here at Elysian can set a precedent.

Bill Watson introduced the speakers and was instrumental in organizing the day, the people and the program. Our thanks to him for making this important day a success.

September 25 FIELD TRIP

That fabulous Tijuana River bottom never ceases to surprise us. Birds that shouldn't be here continue to appear. Larry Sansone, our leader for the day, knew where to look and after running through a list of dozen common birds, suddenly announced a Baltimore Oriole! Immediately 31 sets of binoculars were focussed on it with much discussion; while around and around a tiny barn a Lesser Night Hawk circled. Then a Townsend's Warbler came out of the Tamarisk. Earlier in a pasture were Godwits, Whimbrels, Least Sandpipers and some Killdeers. On Monument Road we watched a Golden Eagle in perfect plumage, circle about and then land on a hillside near by. The conglomeration of birds was fantastic. White Crowned Sparrows with Horned Lark, Say's and Black Phoebe with a California Thrasher, Black-bellied Plovers and Western Tanagers. At Windover Ranch two pairs of American Redstarts were in and out of the Avocado trees along with Wilson's Warblers. In case you don't know, I have been naming life birds for most of the group. The Redstart, Baltimore Oriole and Virginia Warbler were brand new for most of the group including myself. Later we added a quasi-lifer when we saw 3 Pink Flamingoes out on the salt flats in Southern San Diego Bay. Here were Wilson's and Northern Phalaropes and White Pelican along with Brown ones. Savannah Sparrows were all along the water's edge. Howard and

ANNUAL DINNER — January 11, 1966

Be sure to save the date for the Annual Dinner - Tuesday, January 11, 1966. See your December Tanager for details and reservation blank, but mark your calendar now for your first important dinner in the new year!

Mary Cole (of San Fernando Aud. Soc.) joined us for the bird count. Douglas Dick was back after a long absence - too long. Marion, Maurice and Ben Kamins brought Ben's buddy Maurice Beck along. The first day we saw 55 separate species.

Morro Bay: scenic, unspoiled estuary, resting place for thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl; place to see migrating gray whales and wintering Monarch butterflies; a recreational area for fishing, clamming, or just plain loafing. Now visualize: "Progress" planned for Morro Bay: a 6-story convention center on the sandspit, two bridges across the dredged bay in which are 2000 boat berths; a neon-lighted "cultural center" at the foot of the Rock.

Conservationists who are trying to preserve natural conditions in this lovely area met to form an Audubon Society branch as a means of enlightening the public as to the dangers of drastically changing an environment. William Goodall and Ralph Jones of National Audubon; Leonard Penhale of Morro Bay Natural History Museum; Paul Squibb of Cambria, past president of San Luis Obispo County Historical Society; Charles Taubert of the South Bay area; Dr. Aryan Roest, biological sciences dept. of Cal Poly; and Ian McMillan of Paso Robles Audubon Society comprised the panel which sparked a determined drive to preserve Morro Bay's natural beauty.

NOTICE

The newly formed Audubon Society of Morro Bay is in need of back issues of Audubon Magazine and Bird Lore. If you can donate the issues between 1937 and 1953, please bring them to Audubon House and they will be sent on.

NOTES

When the Wilderness Act was passed by Congress last year, I had no idea that Southern California was going to feel its effects first. Hardly was San Geronio "saved" by the Wilderness Act when the commercial interests were attacking it again with six bills in Congress to take up to 3500 acres out of the heart of San Geronio Wilderness Area. With this problem nagging conservationists again, we now have the distinction of having the first, pilot program to create a new wilderness area here, as specified in the Forest Service's San Rafael Wilderness Proposal. The existing San Rafael Primitive Area is in the Los Padres National Forest behind Santa Barbara.

Under the terms of the Wilderness Act, a number of Wilderness Areas in our National Forests were established with the passage of the Act. Southern California acquired the San Geronio Wilderness Area and the San Jacinto Wilderness Area. The Wilderness Act also makes it mandatory that the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture must systematically study suitable areas under their jurisdictions and determine their suitability as wilderness. Then the Secretary in question is to report his findings to the President, who will then present his recommendations to Congress. Finally, Congress will have the final say in establishing more Wilderness Areas.

Within this basic framework, the Regional Forester of the National Forests of California, Charles Connaughton, has started the ball rolling by proposing the San Rafael Primitive Area for wilderness status. The Wilderness Act gave us ten years in which to get all suitable wildernesses into the Wilderness System. The San Rafael Wilderness Proposal is the first in conformance with the Wilderness Act.

So Southern California wilderness advocates have the first opportunity to set all precedents in any further interpretations of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act we all wanted so much was actually a challenge to us, not a solution.

During the Convention of the Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs, held at Santa Barbara over the Labor Day weekend, there was a lot of business about the San Rafael Wilderness Proposal. Stewart Brandborg, Executive Director of the Wilderness Society, addressed the Convention one evening, giving us a very informative and important talk, stressing the importance of the nine years left to us as specified by the Wilderness Act nine years in which all the wilderness that will ever be saved in this country must be preserved.

A Wilderness Workshop was conducted in a student lounge on the University campus. I found it a very stimulating and informative session to attend. Fred Eissler was chairman, and Stewart Brandborg and other authorities took part in the open discussion. It became impressed upon all of us that our work to get a Wilderness Act was only the beginning. Now we have the tool of a Wilderness Act with which to enrich this country of ours with as much pure wilderness as is left to preserve.

We also learned that it is not enough to support the Forest Service in this San Rafael Wilderness Proposal. The language of the Wilderness Act is specific in most places, but there are things that are left unsaid. One example of this is the principle of protecting established Wilderness Areas by means of buffer zones.

In only a few days after you read this there is going to be a hearing on the San Rafael Wilderness Proposal, held by the Forest Service in Santa Barbara. The hearing will be held on November 8. If you are interested in this proposal, the Forest Service invites you to submit written statements before them. Statements, hearing record, and other pertinent data together with the map and proposal will be submitted by the Secretary of Agriculture through the President to Congress.

The terms of the Wilderness Act give you this method of expressing your views. Why not use it? Address: Regional Forester, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco, California 94111.

southern california
BIRDS

by DAVID A. GAINES

The fall migration was well under way by the end of September, but large flights of landbirds failed to materialize. Numbers of migrant passerines were far below those noted during the past several falls. Comparisons of birds present in the Tijuana River Valley during late September of this year and last is indicative of this drop. For instance, this year there were almost no Kingbirds in the valley, very few Buntings, no Bobolinks or Dickcissels, and sparse numbers of Warblers, Vireos, Orioles, and Sparrows. Compare this with 1964, when the valley harbored hundreds of Kingbirds and Buntings, large flocks of Fringillids and Vireos, up to twenty Bobolinks, and an abundance of Orioles, Tanagers, and Sparrows. Bird migrations are still to a large extent a mystery. Whether the landbirds passed unseen overhead, bypassed the coast through the relatively un-birded desert, or were delayed to the north, we can only guess.

The scarcity of landbird migrants did not affect southbound shorebirds. Plovers, Turnstones, Curlews, Godwits, Dowitchers, and Sandpipers all put on a good show during September. Golden Plovers were found at Newport and San Diego. Concentrations of up to six Tattlers were located near Laguna. Baird's Sandpipers were at San Diego, Newport, Playa del Rey, and elsewhere. A flock of six was even noted at the Salton Sea. The Solitary Sandpiper was reported from San Diego. Pectoral Sandpipers seemed to be almost everywhere, with birds observed at Malibu, Doheny Beach, Solano Beach, and San Diego. A flock of at least twenty Pectorals visited Goleta on October 1. The American Oystercatcher at Avila Beach was still present in early October, having remained in our area for over eleven months.

McCaskie and others, observing from an albacore "special" off San Diego, found fair numbers of pelagic birds in early September. Among their more unusual sightings were a Manx Shearwater, several Black-footed Albatross, and a Long-tailed Jaeger. The southbound flight of Jaegers reached fair pro-

THE AUDUBON SCENE

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

BLUE THROAT AND RIVOLI HUMMINGBIRDS IN PINALS - We have no record of Rivoli's being found north of the Huachuca and Chiricahua mountains, but as of August 15, not only was a Rivoli seen in the Pinal Mountains near Globe, but its nest was also observed. There were two young in the nest which was located forty feet high in a grand old Gambel Oak, and on August 15 both these birds were almost full-grown. They took turns standing on the rim of the nest and "REVIVING" up the motor (so to speak) trying the wings at high speed, though clinging to the nest rim. Later in the day these two were observed in further exercises which included clinging to the outside of the nest "revving" their wings at high speed and finally elevating themselves back into the nest. The next day (August 16) they finally took off and began the enjoyment of a full life in their great new world. The mother-bird had stayed close by during this vital part of the young birds' life pattern... In this same Pinal Mt. area during the month of July 1965 a Blue-throat Hummer was observed taking a bath in the cold, crystal water of a spring-fed mountain stream.

From "THE ROADRUNNER"
Maricopa Audubon Society
Phoenix, Arizona

WANTED - For full-time job in the Hollywood area . capable secretary with knowledge of birds-some light book-keeping required.
Don Bleitz, Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, HO. 2-4802.

portions about mid-September, when Pomarine and Parasitic could be easily seen from the pier at Redondo Beach. Hart Kivett, birding in the San Pedro Channel, reported large numbers of southbound Jaegers, several Xantus Murrelets, a Fork-tailed Petrel, and an immature Magnificent Frigatebird (Aug. 26).

Elegant Terns were common in coastal waters through September. Franklin's and Laughing Gulls were at the Salton Sea's south end in the early part of the month. Southbound Ospreys were observed at Malibu

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Alma Stultz Memorial

A Plaque in Memory of Alma Stultz will be unveiled at the Audubon Center of Southern California on Sunday, the seventh of November at 3:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to attend this ceremony should notify Doris Bullion, Audubon Center of Southern California, 1000 North Durfee Avenue, El Monte, Calif. Do this as soon as possible.



NEW MEMBERS

- Abramson, Lee A.
824 Dunsmuir Ave. L.A. 90036
- Barnes, Miss Maude
1515 Tulare Street
Bakersfield, Calif. 93305
- Chaffin, Mrs. Nona
743 Morella Ct.
Thousand Oaks, Calif. (8) 91360
- Irwin, Mrs. Charles
8917 Wonderland Park Ave.
Hollywood, Calif. 90046
- Lewis, R. W. J.
3709 Via La Selva
Palos Verdes Est., Calif. 90275
- Myers, Al
1829 N. Fuller, L.A. 90046
- Sturdevant, Mr. and Mrs. C. V.
1420 Chautauqua Blvd.
Pacific Palisades, Calif.

DECEASED:

Mrs. Harriet Cunningham
1515 Tulare St.
Bakersfield - National and
Local Member: 1949-1965

Our good companion of many field trips last year, Barry White of England, has returned home, and is very anxious that any members who journey to England will look him up so that he may act as guide to English birds. The address:

Barry White
43 Friars Ave.
Friern Barnet
London, N. 20, England
Phone: Enterprise 6692

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Birds

(CONTINUED)

and Santa Monica. Occasional mixed flocks of Vaux's and White-throated Swifts were encountered near the coast, but these birds were not abundant. A group of five Black Swifts at Rancho Park, September 7, was unusual.

In spite of the scarcity of landbirds, a fair variety of vagrants were seen in our area this fall. Many of these birds were caught in the mist nets of Alan Craig on Point Loma. This year, Craig has banded the amazing total of twenty species of Warbler! During this fall, he has caught Blackpoll Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, American Redstart, Tennessee Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler (Sept. 23). The L.A.A.S. field trip to the Tijuana River Valley, under the able leadership of Larry Sansone, turned up some excellent birds, including Baltimore Oriole and Prairie Warbler. Other interesting sightings in the San Diego area this fall include two Northern Waterthrush, two Black-and-White Warblers, a Lucy's Warbler, five Vermilion Flycatchers, and a Curve-billed Thrasher. This latter species was first found by McCaskie and Dave Pearson in the Tijuana Valley on September 6, and was seen again on the 18th. In the Los Angeles area, a Tennessee Warbler was at Malibu on September 18, and a male American Redstart was at Playa del Rey on the 28th.

A flight of Chickadees and Nuthatches to the lowlands may be occurring this fall. As many as eight Mountain Chickadees have been noted in Rancho Park, Los Angeles, and on Point Loma, Chickadee observations have been added to by sightings of all three species of Nuthatch. It will be interesting to see if these observations indicate isolated occurrences, or coming invasion of montane species into the lowlands.

During the month ahead, the last fall migrants will be straggling south to their wintering grounds in Mexico and beyond. Expect gradual stabilization of wintering populations of shorebirds, landbirds, and waterfowl. This winter, be especially alert to wintering flocks of Orioles, and be on the watch for White-throated Sparrows, Bohemian Waxwings, Summer Tanagers, and other less common wintering birds.