

Rambling 'Round the Ridges

By Travis McGregor

Editor's Note: There are the glamour places of birding — Cape May, Rockport, Mt. Pelee, and the like, which draw hordes of avid birders every year; but occasionally we hear of an unpublicised area which makes us long to go there NOW, and let the famous places wait. Such a place is Celt, a village in a lovely valley in south-central Missouri. Our member Larry Bogart and his wife Jill left Beverly Hills last year to live in Celt, of which Larry says, "I found that it is strictly marginal as farm country; the big timber is logged off and gone, and these rolling hills are covered with scrub hardwood that has practically no intrinsic value, BUT it is one of the most fertile areas for birds in this wide country! I have 138 birds on my list for this spring without going off my own acres, and I think that might please most nature lovers.

For those of our readers who might be inclined to dispute some of Col. Bogart's identifications, a few words about his background should indicate his experiences with naturalists ranging from the sentimental to the purely scientific. He writes, "When I was a small boy I used to take a fine little lady around the great swamps of Northern Indiana to study and photograph birds. She was a very fine ornithologist and botanist, but had short patience with people who only knew Latin names and all about "orders," and nothing about their habits and ways and personalities. I learned much from her — and you perhaps have read her books as I have, many times. Her name was Gene Stratton Porter, and she introduced me to a man named David Starr Jordan, whom I also piloted all over that country while he gathered material for his book on fishes. From Dr. Jordan I also learned much — and the man he introduced me to as well — his name was Ernest Thompson Seton. I also learned much from several men that "Tommy" introduced me to — one of them Dr. W.J. Long — whose actual knowledge of personalities and habits of wildlife surpassed any of them. -- I made one trip with Carl Akeley and wished that I could have made others, for he was a fine naturalist and a fine man. -- I went into Guinea and Borneo with the Royal Geographic lads and my friend Wallace Cook, and managed to find a few new ones for them, and forty-six years ago, the only expedition so far as I know that had ever been into Nepal went up thru the Ganges Valley and spent three well-convoyed weeks and emerged with quite a stack of valuable lore; I was very fortunate to be asked to go with them. -- While we were working on the Pan American Highway thru Central America many years ago, Dr. Paul Sanchez joined our survey party and we

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LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

See the enclosed Special Reservation Form

TUESDAY  
JANUARY 11th.

# Rambling 'Round the Ridges

Continued

managed to get the good doctor within shooting range of a dozen or so "new" ones and he enjoyed himself hugely. About the only thing that is remembered about the trip, now, however, is that we found a heretofore unknown "buried" city up in Peten province in Guatemala, and the National Geographic lads have been planning for several years to have a go at it."

These days, besides being wound up in the local civic affairs — (he was appointed to a couple of State commissions, is a member of the National Congress of Rivers and Harbors, and is consultant to a half dozen conservation groups) Larry has been writing a column for local papers called "Rambling the Ridges." Our policy of course is to print only original articles in "Tanager" but since Larry is too busy at present to do justice to the subject of birds in his area, he has kindly given us permission to use some of his observations as they appeared in the DALLAS COUNTY REPUBLICAN, under the by-line of Travis McGregor.



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April 29. Welcome visitors to the Valley-- three or four Woodcock who pause to explore for angleworms in a wooded lowland pasture and whirl up as your Rambler saunters along. Good to see the timber doodles that were so numerous throughout the hills fifty or sixty years ago. --Jacksnipe stop to putter around the edge of the grassy slough on their way North to nesting sites in Canada, and launch themselves out of the swale like feathered rockets with the familiar "Scaip--scaipe" as they zig-zag away. With diminishing wetlands throughout their former range, the plump little shorebirds are on the way to extinction, another score against the custodianship of Man, the great Destroyer.-- A lone Canvasback drake checks over the creek and ponds, and decides to keep going. Several Gadwall linger awhile on the way, while Teal and Woodduck are frequent visitors. Three Mallard stop for a night

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**Los Angeles Audubon Society's  
annual**

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

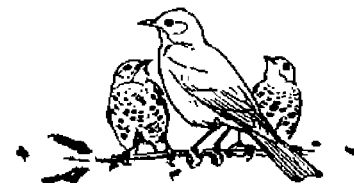
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1966**

**Call Audubon House 876-0202**



Canvasback

on our pond, and take off in the morning when the Valley folk begin to stir, while the big Blue Heron makes the pond a regular stop each day for a snack of fat tadpoles and a few frogs. Northern shrike builds a nest in a handy brushpile surrounding a thorn bush, and a pair of Brown Thrashers, those incomparable singers of the orchards, have taken a lease on a nearby locust, and the rent is paid in the morning and evening songs that put the tenants in the millionaire class beyond doubt. Grass plover (upland) visit the little slough daily and wheel and dip in their precise formations as they flit about, while a lone Coot has looked over the pond and decided to stay awhile, becoming so tame that your Rambler nearly trod upon him in the grass along the shore before he finally moved. The daily handout of grain is apparently relished, and he is an interesting addition to our feathered colony. --Wild Canaries (Goldfinches) show up, quite a bit ahead of the usual schedule, and a lone Indigo Bird (Bunting) chirps his greeting from a telephone wire nearby, also ahead of schedule. Two pairs of Killdeers have staked out their claims and range respective hillsides like track men warming up. Two pairs of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are daily visitors at the redbuds, and Purple Martins, Barn, and Bank Swallows have checked in. Red Cap (White-throated Sparrow) and Song Sparrow show up -- and the Juncos vanish. Whip-poor-wills set up a nightly clamor that should have poor Willie thrashed to a frazzle by now, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak adds his lovely song to the hush of a fine evening -- a vesper message of note.



June 3. Robin has set upon the great array of June bugs that bang against the bug catcher and tumble into the grass, and is running a regular service to her nest in the box elder. She hammers the big bug to bits, and then carries off the pieces to feed the babies, with a few moths, which she de-

Sunday, January 2, 1966

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

wings, and the usual supply of angleworms. --The House Wrens have said good-bye to their first family and are now building a new home for the next family. After inspecting many new locations, they decide upon an old box, unused the past two years, and are busy furnishing the new quarters. --Kingbird has established a new kingdom in a weeping willow, and as usual sets himself up as Sheriff of the community. Little feathered bomber permits no bird of size to venture into his domain, and the Crows that frequented the meadow all winter are now pounced upon and chivvied out of the community whenever they show up. Last week a big Timber Hawk (Red-tailed) sailed ponderously across the field, and was at once set upon by the doughty little Kingbird who perched upon his back for many yards pecking away with might and main while the big hawk, who is too slow to catch such small fry anyway, flapped real mightily to get away from his small tormentor, who returned after a bit, to perch on the tip of the sycamore and proclaim loudly to all and sundry that he certainly ran that rascal out of the Valley! Right is might! --Bird lovers with an ear for music could well take up an abode in the Valley.



*Hairy Woodpecker*

The feathered symphony includes the Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, Cardinals, two varieties of Orioles, Vireos, Robins, Meadowlarks, Titmice, several Warblers, the colony of Red-winged Blackbirds, the percussion section with Downy, Hairy, and Pink-breasted Woodpeckers, plus the Yellow-shafted Flicker, the great black Log Cock (Pileated Woodpecker) and the tiny Creepers, with the Quail, Song Sparrows, and a Grosbeak or two making up about as musical a group as one could expect to find in any community. Others such as the Goldfinches, Indigo Bunting, the Bluebirds, three kinds of Swallows, Purple Martins, Catbirds, Wood Peewees, a rattling Kingfisher, and a few other strays add to the variety, not counting some who are silent during the

Allan Cruikshank's annual report on the Christmas Bird Count gives the most comprehensive picture available of winter bird populations. The 1965 Christmas Count issue of Audubon Field Notes is a book-sized report of 260 pages -- all absorbing reading to a birder.

Mr. Cruikshank's group at Cocoa, Fla., always comes up with the highest number of species; 204 last year. The next highest count was in our state last year, at Tomales Bay, with 186. In wretched weather we in Los Angeles saw 111 species last Christmas; the previous year, 124, and the year before, 134.

If you've never taken part in a Christmas Count, may we now invite you to participate? There is a great need for people who will cover a dozen blocks or so near their home, because there are probably hundreds, even thousands, of birds right in the city which are never counted: Linnets, Scrub Jays, etc., with always the possibility of something unusual.

If you can help count on Sunday, Jan. 2, please call Audubon House, 876-0202, or Bill Watson, 661-8570. Each participant must contribute fifty cents. At day's end we will gather at a centrally located restaurant for dinner and a recounting of the day's adventures.

nesting season; and the ever-present English Sparrows and noisy Starlings. The Heron, the Black Bittern (Least), the Rails and a pair of Spotted Sandpipers patrol the pond, while the Turkey Vultures, a quite rare Osprey, and the great pair of Bald Eagles take care of the skies.

June 10. Several strangers in the area, or nearly so at least, have showed up in our bird colony. We have seen a pair of Evening Grosbeaks, and several Bohemian Waxwings, and we have a pair of Yellow Warblers nesting in a locust, with a pair of Bullock's Orioles in the apple tree; and we have sighted a single Scissor-tailed Flycatcher flitting across a fence row. -- A Ruby-throated Hummingbird has a nest in a scrub cedar. Warblers appear along the edge of the swale, and in the tangle along the creek; and perhaps ten or more can be properly identified, with perhaps many others if an actual field trip could be made. -- Audubon Club members would find the area a most satisfying place to live, for here you can see and study the birds daily, and in considerable variety and numbers. It is about the last of the old hardwood areas, and it should be preserved as a home for the feathered folk that are vanishing faster than we realize.

# Audubon Activities

by OTTO WIDMAN

## October 9 FIELD TRIP

I picked up a life-bird at Cabrillo Beach - out on the breakwater. In among the double crested Cormorants, Brown Pelicans and Least Terns was one lone Common Murre. This was right after we had seen Black-bellied Plovers and Black Turnstones in with some Snowy Plovers and Willets. At Harbor Park we were separated; Eva Millsap, Frances Kohn, Ellen Stephenson and Pat Powell (her first field trip with us) went one way and picked up many species which we did not see. Mr. and Mrs. David Maryn were our leaders for the day and met us with 'scope and book and enthusiasm for this day's outing. In the bulrushes and tules we heard and saw the Song Sparrow and Long-billed Marsh Wren. The flycatchers were an Empidonax and Black Phoebe. A Swainson's Thrush made a brief appearance, as did a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. We chalked up both the Western and Eared Grebe. Then the Swallows came over; Rough-winged and Barn. Frances Kohn reported that the other group saw Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal; Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons, Godwits, and Avocet. There was a Jaeger seen by Eva Millsap but not completely identified. We want to welcome Heather and R. W. Lewis to birding. The list of birds for the day included 53 species.

## October 12 EVENING MEETING

We began our meeting by introducing guests: Jim Seaman brought along Don Bleitz; Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Norton made their first appearance, as well as Pat Powell. As to bird observations, David Gaines reported a Philadelphia Vireo in San Diego; Allan Craig found some Blackpoll Warblers off Pt. Loma; Olga Clark noted a Costa's Hummingbird.

Bill Watson reported on his trip to Boston to the National Audubon Society convention. He picked up a life-bird off Cape Cod: Great Black-back Gull. By the way, Massachusetts has 20 nature sanctuaries with 1200 new members.

Our speaker for the evening, Jim Clements, plunged right into his "Birding in the Pacific Northwest" by explaining that the Olympic Mountains are rain collectors -- from 90 to 120 inches a year, so his excellent photography had to be made between showers, mist and fog. He started at the beach and worked his way up the mountains. Here Oystercatchers, Glaucous-winged Gulls

and Snowy Plovers abounded. At Lake Quinault were the Osprey, the Canada Jay, and about 300 Crossbills; also the Pileated Woodpecker. After a look at some of the 50 glaciers, there was a quick shift to Marsh Marigold, Cinquefoil, and Shooting Stars. Pleated Gentian were in the Squawgrass. Then there was the change to the other side of the mountain, where but 11 inches of rain fall annually near Port Angeles: here were the Horned Lark and the Chipping Sparrow and excellent flocks of Sooty Grouse. All in all Jim Clements gave us a pleasant evening on the Olympic Peninsula.

## October 24 FIELD TRIP Bolsa Chica Newport Backbay

The hot spell was easing off, but being Saturday every surfer in the country headed for Bolsa Chica. At 8:30 a.m. we got the last parking places. At first glance it looked as if every bird had taken off: hunters were in the marsh where we usually do our best birding, and water skiers raced back and forth in the other back-water. Slowly, Grebes, Willets, and what I thought was a Rock Dove appeared. Marion Wilson excitedly pointed out that it was a Fulmar, which had settled just beyond the waves, not far from the surfboards. There were many Cormorants, some Brown Pelicans, and Common Terns.

Dan and Carol Siemens came up from their new address in Laguna Beach. Our guest for the day was Felix Kláb from the Sea & Sage Society. Our new member on her first birding trip with us was Dorothy Askin. Welcome, and we hope to see you on many more field trips.

At our first stop in Newport backbay we saw three different rails: the Virginia Rail, and Russ Wilson saw 5 Sora and a Clapper by walking along the roadside. It was a day for Plovers: Semi-palmated, Black-bellied, Snowy and Killdeer. Where, in the past, thousands of ducks abounded, now there were a few Lesser Scaups, Baldpates, Pintails and some Redheaded Ducks and Surf Scoters. At one spot we had the Long-billed Curlew, Black-bellied Plover, Marbled Godwits, and Dowitchers and 5 Least Sandpipers in the scopes at one time. A dream-picture come true! Later there were Dunlins, Knots, Avocets. In spite of the heat and crowded conditions, we counted 50 species.

## November 6 SPECIAL FIELD TRIP

The staff at El Monte Center met us at 8:30. Mr. Paul Howard introduced the staff, including the new secretary, Mrs. Peggy McMin. Thirty of us started the walk and almost immediately saw the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Audubon Warbler. For the beginners this was a chance to note the difference in the birds. The Audubons showed very little yellow. Further into the grounds

Continued on page 39

# Los Angeles Audubon Society

# CALENDAR

WILLIAM T. WATSON, *President*  
 1249 N. EDMONT AVE., APT. 12  
 LOS ANGELES 90029 661-8570



HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY & NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE,  
 PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046

TELEPHONE 876-0202

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, *Executive Secretary*  
 705 26 STREET  
 MANHATTAN BEACH 90266 372-5536

HEADQUARTERS CHAIRMAN: MRS. J. GORDON WELLS  
 REGISTRAR OF MEMBERS: MRS. RUSSELL WILSON

## December

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Dec. 2 THURSDAY-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 7:30 p.m.,  
Audubon House
- Dec. 8 WEDNESDAY WILDLIFE FILM "Inherit the Wild"  
 D. J. Nelson-A fascinating collection of intimate studies  
 of natural wildlife, featuring rare and near-rare animals  
 and birds. 8:00 p.m., John Burroughs Jr. High School,  
 600 S. McCadden Place.  
 Chairman: Ken Barr 222-6853
- Dec. 11 SATURDAY SUNDAY FIELD TRIP Carrizo Plains. Meet  
 12 at 8:30 a.m. in Maricopa at the junction of State Hiway 166  
 and U.S. 399. (Take U.S. 99 north from Los Angeles to  
 junction with State 166 about 8 miles north of Grapevine, go  
 west on 166 about 25 miles-bring extra wraps-temperatures  
 as low as 16 degrees were endured last year.) We will spend  
 the night at California Valley Lodge in order to be on the  
 Plains early Sunday morning. For reservations, write the  
 Lodge at California Valley, Calif. 93453, or call Mrs. Shea,  
 Carrizo Plains 614 (via Paso Robles). Rates: \$7 single, \$9 double.  
 Leader: Jim Huffman 372-7124
- Dec. 14 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING "From Monterey to the  
 Sagebrush Plains" Arnold Small, former President of the  
 Los Angeles Audubon Society, will take us on hypothetical  
 transect of California with colored slides. The route will  
 reveal some of the finest land and wildlife of the California  
 scene. 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park, Refreshments.  
 Chairman: Don Adams
- Dec. 15 WEDNESDAY - CONSERVATION MEETING 8:00 p.m.,  
 Great Hall, Plummer Park.  
 Chairman: Bill Watson
- Jan. 2 SUNDAY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT We want as  
 many observers as possible again this year in order to make  
 the count as complete and thorough as we can. You do not

..... CALENDAR CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE .....

have to be an expert to be able to help; if you can recognize the common birds, you are qualified to participate. There will be enough "experts" in each party to deal with difficult identifications. Be sure to contact the chairman if you can be available.

Chairman: Bill Watson 1209 N. Edgemont Ave., Apt. 12  
Los Angeles 90029 651-8570  
or call Audubon House 876-0202

REMINDER:

Jan. 11 ANNUAL DINNER Rodger Young Banquet Room. This will take the place of our monthly meeting; details elsewhere.

Always bring lunch and binoculars to field trips.  
Please, no pets and no collecting.  
When unfavorable weather conditions might indicate a change in, or cancellation of, a scheduled Field Trip as announced, please call the leader or Audubon House.

## THE AUDUBON SCENE

### NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

"The West, with all its natural beauty, was won by men on horseback--and is being lost by men on bulldozers."

--Harry Karns, Garden City, N. Y.  
NEWSDAY

A recent column by Ted Durien appeared in the San Luis Obispo Telegram. It seems that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced plans to chop down trees and plants around the lowlands of the Colorado River and nearby reservoirs. They have a bill pending in Congress now which would also allow them to destroy huge areas of desert plants. Near Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada engineers have removed trees, brush, and grass, and spread polyethylene sheets over the mountainside. Why, you ask? ... In the Pacific Southwest Water Plan report issued by Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall and U.S. Reclamation Commissioner, Floyd E. Dominy, they claim that trees and plants are "evaporating machines which cause the loss of water from the soil into the air." .....

From THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK, San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society. Write your own editorial on THAT! Shall we have plastic trees?

## Audubon Gifts available from Berkeley Center

Those who received the Christmas gift catalogue and brochures from the New York headquarters will be glad to know that all books and items listed and pictured (as well as many more of specific Western interest) are available now at the Audubon Center in Berkeley -- write to:

National Audubon Society  
Conservation Resource Center  
2426 Bancroft Way  
Berkeley, California

## Remember Your Society

The Los Angeles Audubon Society needs funds to carry on its work in advancing public understanding of the value and need of soil, water, plants, and wildlife. May we suggest that you help to insure the continuance of this work by remembering the Los Angeles Audubon Society in your will or when making living gifts. Contributions are tax deductible. We suggest that you consult your tax attorney with respect to bequests or contributions.

## 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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## ★ Audubon Activities

CONTINUED

the Cardinal and Mockingbirds were competing for the vast wild grape crop. In this one spot we also saw Rufous-sided and Brown Towhees. In the immediate vicinity of the clubhouse, we were able to see sparrows, finches, warblers, hummers and jays, all within a several hundred foot radius. There were Waxwings, Thrashers, and Thrushes; the Black and Say's Phoebe, and Yellow-throat. Bird watching amounted to standing still and letting all these birds come to you. Out in the field, besides the ever present crows (who, by the way, have reduced the cardinal population by nest robbing), there were Sparrow and Red-tailed Hawks and one White-tailed Kite (these have nested in the area). Quail and Pheasant called from the undergrowth, but Meadowlarks were not plentiful. In a barrel on a post the resident Screech Owl (4 years now) took all those binoculars in stride. At lunch Bill Goodall spoke briefly and John Borneman gave a brief report on the Condor Watch. He said 38 birds were seen. He related an amazing incident of a hunter in the area of Sespi who was out to get a Condor: "Sure got to get one of them thar things before they're all gone." Oh boy does John Borneman have his headaches! We were glad to have Bettie Landis and Helen Brechenridge along.

November 9 EVENING MEETING

Guests were introduced by members of the society. Les Woods introduced Miss Marcella Bonitas from Panama; James Clements, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Norton of Pasadena; Russ Wilson, Allen Meyerfeld, taking time off from the Navy; and Henry Bradberry introduced himself as from Long Beach; so did Dorothy Askin, one of our newest members. It was good to see Bill and Helen Lehmann again. Bill is home on leave from Viet Nam. President Bill Watson read Carl Buchheister's statement on the Wildlife Area Act; California is again first to take advantage of Congressional Act to create perpetual sanctuary for a vanishing species the Condor.

Olga and Herb Clarke then gave their account of the Central American trip taken by 11 members of the Los Angeles Society and one San Fernando man, John Hopper. For two weeks, dividing their time between the Panama Canal Zone and Guatemala, the group sought out birds. Of possible 1400 species, they saw 300 almost all were life-birds. They took Blake's Mexican Birds along and a Colombian Book and wrestled with identifications well into the

# AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS



"INHERIT THE WILD" D.J. Nelson

Wednesday, DEC. 8th

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

night. Herb took his camera along and proceeded to show us what these two countries looked like, and we liked the looks! Some of his films were applauded. In my opinion all were well worth applause, not only for technique displayed but for subject matter as well from jungle trail to vista, from market place to native costumes. He caught the birders entranced (binocs in hand), viewing the rare Quetzal. He showed the birders lurching or dozing on the return from a day's birding. Tire trouble, bromeliads in the pines, bird portraits (borrowed) of some of the rarities that they saw, beautiful Lake Atitlan, mountainous Bakete, inaccessible Tical (by plane only) high in the mountains all these he showed and many more, all beautifully done.

# NOTES

By  
**BILL WATSON**

The National Audubon Society's 61st Annual Convention in Boston was many things to me. I left the East Coast ten years ago determined to become Southern Californian. For the first time since, I found myself on the East Coast again, specifically at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel in Boston.

I was alone, and the first familiar face I saw was that of Sandy Sprunt hurrying through the hotel lobby looking for coffee and breakfast that dreary Friday morning. I had arrived in Boston early, so that I might attend a pre-convention luncheon in the hotel at the invitation of Carl Buchheister. I was still waiting for a room when the next person I met in the busy lobby was Bill Goodall, industriously making arrangements as usual.

After freshening up in my room, I went to the Clarendon Room where I found myself in the company of Carl Buchheister, our National President, Vice President Herbert Mills, Roland Clement, Audubon Branch Services Director Ralph Jones, Allen Morgan, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and our own Bill Goodall. Also present were the Presidents of the State Audubon Societies: Florida, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Utah.

This meeting was called together by the National Audubon Society so that we might discuss the advantages of an Audubon Shared Services Center to develop membership promotion materials, conservation leaflets and newspaper publicity, at a cost that local societies can afford.

After luncheon it was time to register at the Convention, and when I did so, I saw on the bulletin board that forty-five people were coming to the Boston Convention from California. This number of registrants made California fourth in place in representation. The only states that had more registrants than California were New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. All told, it would appear that the Audubon Movement is an important one in California.

That evening I had an opportunity to say hello to Charles Callison and Russell Butcher. I had the thought in the back of my mind that I would like to bring something back from the convention for the Los Angeles Audubon Society that might represent what the convention was about. Russell told me of a CBS Reports documentary film that the National Audubon Society had acquired, and they were going to use this film during the convention. Russell readily agreed to let me

take this film back to Los Angeles with me on loan. The film, "Bulldozed America," was brought to Los Angeles by Barbara Hopper, San Fernando Valley Audubon President, and myself. It is being shown all over the Valley right now. We hope to get it down into Los Angeles proper soon, before we have to send it back.

The convention actually began on Saturday morning. The theme of the convention was THE NEW CONSERVATION, a phrase used by President Johnson. The New Conservation is an increasing concern by Americans for the total environment--from highway beautification and the control of urban sprawl to water and air pollution control and wilderness preservation.

All the convention speakers spoke in emphasis about the New Conservation, and most notably, that famous Conservation Congressman John P. Saylor made memorable keynote address that probably summed up the subject. In his speech he attacked the Rampart Dam proposal and the Grand Canyon dams as proposed, too. "We've told the Secretary of the Interior we want him to keep our national parks and monuments inviolate," Mr. Saylor said. "When we tell him that, we don't want him to flood out little piece of any one of them." Congressman Saylor told all Audubon members, "I know you have been called names, you have been ridiculed. Let me tell you - those who are not willing to stand up and be counted had better get out now because the fight is going to get even tougher. I don't care where you come from, what section of the country. It's about time you asked the people who represent you, not only on a national level, but on a state and local level, where they stand in trying to maintain the conservation field in a better position than it is now."

There were other thrilling and challenging words that exciting morning. Asst. Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, James M. Quigley, arrived late from the Presidential signing of the Water Quality Act of 1965. Mr. Quigley quoted President Johnson as saying, "This moment marks a very proud beginning for the United States of America. Today we proclaim our refusal to be strangled by the wastes of civilization... No one has a right to use America's rivers and America's waterways, that belong to all the people, as a sewer... This sort of carelessness and selfishness simply ought to be stopped; and more, it just must be reversed. And we are going to reverse it... Additional bolder legislation will be needed in the years ahead. But we have begun."

Another of these most quotable speakers was Dr. Ian McHarg, of the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania. In his vastly entertaining and deadly serious talk (there can be such a talk-I heard it), Dr. McHarg said, "It looks as if we prefer to have carcinogens and hydro-



carbons in our air instead of pure air. It looks as if we selected beautiful rivers for junkheaps and these locations to dispose of all that is foul. It looks as if we had established a national policy for the eradication of beauty and we had formulated it in such a way that it was incorporated into programs administered by the Bureau of Public Roads, the Bureau of Reclamation, and lots of state and municipal agencies... The physical environment we have made is not in fact a true reflection of the motives which generate and justify and give nobility to this society... We have to create a value system which gives true appropriate values to all the elements of the physical and biological processes... By and large the planning process (by man) of the moment does not recognize these functions, and therefore they are unprotected."

Are you getting the message we were given in Boston?

All of this and more, along with film and slide shows, were the National Audubon Convention as I experienced it. Intermingled with all the ideas and excitement of this great assemblage of 768 paid registrants, were familiar faces and new faces. Notably, I met our old friend, Goodie Pepke, who has moved back to New York State. Of course, Betty Jenner was always in evidence and she was as enthusiastic as I was in her response to all the ideas we were being exposed to.

Our Regional Forester from California, Charles Connaughton, was there, too, and he particularly told me that he wanted to hear every word that Carl Buchheister spoke. He considers Carl Buchheister a great man.

Barbara Hopper and her mother were at the convention, too, and it was with Barbara that I spent the rest of my time attending the special workshops. Representing the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, we were both delegates to the workshop program that the Massachusetts Audubon Society put on for 27 or so delegates from all over the country. These were held at the Massachusetts Audubon Society Headquarters at Drumlin Farm. In that splendid mansion out in the green countryside, we explored almost every operation that takes place there; the membership files and equipment, the Nature Center, the publications stock. At Allen Morgan's invitation we helped ourselves to many of the fine pamphlets his Society puts out.

The workshops were on publicity, membership, open space acquisition, and day camp programs. Barbara and I were so enthralled by the charming and extremely efficient lady who runs their membership program that we wished earnestly that we could bring her back to Los Angeles with us.

The last evening that I spent in Boston was at the Annual Dinner, sitting with Rupert Cutler of the Wilderness Society, and seeing Ty and Julie Hotchkiss' new Wildlife Film, "Tidewater Trails."

I was going to have to miss the day camp workshop on Wednesday afternoon because I had to be in town to get my plane back to Los Angeles. So Barbara and I arranged with Russell Butcher that she would bring the CBS film "Bulldozed America" back to Los Angeles with her the next day.

A few hours later, alone again, I was on my way back to Los Angeles. The excitement was not yet over, though. I arrived at International Airport on time, where Don and Caroline Adams picked me up and hurried me to UCLA to hear Stanley Caine speak. It was the third talk of the Nature and Natural Resources in an Expanding Population program.

Russ and Marion Wilson drove me home from UCLA, and the next morning, I went back to work.

I assure you, I am not over those five wonderfully exciting and informative days even now. I sincerely thank the Los Angeles Audubon Society for the honor you gave me in sending me as your delegate to the 61st National Audubon Convention.



## NEW MEMBERS

- Albright, Larry W.  
419 Sunset Ave., Venice, Calif. 90291
- Deatrich, Steve  
310 De Neve Circle, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Durkac, Mrs. John  
838 Fiske St., Pacific Palisades 90272
- Fox, Mrs. Jay  
10602 Ayres Ave., Los Angeles 90064
- Jobe, Mr. and Mrs. C.W.  
Taft Trailer Park, Taft, Calif. 93268
- McElheny, Mrs. Richard L.  
2428 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates
- Perrier, Gregory  
473 30th, Manhattan Beach, Calif.
- Schaar, Edward H.  
834 Jacan Way, Pacific Palisades
- Siptroth, Mrs. Gertrude A.  
2263 Pacific Ave., Costa Mesa, Calif.
- Smith, Grant N.  
1007 Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles 90049
- Smith, June  
202 S. Hamilton Dr., 7th floor, Rev. Hills
- Vanderveer, Lonnie T.  
521 West 64th Place, Inglewood 90302

### Corrections:

- Mrs. Charles Irwin should be  
Mrs. Charis Irwin, 8917 Wonderland Park  
Avenue, Hollywood
- Mr. Lee A. Abramson's address is  
834 Dunsmuir Avenue, Los Angeles 90036

There is a limited number of membership lists available for donation of 25¢ which may be paid in stamps. Call or write Audubon House. If you wish it mailed, send 10¢ more in stamps.

# southern california BIRDS

by DAVID A. GAINES

October has proven to be about the most interesting time for Southern California birdwatchers to be afield. The presence of eastern warblers, Mexican flycatchers, and other vagrant species all contribute to the belief that one can expect almost anything at this time of year. And indeed, when one finds Thick-billed Kingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, and three species of Longspur all within a mile, who can say exactly what will turn up next?

Hot coastal weather and the worst smog in years probably affected the birdwatchers more than the birds. No large numbers of migrants were found anywhere during October. But for those willing to carefully peruse all flocks of passerines, to check through thousands of Horned Larks and Pipits, to watch carefully the birds at the beach, the rewards, in the way of rare birds, were liberal.

Several pelagic birds of interest were observed in October. Lone Fulmars were at Santa Monica Pier on October 21 and at Bolsa Chica three days later. Some 40 Fulmars were reported from off Morro Bay at the end of the month by Irwin Woldman, who also saw a Slender-billed Shearwater. The Common Murre at Santa Monica remained into November. A female Oldsquaw that summered at Balboa was still there on November 6.

The Salton Sea provided good birding throughout October. Laughing and Franklin's Gulls were there for most of the month. Parasitic Jaegers gave the Sea a pelagic touch on October 17. Small numbers of Mountain Plovers frequented the nearby agricultural land. Among an extraordinary array of raptors were Pigeon Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, and an immature Bald Eagle. Nearby, in the Imperial Valley, the second state record for Coues' Flycatcher was taken by G. Sumway Suffel on September 29. The occurrence of this bird in California is simply remarkable, not to mention the difficulty in correct identification.



During October, the Pectoral Sandpiper remained widespread. Two birds were even found on the rocks at Playa del Rey. Up to ten Golden Plovers were found in San Diego, and a lone Golden was observed at Playa. Towards the end of the month, Dunlin arrived in numbers. In the Tijuana River Valley, small numbers of Mountain Plover were evident. Elegant Terns remained reasonably common into November. On October 20 an immature Franklin's Gull was watched dodging boats at Playa del Rey. —

The Tijuana River Valley, as usual, produced a staggering list of vagrant landbirds. This is the result of intensive observation by competent birders who know what to look for. Nevertheless, it is painfully obvious that fall birding in the Los Angeles area does not live up to birding farther south. There are, simply, not as many migrant species passing through Los Angeles. Why, however, is unexplained.

A Philadelphia Vireo was collected by Guy McCaskie at Imperial Beach on October 8. On October 19 McCaskie observed a Thick-billed Kingbird in the same area. Both these birds were first state records. Among the other birds to visit San Diego this October were White-winged Dove, Eastern Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Sage Thrasher, Brown Thrasher, Varied Thrush, American Redstart, Black and White Warbler, Palm Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Magnolia Warbler (collected), Lucy's Warbler (banded), Virginia Warbler, Ovenbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur (collected--2nd state specimen)! Most of these were in the Tijuana River Valley, but the Magnolia and Lucy's Warblers were found on Point Loma. The Brown Thrasher was visiting a feeder in San Diego, at which it could be watched eating bread crumbs. The Longspurs were seen among the large flocks of Horned Larks in the valley.

A few vagrants dared to be found away from San Diego. A Tropical Kingbird was at San Clemente October 20, and at nearby Dana Point were several Palm Warblers. Lone Palm Warblers were found at Playa del Rey and Morongo Valley. Also at Morongo was Blackpoll Warbler, Eastern Phoebe, and Mountain Chickadee.

During December, carefully check all loons, grebes, and ducks along the coast, and be on the watch for alcids, Oldsquaws, and Red-necked Grebes. Upper Newport Bay should be excellent for waterfowl. Among wintering landbirds look for White-throated and Harris Sparrows, Slate-colored and Grey-headed Juncos, Orioles, Tanagers, and Bohemian Waxwings. City parks and cemeteries, such as Rancho Park in West Los Angeles, have proven to be profitable localities for Orioles and other less usual wintering birds.



## Tucker Sanctuary List Compiled

Mr. Earl Sanders of Santa Ana has made a detailed summary of birds observed at Tucker Sanctuary during last July, August, and September. Space does not permit us to print this interesting chart, but it will be on the bulletin board at Audubon House so that all who plan a trip to Modjeska Canyon may consult it.

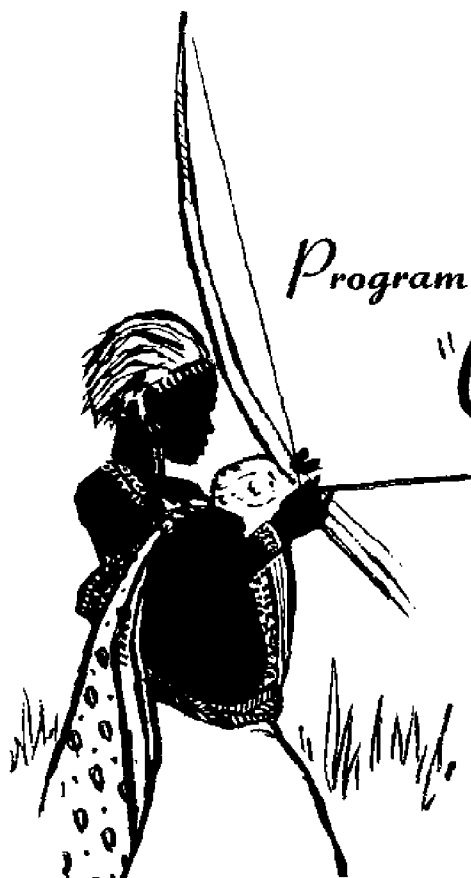
# Los Angeles Audubon Society

## Annual Dinner



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**\$5** per person  
incl. tax & tip



Program

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