

# A Salute - and an Invitation...

By Betty Jenner  
Editor, The Western Tanager



Mrs. Connie Hagar  
Rockport, Texas

Rockport, Texas - March 9, 1967 - Mrs. Connie Hagar, 82-year-old nationally-known ornithologist, "stole the show" at the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce Saturday night at Sandollar Colony Room. First, she was presented the Chamber's "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" award by R. L. Eckman, master of ceremonies; next she was officially informed that the Texas House of Representatives had approved a bill introduced by Rep. Leroy Wieting honoring Mrs. Hagar by changing the name of the Rockport Wildlife Sanctuary to the "Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary."

In making the "Outstanding Citizen" award presentation, Eckman praised Mrs. Hagar and said, "This little lady, with her writing and extensive knowledge about birds, has been responsible for interesting more people to come to Rockport than any other individual." (She swears that she didn't have even the faintest idea that this honor would be bestowed on her.)

The principal speaker, Dr. Albert Heine, director of the Corpus Christi Museum, told the audience of 200 that "80% of what is known today was not known 10 years ago." He discussed some of the scientific developments that have taken place and pointed out that advances are coming so fast that even experts in various fields are unable to keep posted on the latest happenings in their own line of endeavor.

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Two of us, Laura Lou Jenner and Better Jenner, had the memorable experience of visiting this gracious lady on March 20 of this year and of seeing the plaque which she so richly deserves. "Outstanding Citizen of 1966" it says, but to birders everywhere, she is the outstanding personality of any year. You have read of her in the Peterson-Fisher Wild America, and in Edwin Way Teale's Wandering Through Winter. It was she who first observed the extraordinary number of migrants that could be seen in the Rockport area and brought her observations to the attention of ornithologists.

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# A Salute...

## and an Invitation

Continued...

Mrs. Conger Hagar is not just a "lister"; she is a keen student of the infinite variations of bird behavior. Her only complaint now is that her doctors won't let her do as much as she'd like to. "But they send professional men in their 40's and 50's to me, and I am supposed to show them how to lose their tensions!" she says.

"Don't just look at the bird. Look at the trees, the flowers, the seashells, and see how everything is interdependent. Don't call yourself a good birder if you can't identify the bird in all seasonal change of plumage.

"People trying to see a bird sometimes say, 'The sun is in the wrong place.' Not so! The sun is where it's supposed to be. YOU are in the wrong place."

As you can tell, a conversation with Connie is stimulating; we were reluctant to leave, save for the fact that the telephone rang constantly, and we realized that her strength must be divided among many activities. She is in constant demand as a speaker at club meetings, luncheons, etc.

A SALUTE TO OUR COUNTRY'S NUMBER ONE BIRDER, CONNIE HAGAR; may she have long life and good health!

And now for the "invitation" of our title. Please think about the remarks by Dr. Heine as mentioned above; they point up the conclusion that unless a knowledgeable and dedicated public conscience is developed, we can lose everything real and beautiful on our Earth.

WE INVITE ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR SOCIAL ORDER to join us in our efforts toward preservation of species and habitat. Politicians can show STATESMANSHIP by thinking beyond today, conservation-wise. The bewildered young people looking for a cause can ESCAPE TO REALITY, in the words of Roger Tory Peterson. A trip to see the iridescent colors of a hummingbird, the vivid brilliance of Vermilion Flycatcher or Trogon; to hear the matchless music of Hermit Thrush, or the rushing wings of thousands of Snow Geese; to gain insight into the realities of the chain of life since the beginning of time; surely this is more meaningful than a sick LSD "trip."

We invite parents and teachers to be informed and to share their ecological awareness with youngsters. Biology teachers, in particular, must not fall into the "collecting" habit to the point of danger-

ously reducing numbers of tidepool creatures, reptiles etc. Collecting is to science no more than what scales and finger exercises are to the musician--only a means toward the real purpose, the knowledge and interpretation of life itself, not death.

Manufacturers of guns; hunters; sports writers; these have the heavy responsibility of informing the biologically ignorant "shooters" that they cannot kill indiscriminately.

The scientist--yes, in the hands and mind of the engineer-scientist are the possibilities of continuation or extirpation of many species. Fortunately, this is being recognized by the profession. By permission of THE LOS ANGELES ENGINEER-SCIENTIST, April, 1967, we quote Dr. Chancey Starr, dean of the UCLA College of Engineering:

"The engineer does not have the right to tell people how to use his inventions, but he does have the duty to ponder the long-range significance of his work...Areas in which the engineer-statesman must play a vital role are...air and water pollution, transportation, automation, and urban planning. All of this will require...engineers who have a strong grasp of economics, social sciences, and biological sciences...To keep up with constant technological and social changes, continuous life-long education will be the routine requirement for a successful engineering career."

So it must be with all levels of our social structure. Each in our own area, let's work toward a world in which technology is our servant, not our master.

Since the above was written, we have learned that Mrs. Hagar has undergone major surgery and is now recuperating. The good wishes of all of us go to her at this time, and we hope that she has a speedy and complete recovery.

## Nominations for 1967-68 Society Officers Announced

Chairman Arnold Small of the nominating committee has submitted the following slate of nominees for the fiscal year 1967-1968:

William Watson, President  
Laura Lou Jenner, First Vice-president  
Herbert Clarke, Second Vice-president  
Caroline Adams, Executive Secretary  
Frances Kohn, Recording Secretary  
Treasurer, Olga Clarke  
Registrar, Leonie Ferguson

# WHY NOT BIRD PICTURES?

by Russell Wilson

If you have taken pictures for years and you find that your interest in photography has diminished or even disappeared entirely, if you have recorded your travels, the scenery of the national parks from Organ Pipe to the Canadian Rockies, if the children are now grown and no longer cute subjects, why not revive your interest by making a collection of slides centered around some special subject? It could be flowers, it might be trees, for some it is sea shells, for readers of the Tanager it ought to be birds.

Bird photography is not easy and offers sufficient challenge to keep one striving for betterment for many years, even a lifetime of effort. Birds are difficult to get close to, many are secretive and remain in vegetative cover, seldom exposing themselves to full view, all are active and restless, seldom motionless except for brief intervals of time.

If you think for a moment of bird pictures you have enjoyed you will readily identify certain requirements that they will, without fail, have met. The image was large, perhaps large enough to fill the screen. All identification marks were shown. This may have required a front view so that breast markings were recorded, or again a back view with the head turned to one side, in any case it represented some careful planning by the photographer. The bird was doubtless shown in a natural location or on a natural perch, nothing man-made intruded. The bird was presented in a pleasing and a typical pose and it is likely that the eye showed clearly, with, in many cases, a highlight in it. This one thing alone can make a picture alive and exciting that would otherwise be mediocre.

How can the photographer get close enough to the bird to meet these requirements? First consider water, preferably a small body of water so that anything that comes to it will of necessity be not very



far away. An easy place to start is the pond of a city park where ducks and gulls and grebes congregate and are quite used to the movements of human beings. These birds are also large birds which present a much less exacting problem than do the small passerines. Consider also a small spring or seep of water in the mountains or desert, preferably one that is the only surface water available for some miles around, such a spot can bring a dozen species within easy reach of your camera in a reasonably short period of time. Don't forget the opportunities provided by a dripping water faucet, but try to keep the faucet itself out of the picture. Or you can establish your own watering spot. If you do, put a suitable perch above it or near it. Most birds will come to the perch first, will size the situation up before drinking, as they instinctively realize that it is precisely here at the water hole that a hawk may strike or some other predator lie in wait. You may even prefer to photograph the bird on the perch, as the water hole might introduce something patently man-made into the picture.

Many birds can be attracted to a feeding station and photographed there, whether at your home in town or at your camp in the mountains or desert. For some birds, suet, for others, seeds or raisins or bread crumbs; for very many birds, peanut butter, will be effective lures. Here again it is best to contrive to place the food in such a way that it will not show in the picture.

Many of the best pictures are made at the nest, and nest finding can in itself be a challenging search, requiring more careful study of the life history of the birds than you have found necessary before. If you get pictures this way, please give a thought to the effect your activities may have on the nesting success of the birds. Don't keep them away from the nest so long that eggs become chilled or that young birds are exposed too long to the elements. If you cut away troublesome twigs to let in light or to get a clear shot at the nest, you may well condemn the eggs or the young to predation by jays or shrikes or ravens.

You will not get very far with bird photography without discovering the need for a blind, for this often offers the only means of getting as close to the bird as is required. Some birds accept a blind readily, others have to be accustomed to it gradually. A friend once related an experience in which it took him three days to get the blind in position. Each day

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# WHY NOT BIRD PICTURES?

*Continued...*

he advanced it two or three times; once he had to withdraw it a short distance as he had moved forward too rapidly and the birds were refusing to return to the nest, then move forward again until, on the third day, it was in position. By that time the birds accepted it as part of the environment and came and went in undisturbed pursuit of their nesting chores.

Another technique is to set the camera on a tripod, focus it on the spot where you expect the bird to perch, attach a long cable release and retreat thirty or forty feet where your presence will not be a disturbing influence, then wait for the bird to return. This has certain disadvantages over other techniques. You are never as certain that the bird is properly framed, that the focus is just right, that the plumage has not been ruffled by an errant breeze, as when you are behind the camera looking through the lens.

Today's hobbyist has a wide selection of cameras and lenses, of attachments and film emulsions from which to choose, and many of the middle priced ones are of excellent quality. Certainly some telephoto lenses are an absolute requirement, and from this point on every choice made by the photographer represents a compromise between mutually antagonistic characteristics of equipment and film. The longer the lens, the larger the image and the farther the photographer can be from his subject, the more frequently he can avoid the troublesome nuisance of setting up a blind. Simultaneously the problem of movement by the bird and of movement by the camera are maximized. To offset the latter, use a tripod, to offset both, use a faster shutter speed. However, a faster shutter speed will require a larger lens aperture and this in turn reduces the depth of field. Depth of field may become the critical requirement, since telephoto lenses have a shallow depth of field when focused at close range. In order to use a fast shutter speed and also a small lens aperture, use a fast film emulsion. However, the faster film emulsions seem to produce a less sharp resolution of detail, so essential for a really fine bird picture. It is here that the skill, judgement and ingenuity of the photographer find their greatest opportunity. Some follow the maxim "Use the shortest lens compatible with the other requirements," that is, the size of the bird, how close you can get, etc. All of this assumes that you are taking pictures with available light; the use of electronic flash is a proper topic for another discussion.

Whether or not your bird pictures ever earn the praise and admiration of your friends, certain benefits will inescapably accrue to the bird photographer. A new depth will be added to your study of birds. You will need to know more about their behavior, what

they will eat, when and where they will nest, where they will perch. You will also gain a more sophisticated appreciation of good bird pictures taken by others. Although a poor photographer will now and then make a fine picture, by accident as it were, it is still true that the best pictures are made by the best photographers. And last but not least, you will have the fun and excitement of taking them. As a boy and young man I used to hunt; ducks, pheasants, quail doves, and I now find that I get as much excitement, in fact the same kind of excitement, from getting the bird I want in the view finder of the camera as I used to get from seeing it over the sights of a gun.



About the author - The writer of our article on photography needs no introduction to those who have been members of our Society for some time. For the information of newer members, it should be mentioned that Russell Wilson and his wife Marion for many years were very active in the society, and now are on an extended trailer-tour of the country. They can observe birds at leisure, and can be where the birds are at the right season, as Russ retired last year after many years as a teacher.

It was the extreme good fortune of your editor and your program chairman to encounter these two fine birders during a trip to Southeast Texas this (1967) Easter vacation. As we rounded a curve in the road at Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge on the Rio Grande -- there they were, at a photographer's blind -- two of our favorite people! We can report that they look relaxed and fit, and that they are enjoying retirement even more than they had anticipated. - With them, at this refuge, we saw Green Jays, Lichtenstein's & Black-headed Orioles, Kiskadees, Tropical Kingbirds, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Chachalacas, Olive Sparrows, Red-billed Pigeons, White-fronted Doves, Louisiana Waterthrush, Least Grebes, and many more, including a migrating flight of Broad-winged Hawks. Some of these, Russ had photographed. We were guests in their trailer for a delicious dinner, and after dark the four of us drove to Bentsen State Park and saw Pauragues, a life bird for all of us.

From the Santa Ana Refuge area they were next going to the Laguna Atascosa Refuge area, where they no doubt saw the Black-bellied Tree Duck (we were lucky and saw forty of them in a "resaca"). Then, the Wilsons were planning to go up to Rockport for the great spring migration. We hope that they got to see the Whooping Cranes as well as we did; from the boat which goes up the intercoastal canal, past the Aransas Refuge, we saw thirty-five cranes!

The Wilsons said to say "hello" to everyone, and in case you have lost their address, here it is:

Russell & Marion Wilson  
c/o 5440 N. Cochin Ave.  
Arcadia, Calif. 91006



WILLIAM T. WATSON, *President*  
 1249 N. Edgemont Ave., Apt. 12  
 Los Angeles 90029 661-8570

Headquarters, Nature Museum & Library  
 located at Audubon House Plummer Park  
 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046  
 Telephone 876-0202

MAY 1967						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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28	29	30	31			

MRS. DONALD ADAMS, *Executive Secretary*  
 705 26th. Street  
 Manhattan Beach 90266 372-5536

May 2 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

May 9 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park.  
 "Hummingbird Hill" by Mr. Paul B. Douglass, Past President of the Pasadena Film Club. This is an excellent color film and accompanying sound tape of the wildlife and birds which visit Mr. Douglass' home in Monrovia.

Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

May 13 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Santa Clara River Wash & Elizabeth Lake Road - 8:00 a.m. Take the Golden State Freeway north to the Calico Kitchen Restaurant, formerly the 1st Tips Restaurant. Exit right but go left under freeway. About 9 miles north of junction with U. S. 6.

Leader: Sandy Wohlgemuth: 344-8531

May 28 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Pt. Fermin & Palos Verdes Estates. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Take Harbor Freeway to San Pedro. At freeway exit bear right a very short block to Gaffey Avenue. Follow Gaffey south to Pt. Fermin Park. If you desire, plan to devote some time to nest locating. Red Crossbills were nesting here in April. This is a new trip and new locations will be explored; Shirley hopes to take us into the South Coast Botanical Garden, which has ponds and interesting plantings.

Leader: Shirley Wells 757-5049

June 8 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

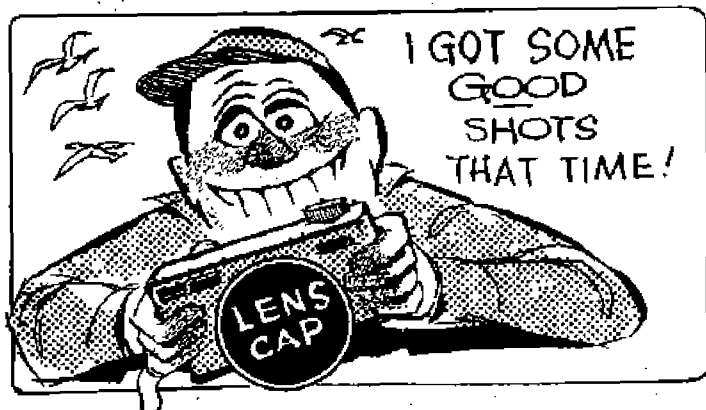
June 10 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Buckhorn Flats

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES.

If you have not yet sent in that check to the Condor Fund, remember-- make it out to The Los Angeles Audubon Society, and mail to:

Olga Clarke, 2027 El Arbolita Drive  
 Glendale, Calif. 91208



## Read and Act!

After five long years, the Western Office of the National Audubon Society cordially invites you to attend the renewal of the popular Asilomar Conferences. The challenging theme for the Conference is: "Playing Russian Roulette With Nature." Mark well and save the dates of April 6-7-8-9, 1968, (Saturday through Tuesday). In addition, should you desire to receive priority information, and registration and trip reservation forms, simply mail a postcard now with your name, address, and zip-code to: AUDUBON CONFERENCE - P.O. Box 3666 - El Monte, Calif. 91733. Materials will then be sent to you early in the fall, ahead of the general public and group mailings. In keen anticipation,

Merrily,  
 Bill Goodall

# the chow line

by Marian Jobe



Canada's forests are a teeming nursery during the early summer months. An endless succession of crying babies accompanies those who travel across southern British Columbia. Perhaps it is the mother instinct which prompts females to take delight in the young of any animal species. Certainly bird babies can be fetching, hideous, charming, obnoxious, or comical--and always a show to watch.

I find the very young nestlings display less personality than the downy balls of fluff which are able to move about and get thoroughly underfoot. Their antics are both funny and infuriating. Some of them were thorough brats, and should have been disciplined! I remember in particular a young robin who was so importunate that he tore around planting himself squarely in the parental path, so the older birds were unable to step without stumbling over him. Some people spoil their children so terribly!

Most colorful of the babies I saw was a male American Redstart--the most wildly splashed-up youngster extant! He looked as if he had wallowed about on an easel full of paints. But his bright orange splotches gave sure clue to his identity. Noisiest nestlings were a family of Downy Woodpeckers, but they didn't far out-do a batch of Yellow Warblers chasing their harried parents through lake-side willows. I'm sure that poor father had to go on relief to provide food for his clamoring passel of brats.

It looks rather ridiculous to see the young of normally dignified birds posturing and begging-- I am thinking of a pair of young Cedar Waxwings, full-grown and resembling adults, but still receiving parental care. Baby Crows grow to be so big, and their bright-red mouth parts look positively disgusting. A family of four yelled around in a dead tree-top--no reticence or dignity at all. Just one of those blatantly noisy families we deplore!

Tender moments were supplied by a clutch of three Olive-sided Flycatchers huddled into a solid fluff ball on a branch--and a group of three Rufous Hummingbird babies being pierced apparently to their toes by mama. The adult flycatchers coming in with provender was my only clue to the identity

of his offspring, but the little hummers lacked only bill and tail length to resemble their kind.

A pair of Common Loons on Echo Lake gave a wonderful and complete demonstration of parental solicitude--and all over one diminutive chick. He was so tiny that he was non-existent as he swam along between his great parents--until I put binoculars on the group. When our boat came too close to suit, the diversionary tactics began--hooting, diving, separating, and a general hullabaloo all over the placid surface of the little lake. Heavens! We didn't want their furry little black blob, but we did enjoy their show. One day they evidently hid him out shoreside, as they appeared without him and swam about with great show of nonchalance--see, folks, no chick!

Baby Dippers in a nest under a bridge and over a rushing stream gave me heart failure. We just can't help relating situations to our own human feelings. Yes, I know this is a proper place for Ouzels, but still!

It is such a break to find grouse with young at roadside. Mama eventually gets the babies eased off into the weeds where they promptly melt, but meanwhile there has been good chance to study her markings, as she is too conscientious a parent to go zooming off and abandon her brood. We watched both Sharp-tailed and Spruce Grouse in this way.

Two Mallard mothers with large families at Echo Lake were so tame that they were regular panhandlers. Handouts were expected--no, demanded. But the female Common Goldeneye held her two chicks aloof. They were adorable babies, though, through the glass. And a Merganser brood buzzing off in mother's wake is too, too funny. They may be aqua-bound, but they can move!

Golden Eagle young were the largest offspring we saw, needless to say. We did not find the Osprey nest at Pinchi Lake, but were able to watch the adult fishing, and soaring off with his catch, presumably to nestlings.

"Free as a bird" is a false premise. Those were busy birds we watched in Canada, taking their duties seriously, and zealously insuring that we can go back another summer and focus on the chow line.

## Appreciation and Commendation

We commend an action of truly modern and far-seeing statesmanship on the part of our City Council. On March 9, 1967, the following motion by Councilman Gilbert W. Lindsay was seconded by Councilman James B. Potter Jr. and adopted unanimously by all Councilmen present:

The Tule Elk is a unique, nearly extinct animal. Like the great American Condor, this last remaining species is struggling for survival. The major habitat of the Tule Elk at present is in the Owens Valley, which is owned almost entirely by the Department of Water and Power. Therefore:

I MOVE that the City authorize that portion of Owens Valley lying between Tinemaha and Owens Lake be set aside as a wildlife refuge.

The Department of Water and Power has jurisdiction over the land, and we look forward to an orderly implementation that will give maximum protection to the Tule Elk, other wildlife, watershed, and the natural scene. In its setting of unsurpassed scenic splendor, this Owens Valley Wildlife Refuge, when fully implemented, will take its place among the greatest in the nation, and strengthen the local economy by increased tourist attraction. This very well could be one of the most important conservation measures of our time.

If our readers would like to register appreciation, please write:

City Clerk, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif.

and, Department of Water and Power,  
111 N. Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif.

## 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 you make living gifts. Contributions are tax deductible. We suggest that you consult your tax attorney with respect to bequests or contributions.

It was announced at the last meeting of the Board of your Society that a check for \$1000 has been received, a bequest of the late philanthropist, Miss Bertha Ducommun. We acknowledge this gift with sincere appreciation.

## THIRD ANNUAL BIRDWATCHING CRUISE TO JAPAN ANNOUNCED

JOIN Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr. aboard the American President Liner - SS President Roosevelt, for the cruise leaving San Francisco on Sept. 28 and returning on Nov. 4. Those who have taken this birding trip to Japan have enjoyed it very much. For complete information write:

Haley Corp., 500 Sansome St. or American President Lines, 601 California St. in San Francisco.

## On Tidepool Collecting ...

My husband and I, tidepool photographers for several years, have had the opportunity to notice the decline in the numbers of certain shore animals to the point of near-extinction.

On the rocky shores of Mendocino County three years ago where the large 6" red spiny sea urchins were plentiful, we ran across a group of people (Czech or Italian) who had gathered a pile of these red urchins and were eating them raw with lemon juice. When they were ready to leave, they offered us the rest of the urchins -- they had had all they wanted. There were at least two dozen left to die; the people didn't think of how long it takes to grow a 6" urchin. Now there are none over an inch in diameter and the large ones are found only in very deep water, inaccessible to the public.

Another time we saw five different college biology classes in one day along the Sonoma County coast, all with buckets and jars in hand, collecting everything that moved.

Pescadero coast, just below San Francisco, formerly the habitat of some of the largest of the blue-green anemones, now is stripped of animal life. We saw several small boys on a Saturday afternoon, complete with buckets, prying off limpets and anemones, turning over rocks, and collecting everything they came across. When asked what they were going to do with the animals they said, "We're just taking them home to show our mothers." We came back with, "But don't you know they'll die?" and they left us with a shrug of the shoulders.

The Bolinas coast tells the same story. From the marine station, you cannot find many animals without walking almost a mile north over treacherous rocks and seaweed. We don't like it when the Russians take the fish near our shores so why do we allow our own people to rob our seacoast of its precious wildlife?

Mrs. Alice Kessler  
THE OBSERVER, Sacramento  
Audubon Society  
March, 1967

# Audubon Activities

By Otto Widmann

## March 8 - TUESDAY EVENING MEETING -

When all the late-comers finally settled down, we had over a hundred people present. From UCLA were Elizabeth Bartholomew, Frances John, and Mrs. J. Magown; also as visitors were Mr. & Mrs. Harrison and son Mike, a new member; Marie J. Lambert, Madeleine Korol, and Mary Schroeder.

Don Schroeder showed us his "Galapagos Island" films, taken in the course of a sojourn there when he was doing research on mosquitoes. Truthfully, his pictures were as fine or finer than those in the April "National Geographic Magazine". During the course of the evening we visited the 13 islands in the group, learning the salient features of each, from the most arid to the more heavily wooded. Water is the most precious commodity, and can not even be used for bathing. A pan of water set out brings instant Mockingbirds: they never have enough, hence the rush. We went from Lava Lizard to Lava Gull; Darwin Fiches, Vermilion Flycatchers, Boobies, Flightless Cormorants; Sea and Land Iguanas, and huge tortoises, were some of the wonders of this memorable evening.

## March 11 - FIELD TRIP TUJUNGA WASH-

For 2 1/2 hours there was a threat of rain. Before it materialized, Warren Blazer, our leader for the day, led us up the wash, where we listened to the songs; Spring had indeed come. The strident Crow greeted us while from the hillside the Mockingbird's song was hard to distinguish from that of the California Thrasher. At one place Bewick's, Rock, and Cactus Wrens competed. Beyond the cascading creek Killdeer called repeatedly and Flicker gave his sharp call. -- The Gene Roses re-established themselves as ardent birders after their absence in Germany for a year. Marjorie McClelland from the San Fernando Audubon Society joined us for the day. Bill Watson dropped by to see that we got off to a good start. Our list was held down to 18 species.

## March 26 - IRVINE-TUCKER-O'NEILL FIELD

TRIP - Ellen Stephenson bravely undertook the arduous task of leading the group through the Santa Ana Mountains. At Irvine were Goldfinches and Savannah Sparrow. At the pond in Peters Canyon were Sora & Virginia Rail, Gallinule, and Coot. Anna's Hummer & Bullock's Oriole nested overhead. At Tucker Sanctuary were Anna's, Black-chinned, & Costa's Hummers. Grosbeak & Nuttall's Woodpecker were with the many Quail. We could hear but not see the Black-chinned Sparrow. Overhead were White-throated Swifts, and Violet-green, Cliff, & Roughwinged

Swallows. Band-tailed Pigeons seemed to be everywhere. We ate lunch at O'Neill midst Easter Egg hunts and hundreds of people. Among those on the trip were Ginny Johnson, Irene Greenhut, and Margie & Jim McClelland; the Dan Siemens came up from Laguna Beach to be with us. We want to thank Ellen Stephenson for a memorable day. We saw 62 species and the weather was brisk and perfect for birding.

## March 29 - WILDLIFE FILM - "VILLAGE

BENEATH THE SEA" - For just this once our road along Nature's trail was diverted into the sea, and here Harry Pederson showed us a whole community; first, plant forms, then forms more animal than plant, then the fish, each adapting itself to its environment - exotic for us to the extreme. There were the beautiful Sea Anemone, flagellant Hydras, Parrot Fish with powerful beaks, Neon Gobies cleansing parasites from other fish, - and a spiderlike shrimp that was named after its discoverer, Mr. Pederson. We wish him luck in his dream that some day, man may have an artificial gill in order to enjoy all the wonders of the sea; and that man may develop the intelligence to observe these wonders without destroying them.

## April 8 - FIELD TRIP - CHANTRY FLATS

It was jacket weather all day - windy, lively, sunny. There were 33 of us that walked to the Falls to see the Dipper, but before we got there, Harold & Dorothy Baxter moved us about the Flats to see Black-throated Gray Warblers, Audubon Warblers in vivid color, Purple Finch, Warbling Vireo, Kinglets, both Jays, Bushtits, Wrentits, Flickers, Crows, and Orange-crowned & Wilson's Warblers. All were in song. Swallows, Swifts, Hawks - Cooper's & Red-tailed - were on the wing. At lunch time, Golden-crowned and White-crowned Sparrows, and Rufous-sided Towhees remained. Virginia Miller and Lillian Reynolds were with us again; the Roses brought the Shaffers (Stuart, Beverly, and Steven) for their first birding trip with the group. The Don Hardts, the David Maryns, Gordon Nelson, and Fred Haerich were with us. The Lewis Garrets opened their mountain cabin to us and we had the pleasure of crossing the noisy stream on a log, while we held on to a cable rail. Here refreshing drinks were served, reviving us for the hike uphill to the cars. Many thanks to the Garrets for their hospitality! Spring flowers are out: Ceanothus covers the hillside, poppies & lupine dot the landscape. Larkspur, Coral Bells, Indian Paintbrush; carpets of Baby-blue-eyes; and more Tiger Lilies starting than in many a year. We want to thank the Baxters for a delightful day, and for 42 species of birds.

KNOW ANYONE WHO'D MAKE A GOOD  
AUDUBON MEMBER? SEND THE  
NAME TO AUDUBON HOUSE NOW!



# Conservation Notes

By James W. Huffman

## IT LOOKS LIKE A VICTORY IN THE EVERGLADES

Everglades National Park, which seems to need more lives than a cat, has once more been saved from destruction -- at least it looks that way now. The threat this time came from flood control canal C-111, built by the U.S. Army Engineers, which would let salt water in and fresh water out of the park.

To halt the opening of the canal until the engineers install a seagate or make other provision to protect the park, the National Audubon Society on March 15 filed suit in the U.S. District Court in Miami against Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor and Lt. Gen. William F. Cassidy, chief of the Army Engineers. In this unprecedented action the Society charged the Engineers with exceeding their authority under Flood Control laws.

The suit led to new talks between the National Audubon Society and representatives of the Southern and Central Florida Flood Control District. As of this writing, the Flood Control people expect to come up with a plan to protect the park that will be agreeable to all concerned. Simply stated, we hope to settle out of court. The outlook is most encouraging, but we haven't dropped our right to go back to court if we think it necessary.

The park area which lies in the watershed below C-111 is an extremely important one for some of America's endangered species. For one thing, almost all the park's crocodiles (even rarer than alligators) live here, as well as half the Roseate Spoonbills and a quarter of the Great White Herons. If the canal had been opened last month, as feared, salt water would have spilled into the park during periods of on-shore winds and high tides; at other times the fresh water would have flowed out. Little life could thrive in an area alternating from fresh to salt.

The fight to protect Everglades National Park is not a new one for the Society. We played a primary role in establishment of the park back in 1947 and have fought ever since to allay the dual threats of drought and flood brought on by the real estate invasion of Florida. Thus, taking its case to federal court is just a more dramatic manifestation of the Society's continuing effort to preserve the Everglades.

And even assuming all goes well with the C-111 affair, the fight to protect the Everglades may go on forever.

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Deplore it or welcome it as you may, the fact remains that National Audubon has been joined by the protest generation. Picketing biology students from the University of the State of

New York, Stony Brook, last month joined the anti-DDT fight we are supporting in Eastern Long Island.

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There is a new but inevitable threat to our national parks and monuments - national cemeteries. Unfortunately, the federal government has not purchased new land for the burial of war veterans, so the American Legion is campaigning to establish a national cemetery in Joshua Tree National Monument. With all the land in the public domain, is it necessary to invade a National Monument even for this purpose?

## New Members

Welcome!

Mr. & Mrs. David Barry III  
245 North Saltair Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90049

Mrs. Jeff Corey  
705 Foothill Road  
Ojai, Calif.

Mr. J. C. Dora  
333 Palos Verdes Blvd.  
Redondo Beach, Calif. 90277

Virginia Gerling  
8337 Rindge Ave.  
Playa del Rey, Calif.

Mrs. James B. Gordon  
27252 Sunnyridge Road  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif 90274

Mrs. John Hague  
1020 Oriole Drive  
Pt. Mugu, Calif. 93041

Mr. Charles M. Holmes  
1001 E. Rosecrans Ave.  
Compton, Calif. 90221

Aline Hosman  
1278 1/2 Devon Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

Jacqueline Lehrer & Family  
4602 Los Feliz Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027

Mr. & Mrs. Loren G. Symons  
2237 Maravilla Drive  
Hollywood, Calif. 90028

Phyllis Yates  
5624 Kemiston Ave.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90043

We thank Mr. and Mrs. Symons for taking a membership in the "Donor" category.

# Southern California Birds

By Shirley Wells

Since last month was rather uneventful, birdwise, David Gaines has turned over the column to Shirley Wells for a discussion of the North American Nest-Record Card Program. She states:

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is expanding its 1967 nest-record card program. Mrs. Edith Edgerton, newly in charge of the program, assures us that they will be extremely pleased to have the Los Angeles Audubon Society continue to serve as Regional Center for Southern California. Alce E. Fries of L.A. Audubon was one of the participants cited in the recent Cornell Newsletter as having returned over fifty cards in 1966.

The Newsletter continues, "Besides the collection of data on all species, we plan to initiate special surveys. The first of these is the Mourning Dove Survey, which is to be carried out in cooperation with a number of State Fish & Game Departments. This species is a particularly interesting one for this type of study since it has a wide breeding distribution, is considered a game species in some states, and is not currently studied on a continent-wide basis as are waterfowl. It is hoped that many persons besides State biologists will contribute by sending in cards on this species. We plan to maintain this survey for several years and to issue an annual report which can be obtained on request. The progress of this survey will also be reported in this Newsletter."

Many birds seem to be adapting to changing habitat; areas of well-established introduced plantings are providing the necessary shelter and food to encourage nesting activities well out of the normal known range. Presently, Allen's Hummingbirds and Red Crossbills are nesting

on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Cedar Waxwings raised a family on Dana Point a few summers ago, and it would seem likely that they could be discovered elsewhere in coastal Southern California to add to the data being compiled by the Cornell Program. Although it is interesting and stimulating to discover a new nesting species in an established area, every nest observation of every species is desired and valuable.

A May Field Trip will emphasize nesting species and sites on the Palos Verdes Peninsula in an attempt to assist our members in developing interest and skill in this fascinating aspect of bird watching. Those of you whose Life Lists are at a standstill may want to start a new type of Life List. Bring details of any nesting information you may have and we will have Nest-Record Cards for you, and will try to answer any questions.

Cards which are quite simple to fill out will be provided for all our readers who are interested in this program. Anyone discovering an active nest and/or something about its contents at least once can record his observations on one of these cards and return it to Cornell. You are cautioned not to attract any unnecessary attention to the nesting site, or discourage brooding or feeding of young birds in any way.

For cards and information, contact:

Audubon House  
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90046; 876-0202

Shirley Wells  
10712 Fifth Ave.  
Inglewood, Calif. 90303; 757-5049



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