



ALASKA BIRDING TRIP

By R. DUDLEY ROSS

The efficient way to visit Alaska is, of course, to fly both ways. However, when you get there you are without transportation, and hiring cars, like everything else in Alaska, is expensive. Virtually everything must be flown in or else transported over enormous distances by boat or truck; hence the cost is high. Moreover, Alaska's road system is not only limited, thus far at least, but is almost entirely restricted to the southeastern quarter of the state. To go anywhere else you fly and, when you arrive, there are no roads for the simple reason that there is no place to go.

When my wife and I decided to go to Alaska, we agreed it would be a pity not to see the country on the way and, besides, we wanted the experience of driving over the Alaska Highway, formerly known as the Alcan Highway. In spite of having but a month's time for the trip, we felt these considerations were more important (and less expensive) than sheer efficiency. Result? We drove. However, some intricate scheming and planning allowed us five additional days in Alaska and this came about in the following manner. We drove back along the Alaska Highway only as far as Haines Junction, where we took a road known as the Haines Cut-off to the village of Haines in the northern part of the Alaska panhandle. Here we took the boat on a 30-hour trip through the famous Inland Passage to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, then drove to Seattle Washington (here is where the scheming comes in), where we met friends from Pennsylvania who had flown out to join us there. We turned our car over to them, flew home, picked up their car at the Philadelphia airport and used it for transportation while they took a two-week vacation in our car, starting from Seattle. Thus, were five days added to our stay in Alaska.

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ALASKA BIRDING TRIP



Continued.

Our trip really started from our daughter's home in Illinois on June 19th and our schedule called for me to average 500 miles per day for seven days. While we did some birding along the way, we wanted to make time and knew there would be no new birds for us en route. We headed in a northwesterly direction through Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta and reached Dawson Creek, British Columbia, the evening of the 22nd. On the way we had stopped to renew our acquaintance with the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, near Kenmare, North Dakota, where we did some birding. It seems incredible but we managed not to see a single hawk during the entire 380-mile drive through North Dakota!

Dawson Creek is the southern terminus of the Alaska Highway, which runs for 1523 miles to Fairbanks. The first 84 miles out of Dawson Creek are blacktop and then there is a stretch of approximately 1150 miles of gravel until one reaches the Alaska border, when blacktop again appears. At mile 101, we passed through the town of Wonowon, formerly called Blueberry. Before attempting to drive the gravel portion of the highway, it is advisable to have a metal plate placed beneath your gas tank to protect it from flying stones; also transparent plastic shields over the headlights. Any garage in sizeable cities can do this on short notice. Over this gravel your speed, in general, should not exceed 35 to 40 miles per hour, although 50 can occasionally be achieved, but only for short distances. To attempt to drive consistently faster than 40 miles per hour is to risk ruining one or more tires due to sharp rocks. The highway is certainly not a boulevard or freeway but, with a little common sense, there is nothing to be apprehensive about, even though one is getting into the last frontier country left in North America. Whereas at this season the road is ordinarily dusty and headlights are often lit during the day, we had two solid days of rain and so only had to contend with slippery clay-like mud. I still managed to average the planned 500 miles per day but had to drive longer hours in order to accomplish this.

On the way to the Alaskan border, the country becomes increasingly northern in character, with evergreens predominating and, of course, it became more and more sparsely settled. However, there are accommodations available; not always first class, sometimes even rather primitive, but always clean. You are never more than 30 miles from a service station. Birds seen along the way included Varied Thrush, both three-toed woodpeckers, Red Crossbill, Gray Jay, Golden Eagle, Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing and Barrow's Goldeneye.

We crossed the international boundary from the Yukon into Alaska on the 25th and, after nearly 1200 miles of gravel road, the blacktop seemed positively marvelous. At our first restaurant stop in our largest

state we found such prices as hamburgers 90¢, canned soups 50¢, Coca-cola 25¢.

We left the Alaska Highway at Delta Junction, taking the Richardson Highway south to Paxson for the night, where there is a very pleasant motel. Interesting birds for the day included Harlan's Hawk (the commonest hawk in interior Alaska) and a pair of Harlequin Ducks in a little roadside slough. It was also interesting to see Arctic Terns fishing along the narrow, turbulent streams so far inland - even at one o'clock in the morning, with the sun shining! We then went on to Anchorage to catch our plane for the Pribilofs, of fur seal fame. Most days the temperature ranged from about 40 to the mid-fifties. There was ice still on a number of the lakes, even at the end of June.

After an overnight stay in Anchorage, Alaska's largest city, we took off at seven in the morning of June 28th, flying southwest over the Alaska Peninsula with its 10,000-foot volcanic peaks, to Cold Bay, at the beginning of the Aleutian Islands. After a stop here for refueling, we took off over the Bering Sea and arrived at St. Paul Island in mid-afternoon. We stayed at Government House, where the accommodations were much better than we had expected. We were to take our meals at the government mess, together with the fur sealers, marine biologists etc. and where you had to be right on time for meals as they were served family style and it was a case of devil-take-the-hindmost.

The nearest, and supposedly poorest, bird cliffs were but a fifteen minute walk from the village, which was an Eskimo settlement of some 500 inhabitants. Along the way, Lapland Longspurs were singing everywhere and Aleutian (Gray-crowned) Rosy Finches were a common dooryard bird. These two species, with the more inland Snow Bunting, compose the entire regular landbird population of the island, the Aleutian (Winter) Wren not having been seen there for several years.

Arrived at the "poor" nearby cliffs, we walked along a narrow path at the top and, in almost no time, we had seen both murre, Tufted and Horned Puffins, Least, Crested and Parakeet Auklets, Black-legged and Red-legged Kittiwakes and Red-faced Cormorants and in almost unbelievable numbers. They

were constantly flying by at eye level and below, or just overhead; a truly exciting place. The following morning we went to the southwest corner of the island, to what we later called the Fulmar Cliffs because here we had the first Fulmars of the trip. Here the cliffs are higher and even more thickly populated with birds. Not only were there thousands of birds resting on the ledges but others were sitting on the water, while untold numbers were constantly trading back and forth. Any sizeable seabird colony is an intriguing place, but this was breathtaking. Out on the water, Harlequin Ducks were common, in flocks up to 40 or 45 individuals, while on land the Pribilof (Rock) Sandpiper seemed to be everywhere and we greatly enjoyed its trilling song and nuptial flight.

The following day was more and more of the same and we could never get enough of it. Our greatest find, from a purely ornithological standpoint, was the discovery of an Eastern Kingbird, perched atop a high, jagged rock out on the tundra. This was the first Pribilof record, the fourth or fifth for Alaska and the furthest west ever. Speaking of being far west, it is startling to find that not only are the Pribilofs further west than the easternmost tip of Siberia but are also further west than Hawaii. You have to look at the map to believe it.

To some, St. Paul Island might seem bleak. It has few hills and is rather rolling in places but there are no trees and the dry tundra is endless. Nevertheless, it is a veritable flower garden, although all flowers are a dwarf variety, due to the northerly situation. Some meadows were carpeted with lupines, forget-me-nots (the state flower), moss campion, crucifer, arctic poppies and lousewort. There were several varieties of dwarf willow, none over a few inches in height, so that you were frequently stepping on a miniature forest.

There are many colonies of fur seals on St. Paul and you are never away from the sound of the bellowing seals. The various colonies are interesting and provide fine opportunities for photography. It is estimated that there are about one and a half million fur seals on the island at the height of the breeding season.

Sunshine is a rare commodity on the Pribilofs. Most days are cloudy and overcast, often with mist or light rain. There is always a certain amount of wind, and warm clothing is a must as there is usually considerable dampness in the air. During our stay there the temperature usually got down to 39 or 40 degrees in early morning and up almost to 50 in mid-afternoon. The highest temperature ever recorded here was 64. In spite of the weather, this is a fascinating place, to which we would like to return to a much longer stay.

Our flight back to Anchorage was uneventful and we pushed on, without delay, back to the motel at Paxson, for the night. Next morning we set out for Mount McKinley National Park, along the 164-mile Denali Highway. We spotted a fine Hawk Owl, perched at the top of an evergreen, just beside the road. There were Redpolls and White-crowned Sparrows just outside our motel and many more were seen along the beautifully scenic drive to the park. Tree Sparrows were also quite common and we soon learned to recognize their song, which is not heard when they winter with us in the "lower 48," as the Alaskans call the 48 contiguous states.

Just before reaching the park we noted a chickadee, which we rather assumed would turn out to be just another Boreal Chickadee but, imagine our surprise and delight, when it proved to be the rare Gray-headed Chickadee, the only one seen on the entire trip.

If the Denali Highway is scenic, then it is far outdone by McKinley National Park, certainly the most beautiful country we have ever seen. Every scene is a picture. As we drove along the park's only road, I suddenly shouted "ptarmigan" and braked to a stop. Looking back, there was a female Rock Ptarmigan and three tiny chicks, all crouched down on the road, just as they had been as we went b

This was followed by a nice male Marsh Hawk, several Northern Phalaropes in breeding plumage, many more Redpolls, a few caribou, 34 Dall Sheep and, at Sable Pass, our first grizzly bear. Later on, we saw other caribou but we were too early for the main migration this year. This usually takes place during the last week in June or the first week in July and if one happens to strike the height of the migration, it is possible to see several thousand of these impressive animals. The largest herd we saw contained about 300. Among the wildflowers seen were Frigid Shooting Star, Lapland Diapensia, Trailing Azalea, and Mountain Avens.

Of course, the piece de resistance of the park is Mount McKinley itself. It is difficult to obtain an unobstructed view of the mountain, we soon found out. Our first look at it was from about 75 miles away. From the Eielson Visitors Center, the peak is perhaps 40 miles distant and we waited for well over an hour to get a fairly good view of it but, almost always, a stream of clouds obscured it to a greater or lesser degree. We finally continued westward along the road to Wonder Lake and from here, 27 mile distant, we finally had a breath-taking view of Denali the High One, as it is called by the Indians of the area. This, the highest peak in all North America, rises 20,300 feet and the sheer mass of it is overwhelming. Perpetually coated with ice and tinted faintly pink by the evening alpenglow, it was a

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Audubon Activities



By Otto Widmann

May 13 - FIELD TRIP - SANTA CLARA RIVER WASH & TAYLOR CAMP Leader Sandy Wohlgemuth met us with enthusiasm for the day's birding; the 24 of us were enthusiasts of the first water, so we didn't wait for late comers. At the wash we saw a pair of Blue Grosbeaks almost immediately. Ash-throated Flycatchers and a Western Flycatcher were perched in easy view, and a Western Wood Pewee followed us about with his song. At Camp Taylor were Olive-sided Flycatchers. On the sand bars were Spotted Sandpipers; Killdeer raced noisily about. Cliff Swallows came for mud further downstream. Both Bewick's and House Wrens were in song. Throughout the day I heard Gene Rose translate for his new daughter-in-law, Margareth, what he called Singvogel, Fliegenschnapper, and the Zaunkoenig. Makes one realize the world is a little wider than the river wash, and that warblers, wrens, and Flycatchers can be found elsewhere in our world! - Summer birds appear on our lists again; Martins, Tanagers, Lazuli Buntings, Swainson's Thrush, and the nesting Bell's Vireo. We heard the Black-headed Grosbeak. The swollen river at Taylor kept the party on the road side for the most part. Here, Anna's Hummer was nesting in almost the same spot as last year. American, Lesser, & Lawrence's Goldfinches were at both locations. Black-throated Gray, Yellowthroat, Townsend's, and Wilson's Warblers were about. These brought our list to 51 species. Earl Dore, Rebecca McClean, and Reg Julian were with us for the day. We hope to see all three of you more often.

May 28 - FIELD TRIP - PT. FERMIN - SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDENS - The fine day was partly responsible; the closeness to town may have done it; anyway, there were 55 names on the register, of whom 13 were guests. Newcomer Mike Harrison brought his dad. Dick Bradley brought his brother David along. Residents of Palos Verdes showed up: Helen Edgar, and John & Wilma Hood. At 8:00 a.m. sharp, Shirley Wells, our leader for the day, began showing us what she has been scouting for the past months - nesting Orioles and Rough-winged Swallows. We saw three Hummer's nests - one with two young - the nest neatly decorated with paint fragments. As we looked out to sea at the cliff, a flight of Black Brant crossed the path of a Pelican. Surf Scoters were farther out, and 5 different gulls were below. A Wandering Tattler ignored the surf scavengers on the rocks. In a palm high on the cliff, Shirley pointed out a Great Horned Owl. White-throated Swifts and 4 different swallows were overhead. A lifeguard showed us a Raven's nest. Most of us convoyed to the South Coast Bot-

anic Garden. Here in a semicircle around the experimental dahlia plot we ate our lunch. Shirley showed us, and talked about, some abandoned nests she had collected, - hummers, finches, mockers. Then we walked around most of the 57-acre garden. Warblers were Orange-crowned, Yellow, Townsend's, and Wilson's. We had both Hooded & Bullock's Orioles. Quail raced through the knee-high sage. Warbling Vireos competed with Mockingbirds and Western Tanagers. Song Sparrows were everywhere. Thanks to our member Don Falconer who obtained permission from Donald Woolley, Sup't of the Gardens, for us to go in.

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Alaska Birding Trip

Continued...

spectacle never to be forgotten. We were indeed fortunate to see the mountain in all its glory as we met some people who had been in the park for a week and this was their first unobstructed view.

In the park the Long-tailed Jaeger is a fairly common nester in the tundra, as was also the Golden Plover. The Arctic Warbler was singing freely in the willow thickets; in appearance rather resembling a Tennessee Warbler. We also saw the Willow Ptarmigan at several points but did not attempt a hike to the higher elevations for the third species, the White-tailed Ptarmigan as, having seen it on previous occasions, we preferred to devote our time to other things. Wheatears were seen but did not appear to be present in numbers.

Arctic Ground Squirrels were frequently encountered and some of them were very confiding, undoubtedly having become accustomed to handouts from visitors. Only two grizzlies were seen and a few Hoary Marmots. One evening we had an unexpected thrill when a big gray wolf trotted toward us passing within 25 feet of us, his eyes riveted on a herd of caribou down below. A little Red Fox eagerly ate some of our proffered chocolate when we ran across him and permitted close-up colored "shots" to be taken.

It would be impossible to praise Mount McKinley National Park too highly. Three or four days there would permit one to see a good deal of the park and to get the feel of it but a month wouldn't be sufficient. There are a number of public campgrounds, plus the McKinley Park Hotel at the eastern end of the road and Camp Denali is at the opposite end of the road, just outside the park boundaries, where various types of accommodations may be had at moderate prices. Reservations are advisable for both the hotel and Camp Denali.



(Concluded in next issue)





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 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles 90046
 Telephone 876-0202



JULY - AUGUST

JULY 1967

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

AUGUST 1967

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

July 15 SATURDAY - ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER Meet at 5:00 p.m., at Charlton Flats. Take Angeles Crest Highway about eleven miles beyond Mt. Wilson turnoff. Bring hot dish, salad, dessert, or what-you-will. Bring own table service and hot or cold drink. Plan to eat at 5:30 p.m. Come earlier if you plan to do some birding. There is a park charge of \$1 per carload. Plan to double up. The \$7 Golden Eagle emblem will admit you, of course. Executive Board members are requested to arrive by 3 p.m. for the monthly board meeting.

Phone: 221-8973

July 23 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Mt. Pinos. Meet 8:30 a.m. Take U.S. 99 to about 3 miles beyond Gorman, turn left for Frazier Park. Continue to Lake of the Woods, turn right; follow this road to its end in a large parking area. Meet here. We can either walk or drive to summit, about 2 miles. Brings lunch and water.

Phone: 221-8973

Aug. 3 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House

Aug. 12 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Tapia Park. Meet 8:30 a.m. Take Ventura Freeway to Malibu turnoff. Tapia is about 4 miles from turnoff. By Coast Route, take Alternate 101 about 1/4 mile beyond Malibu Bridge; turn right. Tapia is about 4 1/2 miles into hills.

Phone: 221-8973

Aug. 27 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Upper Newport Bay. Meet 8:30 a.m. just south of traffic circle at intersection of Lakewood Blvd. and Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach.

Phone: 221-8973

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

Sept. 9 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Malibu Lagoon

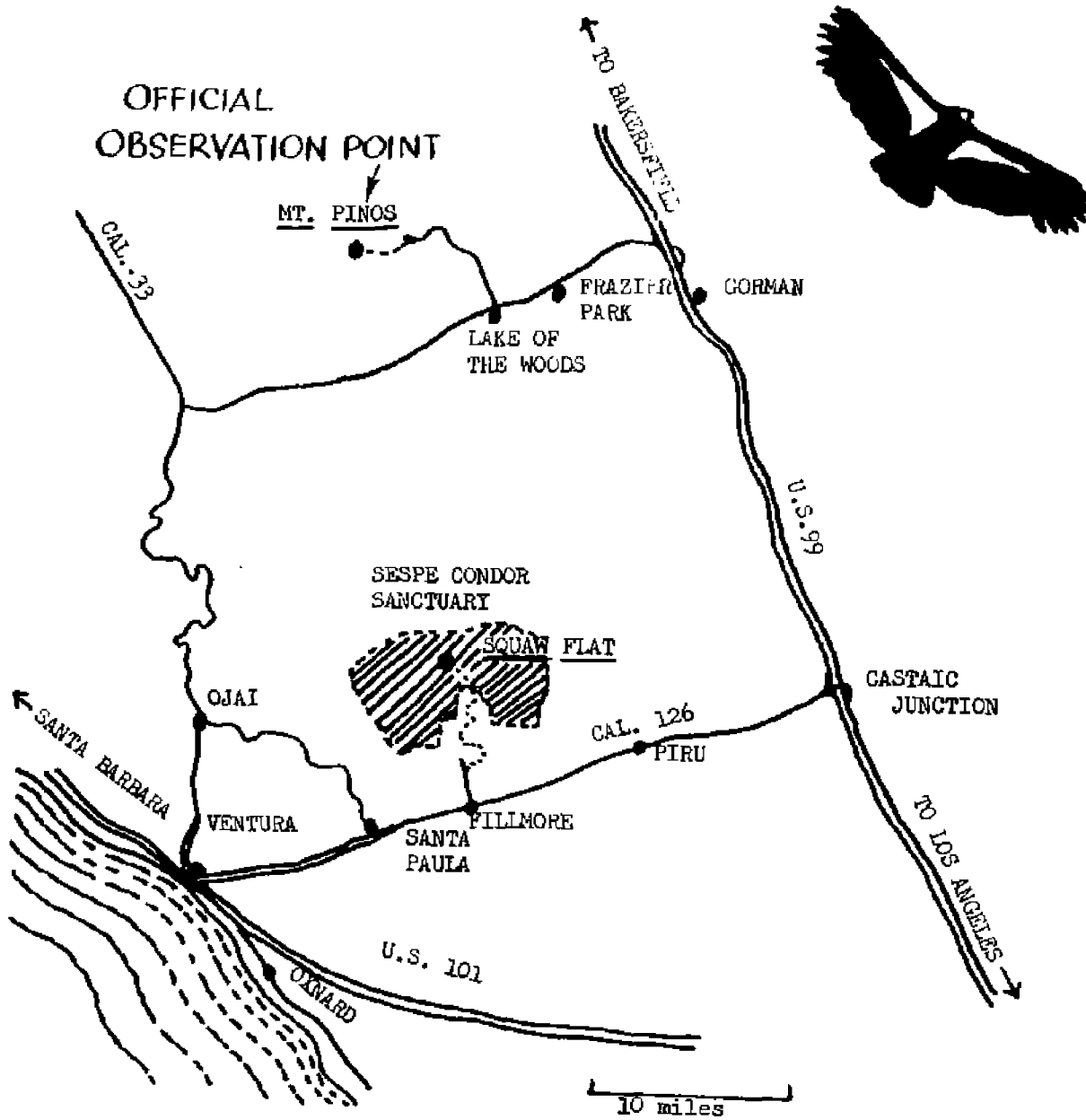
Sept. 12 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park Refreshments will be served.

ALWAYS BRING lunch and binoculars on field trips.

PLEASE - no pets and no collecting!

EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES

MAP OF CONDOR OBSERVATION POINTS
AT MT. PINOS AND SQUAW FLAT



For road and campground information:

MT. PINOS

SQUAW FLAT

Prepared by NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
OFFICE OF CONDOR WARDEN
Phone: 805-642-9589

Chuchupate Ranger Station
Phone: 805-245-6686

Ojai Ranger Station
Phone: 805-646-1557



NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Richard Block & Family
625 N. Hillcrest Ave.
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

Mrs. Wayne A. Brandt
5139 Densmore Ave.
Encino, Calif. 91316

Miss Dorothy Bryant
103 Buena Vista Drive
Palm Springs, Calif. 92262

Mr. J. Richard Farrell
929 Seaside Court
Ventura, Calif. 93003

Mr. Harold Ferris
17130 Clemons Drive
Encino, Calif. 91316

Mathilde Ferro
532 Spoleto Drive
Santa Monica, Calif. 90402

Dr. Grace Fink
2533 Creston Drive
Los Angeles, Calif. 90028

Mr. & Mrs. R. Freulich
2101 N. Beverly Drive
Beverly Hills, Calif. 90210

Mr. Norman Gargill
6048 Capetown St.
Lakewood, Calif. 90713

Mr. Jonathon Gersherson
15233 Sutton St.
Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91403

Mike Harrison
21113 S. Budlong Ave.
Torrance, Calif. 90502

Miss Natalie Loewenthal
157 N. Gower St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90004

Mr. R. Glen Mackenzie
5 Vista Real Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, Calif. 90274

Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Mehren
230 Via Las Palmas
Palm Springs, Calif. 92262

Mr. Robert S. Meston
P.O. Box 5
Long Beach, Calif. 90801

Elna M. Morgan
1165 Sunvue Place
Los Angeles, Calif. 90012

Mr. Tom O'Gren & Family
1918 Santa Fe St.
Compton, Calif. 90221

Mr. John J. O'Neill
3325 E. Dameron St.
Long Beach, Calif. 90805

Dr. Ira M. & Mrs. Robinson
4040 Woking Way
Los Angeles, Calif. 90027

Mr. F. J. Simmons
198 A Avenue
Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653

Mrs. F. Vandenberg
1020 Napoli Drive
Pacific Palisades, Calif. 90272

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Somewhere in the above list is the one-thousandth member of our Society. Due to the fact that some memberships are taken out in the "family" category it is difficult to determine just who it is. At any rate, we warmly welcome you all; we invite your active participation in Audubon activities, - and now let's get to work on that second thousand!



NOTICE!!!
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Because of an increase in the cost of the charter boats, it has become necessary to raise the price of the Monterey Bay pelagic trips to \$7.00. It is requested that you do not send your check for the October trip until after the August trip. Val Da Costa emphasizes that these trips are for **HARDY SEAFARERS**.

The trips are on Sunday, Aug. 27th, and Saturday, Oct. 7th. The Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society is planning three land trips for Sunday, Oct. 8th.

Make checks payable to :

Golden Gate Audubon Society; mail to:
Val Da Costa
2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco
Calif. 94109



WANTED — One or more people who will take care of the Audubon House yard during the summer. Watering and raking leaves will be all that is required. Pick your own time, your own week. Call — 221-8973 for information. - Otto Widmann.



Life History of the Western Tanager

By BETTY JENNER

June 10 - FIELD TRIP - BUCKHORN FLATS CAMPGROUND - Another world just beyond a mile-high pile of fog awaited us - the bluest of skies, the cleanest of air, the richest of greens, sprinkled with gold wallflowers, blue lupines, mimulus of the most delicate of blues & whites. This year yuccas were at their finest - 10 feet tall, their branches laden with flowers. This was the setting for White-headed Woodpecker, the tamest of Green-tailed Towhees (coming within 4 feet of us), the boldest of Steller Jays, the fattest Robins. Olive-sided Flycatchers were ordering "Quick-three-beers"; Fox Sparrows, Towhees, and Black-headed Grosbeaks were in full song. Jonathan Gershenzon was in seventh heaven, tallying the 27 species we had seen, plus a Turkey Vulture he saw on the way up. Jim Denholtz -- you have been away from our trips too long; everyone was delighted to see you! As a first timer, Elizabeth Rhone from Santa Monica brought her daughter along; also a first timer was Mrs. Rosalie Gershenzon. This brought our total to 22. We had Buckhorn to ourselves, I think for the first and only time. It was such a pleasant day that we stayed there for lunch, thereby breaking a tradition by not going to Chilao to eat. Where were the rest of you?

June 13 - EVENING MEETING - Mrs. Ruth Wood and Mrs. Olga Clarke served cake, punch, and coffee, while the rest of us chatted and enjoyed the refreshments. We were talking enthusiastically about the color slides which Ranger Francis Winter had shown us of the bighorn sheep, which he had taken in the San Gabriel Mountains of the Angeles National Forest. The precipitous slopes, the rugged cliffs, the sparse vegetation, seem no deterrent to their existence. At one time, a million and a half roamed the mountains from the Rockies to the coast. Now a few thousand remain. These nibblers thrive above 4500' by eating mountain mahogany, manzanita, yucca, etc. To cut down disease among them, salt licks containing terramycin are distributed about, - but the antibiotics are cautiously used. Considering the terrain and the difficult photography conditions, Mr. Winter had splendid results, aided by the natural curiosity of the sheep themselves.

This coming year the Los Angeles Audubon Society will discontinue sponsoring the Wildlife Films, due to repeated financial losses on the series. The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will sponsor the films; the dates will be Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Jan. 17, Feb. 22, and April 1. Write P.O. Box 2504, Van Nuys, Calif. 91404 for information.

Louise Vann introduced Marilyn Mehr as her guest; Joseph & Chris Mancuso were guests of Pres. Bill Watson. We all agreed that our season of evening meetings ended with one of the finest programs yet.

In October of 1934, Vol. 1, No. 1 of THE WESTERN TANAGER was published. This was the beginning of a very informative and readable bulletin, which retained virtually the same format through May of 1961: a mimeographed newsletter, mailed to members and subscribers by a mailing service.

On June 27, 1961, a WESTERN TANAGER committee meeting was held in order to discuss certain changes which would make our bulletin distinctive and unique, without increasing the cost. Arnold Small was the chairman; committee members were Jim Huffman, President; Marion Wilson, Executive Secretary; Bob Blackstone, Junior Past President; Mary Larson, Publicity Chairman; Arnold Larson, Public Relations Chairman; Bob Sandmeyer; and Frank Little. They devised the format which has proved so successful.

First, they recommended the purchase of an IBM Executive electric typewriter, in order to give a more professional look to the printed page. A different printing process was chosen, Class B lithography. Eleven issues a year were to be produced.

It was decided that material should reach the editor by the 10th of the month; typed on the IBM machine after editing, and sent to layout man Bob Sandmeyer by the 15th. Then, when the finished sheets returned from the printers, a "mailing party" would meet at Audubon House to fold, triple fold, and stuff into envelopes the finished "Tanager". This did away with the mailing service expense.

Of course this meant a great deal of work by volunteers, not the least of whom were those who typed name labels and pasted them on envelopes. All this was to be accomplished in time for members to receive the paper by the first of the month.

As to format, - it was decided that each issue should contain:

1. An original lead article on a natural history subject of interest to Audubon members. This feature should consist of at least 1500 or more words, single-spaced, in 4" columns. The material should reach the typist by the first of the month.

2. Calendar of coming events; one page.

3. Field notes; "Southern California Birds." Up to one-and-a-half columns.

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BEES...

Important Link in Our Food Chain

By BETTY KIMBALL

Last fall, after the unusually dry growing season, a population explosion of corn earworm in the late fall plantings of milo occurred in Colusa, Glenn, and Butte Counties, and resulted in an emergency spray program using carbaryl, -- (Sevin) to save the crop. To everyone's consternation, bees swarmed over the milo blossoms from as far away as four miles -- and died. Spraying of remaining fields was cancelled, but the near-disaster had happened. Bee keeper, grower, and pest control operator huddled cooperatively and have continued their conferences with Agriculture officials in an honest search for safeguards against repeating this loss.

The seriousness of this few hours in our Sacramento Valley takes shape after an interview with Mr. Len Foote here in Sacramento (Apiary Inspection, Calif. Dept. of Agriculture). Take a map of continental U.S. and enclose Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina in one belt, then the northern half of California in a second belt. These two areas produce equal quantities of package bees (250 tons, 350,000 queens) for northern areas of our continent (U.S. and Canada). Those few hours last fall killed 3,500 honey bee colonies and severely injured a like number, reducing the number of strong colonies available for early spring almond pollination by 7,000. Most of the colonies affected were operated by bee breeders who would normally remove up to 12 pounds of bees from each colony following the spring build-up and pollination period. Canadian beekeepers will be shy 35,000 package bees in 1967!

Agriculture has to have bees. "Modern agricultural practices have resulted in the destruction of native pollinating insects and their nesting sites." (Apiary Inspectors' Training Manual) Solitary bees and bumblebees are native; honey bees were imported in 1853 and, though wild creatures, have been managed for our benefits. Without them, our diet would soon be reduced to cereal grains with very few fruits or vegetables for variety. Without fruits and seeds, think of the species that would be affected -- including man!

Carry this broken link in the food chain into further and further circles to see the full extent of such a disaster. Consider species dependent on seeds or fruits in the bird, animal, and/or insect world, then those who feed on any of these for their own sustenance or reproduction, and any one link in this food chain grows in importance. Our hope now should be that some second disaster, man-made or natural, does not compound Northern California's loss. With this in mind, please be

especially careful in your use of chemicals; read labels with care, and stay on the safe side in using them. Store them safely, out of reach of pets, children, and unimpressed users.

1967 COULD TELL THE TALE.

THE OBSERVER, April, 1967
Sacramento Audubon Society



If you could watch such birds as Limpkin, Chuck-will's-widow, and Pileated Woodpecker among the cypresses and mosses of the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, you would realize that this beautiful spot belongs to everyone in the United States -- its loss would not be merely a Florida tragedy. The financial crisis of this national treasure **MUST BE MET NOW**, because the generous pledge of the Ford Foundation -- to contribute one-third of the total cost -- carries a deadline date of Aug. 30, 1968. Action now will tell the land developers and the engineers that Americans do not shirk their responsibilities; that Americans can still rise to meet a challenge when the cause is a just and important one.

Please read the enclosed brochure--and act.

WESTERN Tanager

CONTINUED

4. Conservation column; about one 4" column.

5. Audubon Activities; a review of field trips and meetings; about two 4" columns.

6. Birding in the Southwest; a more or less regular feature; about one-and-a-half 4" columns.

7. The Audubon Scene; excerpts from exchange papers; a more or less regular feature, as space allows. (Every editor has wished for more space for reprinting news from our fine exchange papers.)

8. Book reviews; occasional.

9. Other notices as needed.

10. No poetry.

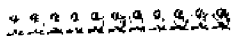
This format has been followed (with flexibility) since the Sept., 1961 issue, and has proved very successful. It seems that each year there are more conservation problems to be brought to the readers' attention; but we strive to keep a balance by featuring articles about our primary interest, bird-watching.

Our thanks to the dozens of volunteers who make "Tanager" possible.

And, - our thanks to the George Lithograph Co. for the fine quality of the printing they furnish us.

southern california
BIRDS

by DAVID A. GAINES



The movement of spring migrants through the Southland reached its peak in early May. Large concentrations of migrants were found at such desert localities as 29 Palms Oasis and Morongo Valley. Sparser numbers were observed in coastal areas. White-winged Dove appeared in Morongo Valley. Calliope Hummingbirds were briefly common on the Coast. Several reports were received of Lewis' Woodpecker, including one from Morongo Valley. Kingbirds and Flycatchers came through strongly in the desert; Ash-throated, however, were unusually scarce. Pinyon Jays were found in the vicinity of Baldwin Lake, San Bernardino County. Swainson's Thrushes were everywhere during May. Vireos and warblers never appeared in large numbers, although several Redstarts were reported. Orioles were common and nesting. Tanagers in bright spring plumage appeared even in suburban Los Angeles. White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows departed, to be replaced by Black-chinned Sparrows in the foothills, and House Finches in the city.

A surprisingly powerful late storm added to the snowpack in the mountains. How the late spring affected mountain species is unknown. Shirley Wells reported that Yosemite Valley was devoid of migrants in mid-May, - the same time she observed nesting birds there last year. Observers searching for owls near Big Bear had a relatively quiet night. Last year Saw-whet, Spotted, and Flammulated Owls were heard. It is likely, therefore, that the nesting season for mountain species was later this year than usual.

Nesting species were all over the lowlands during May. After the Red Crossbills, no really unusual nesting species have been reported. Young and adult Long-eared Owls were at Morongo Valley, Whitewater Canyon, and Little Morongo. Such birds as Orioles, Bell's Vireos, Goldfinches, and Flycatchers were widespread nesters.

Larry Sansone and Dennis Coskren found the rare Gray Vireo at a locality between Big Bear Lake and Lucerne Valley. Those who are interested in the exact location of this hard-to-find nesting species should contact Mr. Sansone. Either Gray Vireos are much scarcer than they used to be, or people haven't been looking for them as hard. Some speculate that Cowbirds are responsible for their decline. Gray Vireos have never, however, been particularly common.

Franklin's Gulls, Black Brant, and Stilt

Sandpiper were observed at Salton Sea. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was collected there (second state record) and a second bird was carefully observed.

Among the vagrants to appear during May were Prothonotary and Black-throated Blue Warblers. These were observed from a boat (!) off the Los Coronado Islands. A Parula Warbler was found May 10 at Fern Dell in Griffith Park, Los Angeles. A trip to Deep Springs in the late part of the month resulted in the following: American Redstart (4), Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler (full male breeding plumage), Virginia's Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Warbling Vireos were incredibly abundant.

During July, best area in the state is probably the north end of the Salton Sea. Look for boobies, frigatebirds, and vagrants from the south. On the Colorado River, the cuckoos will be nesting (hopefully). For those who like cooler weather, Yosemite is pleasant and good birding too. Possible birds include Great Gray Owl, Black Swift, Pine Grosbeak, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch.

The Western Tanager

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