

Audubon Convention Impressions

by Olga Clarke



I was greatly honored in being chosen as the delegate to represent the Los Angeles Audubon Society at the National Audubon Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

I was further honored by being selected by Mr. Charles Callison, Executive Vice President of the National Audubon Society, to be a member of the Action Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee was to suggest new ideas to the delegates and others in attendance, to further the cause of conservation on a person-to-person basis. Charles Mohr was chairman of our committee.

Once the convention was under way, the pace became quite hectic. The meetings and programs were continuous, day and evening, until the dinner meeting at the end.

Our Western Representative, Bill Goodall, started things off in his usual jovial manner and the convention was called to order promptly at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, September 30. Mr. Gene Setzer, Chairman of the Board, received a key to the city from a representative of the Mayor of Atlantic City. The press was also in attendance.

Charles Callison gave a progress report on the big future of the National Audubon Society. He predicted that membership will pass 100,000 by 1970... almost double present strength. The Society has had field representatives in Florida and the Far West, and this year added a northeastern man in Connecticut. Plans for the central Mid-West and northern Mid-West to aid in regional problems are now in progress.

He said that the "90th Congress has not, to date, passed a single new or important conservation law or program," and listed reasons such as the demands of war in Vietnam, concern with education, and urban riots.

Mr. Callison felt that we, the citizen conservationists of America, must form the hard core, the unyielding last line of defense. Children must be taught urban ecology... we must find ways to check and reverse the alienation of children from nature in this industrialized and computerized society. Such alienation can lead only to certain social tragedy.

Continued on page

A MYSTERY

By Betty Jenner

"And so they lived happily ever after." --- This is the satisfying end to the story, as we all know very well.

Dear reader: will you give us a few minutes of your time, and read further? Because you, and only you, can solve the baffling mystery that follows the beautiful end of the story.

We are not asking for money; only a solution to the mystery.

Widespread news coverage was given to the forward-looking action taken on March 9, 1967, by the Los Angeles City Council: to set aside that portion of Owens Valley between Tinemaha and Owens Lake for a wildlife refuge. This was done to give sanctuary to the handsome animal which is listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as one of the world's most rare and endangered species: the smallest of the remaining species of elk, the Tule Elk.

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Convention

Continued...

Bruce Murray told of National Audubon launching T. V. programs for the Audubon Society in hopes of furthering the conservation cause.

Duryea Morton, Educational Services, discussed the Audubon Workshop which will be held in November in Pico Rivera. He said that Audubon Centers were first established in 1941, and over 100,000 children have received help from Audubon Workshop since its beginning. Shirley Miller (in charge of Junior Audubon Programs) stated that 97,000 children, in 1967 alone, are using Junior Audubon Kits. National plans to update and expand our materials and regionalize the material... Mr. Morton felt that bringing the outdoors to the urban child was of great importance.

Dr. Joseph Shomon, Nature Centers Division, mentioned that there are now 200 nature centers in the United States and Canada, and a new six-year program for expansion in field service has been established in hope of helping obtain small sanctuaries of approximately 30 acres or more. Also, that 75% of these nature centers are self-sufficient.



Roland Clement, Vice President, National Audubon Society, spoke of a research department under the guidance of Sandy Sprunt, with the assistance of Frank Ligas in Florida. This program is directed toward getting more information on the Bald Eagle by finding out what makes them "tick," and going from there. Apparently very few Bald Eagles have brought off their young this year,* and with many more nesting seasons like this, they may well become an endangered species. The Fish and Wildlife Service is now assisting in this program.

Mr. Clement said he would be in the Los Angeles area to participate in the 3rd Annual Condor Count.

He felt that we ought to be particularly concerned about the SST Sonic Boom, which is purported to be three times greater than at the present time. What will this do to people? Birds? Animals? What effect will this have on the breakage of birds eggs?

John V. Dennis, of Leesburg, Virginia, who was commissioned by the Department of the Interior to find out whether America's largest wood-

pecker, the Ivory-billed, was extinct, as ornithologists feared, reported 5 to 10 pairs now in the big thicket region of Texas. According to past records, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker seems to disappear every 25 years... it was first re-discovered in Cuba in 1948, then in Florida in 1950. He has hopes of finding more in some areas in South Carolina, where there are 18,000 acres of virgin forest. Nove have been found there so far.

No one is allowed in the newly discovered area for any reason, and although there is much lumbering nearby, the lumbering mills have been quite cooperative.

* Ed. note: Alaska excepted, of course.

Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior, delivered the keynote address Saturday morning, September 30.

He told of the Redwoods Bill still being bogged down; however, in January, a "No Dam" solution for the Grand Canyon Bill had already been passed by the senate... 44 cases were presented to solve Arizona's water problem.

A solution for preventing the building of the Rampart Dam in Alaska was accepted.

The application for the Snake River Dam was sent back, and there will be no Mainstem Dam on the Potomac.

A new wildlife refuge has been acquired, St. Vincent's Island, off the coast of Florida. This is a subtropical forest with a 12,000 acre natural complex.

Mr. Udall said that many states now provide funds through bonds, etc. for conserving special areas.

He felt that natural history should be taught in schools like geography, because children are not taught to appreciate the land they live in. We should consider the complex and changing needs of people rather than accepting everyone as just a cog in a wheel. Environmental education is the key to success of conservation. Conservation is a fight that is neither won nor lost, and each generation must do its part.

Robert Roe, Commissioner of Conservation and Economic Development, State of New Jersey, suggested trying to establish a Natural Lands Trust where those lands would be protected and could not be touched.

C. R. Guterth, Vice President, Wildlife Management Institute, commented on how too few conservationists appear at the hearings, to express their opinions.

Lawyers who have figured in key conservation battles took part in an unusual panel discussion Saturday afternoon on: "Using the Law to Defend Man's Environment." They discussed such cases as the Audubon Society's suit to prevent opening of a canal that would have poured seawater into Everglades National Park; the "Conservationist's Bill of Rights" that the Constitutional Convention has recommended for New York State; the protracted legal fight by conservationists to block construction of a power plant at Storm King Mountain by the scenic Hudson River, and actions against proposed highways through valuable natural areas.

Afterwards the panel held a question and answer period which was quite informative.
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Frank McLaughlin, Executive Director, New Jersey Audubon Society, showed films on the "Pine Barrens."
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Sunday, October 1, was devoted to field trips during the daylight hours to the New Jersey Pine Barrens and the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. The annual meeting, with election of officers and directors, was held that evening.

Two resolutions were proposed: one to ban the use of DDT, and one to set up a special council to establish a specific "Environmental Defense Fund" to use the law to defend our environment. The ayes were unanimous.
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On Monday, October 2, I attended the President's Breakfast, which was hosted by National. Approximately 100 people were present and all were introduced by Mr. Callison.
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Convention sessions resumed at 9:30 a. m., with a session on "over-use" of natural parklands: Conservation and Recreation in the Parks; Competitors or Cooperators in the Natural Environment?

Points discussed - as you cannot eliminate boating, camping, hunting, etc. you have to work along with these people and not give up in our efforts to help them appreciate the natural beauty around us. Force will only make them belligerent, and do more damage to spite our movement. It was suggested that Boy Scouts distribute leaflets and other information on conservation as a project.
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At a Monday afternoon session on "Planning, Zoning and other Tools for Conservationists," speakers included: Charles E. Little, President of the Open Space Action Committee; Mrs. Ann Louise Strong, Associate Professor of Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania; William Shore, Information Director of the Regional Plan Association, and Action Planning Committees.

Points discussed - The key to conservation is Citizen's Committees. Do not believe that one person can handle these problems alone. We are all interested in conserving our few remaining natural areas, but how many of you are willing to help preserve them?

Don't get emotional! Get the facts! Learn more about your area!

Be prepared when someone seems interested in the Audubon Society... nature... the out-of-doors... Carry with you at all times information and applications for membership.

DON'T FUMBLE THE BALL.
 * * * * *

Tuesday, October 3, the closing day's program included further field trips to the Pine Barrens and Brigantine Refuge. Dr. Ernest Choate was stationed on one of the dikes in the refuge where he shared his 20 power binoculars with the group. The convention banquet was well attended, and Allan Cruickshank showed his film entitled "Land of the Giant Cactus" which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.
 * * * * *

I left Atlantic City with the feeling that although our conservation problems are many, we must not give up. And, as Mr. Udall so aptly put it...

EACH GENERATION MUST DO ITS PART... WILL YOU DO YOURS?

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FIELD GUIDES

Audubon Activities

By Otto Widmann



Sept. 23-24 - TIA JUANA RIVER WASH - The river wash is a drab, unpromising small valley. Half the farms are unkempt, and housing developments or the Navy edge in, in several directions; yet in the few patches of green, the birds have found a haven. A clover field, covered with thousands of bright yellow butterflies, attracted the kingbirds and flycatchers. Here we found the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Tropical, Western, and Cassin's Kingbirds. Richard Milne earlier saw an Eastern Kingbird here. Hundreds of Yellow-headed Blackbird young were being shepherded about the field by a few adult females - real nursemaids in action. Semipalmated Plovers and Dowitchers grubbed in the newly cut area. Bobolink flew back and forth.

By moving about the small farmland area, the 32 of us managed to see 101 species in the two days. At the beach, the bay, or inland, we saw 23 species of shorebirds, including Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Yellowlegs, 2 Phalaropes, 3 gulls, and 4 terns. Ground Doves roosted in the trees at Wendover Ranch. Here Marge Krueger of San Fernando Audubon pointed out the Painted Bunting; at least six other people saw it. Our special thanks go to Wendover Ranch for permitting us to bird on their property; we covered every inch of it. Vaux's Swifts were overhead, while Swainson's Thrushes were underfoot. Kingfisher, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Spotted Sandpipers, Green Heron, Goldfinches, and Audubon's Warblers were at the pond. A vireo had all glasses on it; slowly its identifying marks took shape in our minds, and after much consultation, we decided we definitely had a Yellow-green Vireo! In the wild tree-tobacco plants we saw Rufous, Allen's, and Anna's Hummers, and in the Black-eyed Susans were Wilson's Warblers. We also saw Townsend's Warblers, a Sage Sparrow, and one White-crowned Sparrow. A "bander" had in hand an American Redstart female which he showed us before releasing. It was a good day for flycatchers: Say's and Black Phoebes, Western & Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Western Wood Pewee. We saw Horned Larks and both Barn and Rough-winged Swallows. An alfalfa field was being watered, and here we had Whimbrels, Willets, & Dowitchers, but missed seeing the Ruff that was in this same field earlier. We did get the Golden Eagle and Marsh Hawk. Ruth & Wayne Lohr rejoined us after spending several months in Europe. Philip Silverstone was with us once more, and Cliff Pollard began birding with us on this trip. The Harold Baxters joined us briefly, and Bruce Broadbooks' carload included David Gaines, Richard Milne, and Jerry Johnson. We were glad to see the Grossmans, the Hardts, the Hardings, the Mangolds, and the Venattas. Considering the many rare species we saw, it was well worth their while to make the trip.

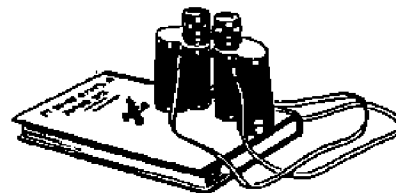
Oct. 7 - MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP - For the first three hours it was as dull birdwise as a boat ride in a city park, - not even a Sooty Shearwater; then we found a great "boil" of sea lions below and seabirds above - presumably with baitfish in between. Everyone jumped to the alert, and we watched Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Pomarine & Parasitic Jaegers, Ashy & Black Petrels, and uncounted gulls circling and diving. The star of the trip was a petrel with a white rump - a Leach's? No, it had yellow feet, - it had to be a Wilson's - rare wanderer from the Antarctic! This is the 4th record for California. (Trip reported by Shumway Suffel.)

Oct. 10 - TUESDAY NIGHT MEETING - It was Condor night! There was more information gathered here, and more film shown specifically on the Condor than can be found anywhere. The rare and valuable documentary films taken by Ed Harrison in the late 1930's showed the Condors at their nesting, bathing, and feeding areas in the Sespe Range. There was a look right into a nest to see the egg; then there was the young "chick", fretting at the cramped quarters, and finally the magnificent footage of the adult feeding the young. Doug Hayden, Ranger of the Los Padres National Forest, told of posting signs in the Mt. Pinos area, which will inform the public of the Condor's presence, and how to identify it.

John Borneman told the fascinating story of Dave Connell and Fred Sibley, and their efforts to capture an abandoned immature Condor in the Ojai area; his short stay in the L. A. Zoo, and then his release in the same area, in the hopes that the parents would return to feed him; then his subsequent re-capture and stay in the Zoo. John relates the unbelievable sight of the captured bird bathing in a rubber bathtub - stretched out flat on its back!

Slides were shown of Condor and Condor Country while Bill Watson narrated the history and characteristics of the Condor. The slides, by the way, were fine studies made by members of the Fish & Game Department. Bill thanked those who helped him this past summer in his vigil atop Mt. Pinos: Ron Feldman and Dick & Marge Wilson came most often to spell Bill, but others came as well: Pauline Cole, Dorothy Holland, Keith Axelson, Willard Tidwell, and Otto Widmann.

Olga Clarke made her report on her trip to Atlantic City to the Audubon Convention. We had many guests besides the speakers: members of the California Soaring Society came to study the Condor in flight; other guests were from Toronto, Canada; Houston, Texas; Berkeley, Calif.; the Philippines; and several members from the San Fernando Society came over. I wish I could name them all.



Los Angeles Audubon Society

calendar



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NOVEMBER 1967

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NOVEMBER

1967

- Nov. 3 THURSDAY-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House
- Nov. 11 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Santa Barbara and Goleta Slough at the University of California at Santa Barbara. As you enter Santa Barbara, turn off Highway 101 at Cabrillo Blvd. This is a left-hand off-ramp. Meet at the bird refuge to the right under the bridge at 8:30 a.m.
- Information: Otto Widmann 221-8973
- Nov. 14 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall, Plummer Park. This month's program features two fine conservation films. The San Fernando Audubon Society has loaned to us "The Grand Canyon", a superb film revealing a place that hardly anyone knows well enough. This Sierra Club film shows movingly and convincingly that the Canyon is a universe in itself, and that a living river is vital to keeping the Canyon alive. The program's second film is "The Enduring Wilderness". Unusually good color photography, slow pacing, and minimal narration allow the viewer to contemplate the beauties and solitude of preserved wilderness areas.
- Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510
- Nov. 26 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - 8:00 a.m. - Eaton Canyon. Take Pasadena Freeway to Colorado Blvd. Turn right and continue to Altadena Drive (on left hand side). Turn left on Altadena Drive and continue to Eaton Canyon sign (on right).
- Leader: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510
- Dec. 7 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 7:30 p.m., Audubon House
- Dec. 9 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Carrizo Plains. Those planning to stay over Saturday night should make reservations with the California Valley Lodge.
- Dec. 12 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Plummer Park. "Up North - Down East". Olga and Herb Clarke will present a program on their birding trip to New England and the Gaspé Peninsula. Close-ups of Gannets on Bonaventure Island and Puffins on Machias Seal Island, as well as many other birds, will be included.

Program Chairman: Laura Lou Jenner 748-7510

ALWAYS BRING lunch and binoculars on field trips

PLEASE - no pets and no collecting!

EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES



Headquarters Report

By Abigail King, Headquarters Chairman

The Audubon Society Headquarters at Plummer Park has entered a new phase with the employment of Mrs. Olive Alvey as office manager. The Los Angeles Society has always been served exclusively by volunteers. For many years, until her resignation in the spring of 1966, this hard-working group was skilfully directed by Marion Wilson, with a Headquarters Chairman directing Audubon House activities under her supervision.

During the past year, we have lost several of our long-time volunteers, and despite every effort, have only added one new one to the staff, First, Shirley Wells, Headquarters Chairman, found that the work was too much of a drain on her time. A few months later, Julia Dembrowsky, who had been commuting all the way from Whittier, resigned in order to give more time to her new duties as president of the Whittier Audubon group. Then, this summer, Leonie Ferguson found that she simply had no time left over from her duties as registrar of our Society.

With such a depleted staff, we found it increasingly difficult to maintain hours at the House on any recognizable schedule. This was understandably extremely annoying to the many members and friends of the Society who had the frustrating experience of telephoning repeatedly, only to get no answer, or, even worse, making a special trip in to view the museum or pick up a book from the library, and find the gate locked. To all of you, our most sincere apologies.

After much thought and discussion, the Executive Board at their September meeting voted to employ a part-time office worker to supplement the volunteer staff. We have been most fortunate in obtaining the services of Mrs. Alvey to fill this position. Olive has been an active member of the Los Angeles Audubon Society for many years, - many of you will remember her for her fine work in organizing the Christmas Bazaar. She is also a long-time member of the Southwest Bird Club, which meets at the House one day each month. We are delighted to welcome Olive back to Audubon House in her new capacity. Our regular volunteers, - Florence Myers, who has done so much to keep things going during this difficult period, will continue to come in every Monday; and Margery Green, who keeps our bird-feeding area neat and well supplied with seed, will be there every Thursday. As of October 1st, the House will be open Monday through Friday from 11 to 3.

Financially, this change puts a considerable strain on the Society, and has only been made possible through a generous bequest. If we are to continue to provide this service, we shall have to rely on further contributions. As a branch of the National Audubon Society, we receive \$3.00 from each regular membership, with a slightly higher percentage from each category up to Contributing, at \$100, from which we receive \$48.75. Our only additional source of income, other than from individual donations, is from sales of books, records, etc., from our Sales

Department.

Thanks to our new Sales Chairman, Grace Nixon, we have a vastly increased number of books available, including all of Bent's North American Bird Studies; an excellent book on Mexican birds; and the new book "North American Shore Birds" with text by Peter Matthiesson and illustrations by Robert Verity Clem. We are now offering a 10% discount on all items costing over \$3.00 to members, and hope that many of you will take advantage of this excellent opportunity to expand your libraries, or provide your bird-watching friends and relatives with Christmas presents. Whether you are interested in purchases, - enjoy the use of our very excellent library, - or would just like to come in and look at the museum, - we extend an invitation to all of you to come in and see us soon!

STUDENT NATURALISTS TO LEAD NATURE WALKS -- Tujunga Wash Nature Walks, which attracted over a thousand people during the past year, will be resumed under the leadership of the Audubon Student Naturalists, beginning Saturday, Nov. 4, 1967, and continuing on the first Saturday of each month through June, 1968.

Twenty-five biology students, from Cleveland, Grant, North Hollywood, Marshall, Birmingham, Granada Hills, and San Fernando High Schools, and Mt. Gleason and Walter Reed Junior Highs, enrolled in the Audubon Student Naturalist training program will be available to explain the main features of the several biotic communities of Tujunga Wash. Many of these students led hundreds of sixth graders, scouts, and other youth groups, and several adult groups on nature walks last spring. These experienced leaders will be working with trainees on a naturalist training program to improve their skills and render more effective public service. Tujunga Wash Nature Walks begin at 9 a.m. at Orcas Area of Hansen Dam Park, on Orcas Ave. south of Foothill Blvd. Group leaders should call Allen Ryan, 899-4301, in advance, to arrange for leadership for their group.

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MYSTERY Continued

Magazines such as SUNSET, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, and the October WESTWAYS have hailed this action as one of the most commendable ever taken by a city council. We urge you to read Andrew Hamilton's article in WESTWAYS, and articles by Gerhard Bakker and Beula Edmiston, to refresh your memory on the history of the persecution of this beautiful animal.

The "good image" created nationwide for our Department of Water & Power has been tremendous. Readers have accepted in good faith the assurance that a refuge was being set up for the preservation of the flora and fauna of this nearly unspoiled area.

But--and here is the mystery--there is a woe-ful lack of communication with our Department of Water & Power in regards to the implementation of this plan for a great Nature Reserve!

Word has filtered down to The Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk that "the status quo will be maintained."

Is it "status quo" to build a second aqueduct? Is it "status quo" to supply water for "lakes" in housing developments, where Nature intended no lakes? Is it "status quo" to get this water by pumping it out of the ground in Owens Valley, thus lowering the ground water level?

The "Inyo Independent" (Inyo County) tells us:

A resolution urging that a Tule Elk Refuge be established in Owens Valley has been turned down by the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. The resolution, which caught sportsmen and State Department of Fish & Game officials by surprise, was passed by the Los Angeles City Council at the behest of the Committee for the Preservation of the Tule Elk. A spokesman for the Department of Water & Power was quoted as saying that Water & Power officials took no action on the resolution because (1) most of the land in question is already under lease to Inyo County ranchers, and (2) the elk herd is well protected by rules established by the State Fish & Game Commission. "The department has no plans to cancel any of the existing leases," he said.

End of quote.

The elk herd in Owens Valley is down to 246 individuals, as of the August, 1967, census. By world standards, a species is endangered when its number drops below 2000. Poachers and disease take their toll. Shall we sound the knell for one more species?

Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer of Los Angeles -- and all others who are interested: How do we communicate with this Department? THE UNMISTAK-ABLE EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC OPINION is a tremendous force.

We believe our councilmen meant what they

said. L. E. Timberlake, Council President; James B. Potter, Jr., Chairman of the Water & Power Committee; Gilbert Lindsay, who made the motion to create a refuge; and all the other dedi-cated public servants on the City Council, who passed the motion unanimously, need your expres-sions of support in this matter.

It is a minor detail in OUR busy lives; but it is the difference between life and death for Cervus nannodes, the California Dwarf Elk, a magnificent animal with all the stateliness, dignity, and majes-ty of its kind.

Can we solve the mystery? Can we let the Department of Water & Power know that we are in favor of the whole idea, and can we find out how soon the Refuge is to be posted? --Let's try.

Secretary of Interior Udall states, "If the Tule Elk, and other endangered species are to be saved, it will come about largely through citizen action groups such as your own."

NATURAL AREA RESERVES

by Dr. Kenneth S. Norris, Associate Professor of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles Chairman Natural Land and Water Reserves System, University of California

Natural area reserves are becoming recognized across the United States, and for that matter, in sev-eral foreign countries, as vital tools for scientific research that is essential to us all. As population increases and food resources diminish scientists turn increasingly back to nature for answers to such basic questions as: How do natural populations regu-late their numbers? How do natural communities of organisms make the efficient use of energy supplies available to them? What are the rules by means of which the organisms in natural communities live together in a harmonious balance? A glance at natural communities will reveal that there pollu-tion problems do not exist, organisms do not use more energy than is immediately available to them, and the level of fitness of the individual organism to its world is far greater than we experience in our human community. In short, answers to many human dilemmas lie in nature, and thus the pre-servation of segments of nature against ourselves becomes a vital concern. Such reserved areas and organisms may well soon form the only useful baseline we have available to our scientists.

Individual wild organisms, such as the tule elk, are in themselves priceless things for humans. As totally adapted creatures they are the peer of many domestic animals as efficient organisms within their own world. We may need them, and we may need to learn from them things we do not know. Thus it is that we must save not only segments of the environment but the organisms within these segments.



AUDUBON

Scene

CHANGES AT

AUDUBON CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Paul M. Howard, of Hacienda Heights, Calif., a National Audubon Society official since 1960, has been appointed Assistant Western Representative.

Next year Mr. Howard will succeed William N. Goodall as Western Representative, when Mr. Goodall retires.

Mr. Howard joined the Society as director of the Audubon Center of Southern California, in El Monte, and in 1965 he was in addition named director of the Audubon Camp of the West, in the Wind River Range of Western Wyoming. A native of San Diego, Mr. Howard served in the Navy in World War II, returned to California to study at Biola College, and subsequently became an ordained minister. He served as associate pastor, then pastor, in several non-denominational churches in California. He also received a degree in Life Sciences from San Diego State College where he studied under Dr. James Crouch and Dr. Andrew Olson who were Audubon Camp of California instructors.

Mr. Goodall, who has been with the Society since 1953, also has his office at El Monte. It is anticipated, however, that the Western Representative's office will be moved to Sacramento after Mr. Howard takes charge next year.

A new director and a new staff naturalist have been appointed at the Audubon Center of Southern California, which is maintained by the National Audubon Society, and runs a year-round nature education program.

Clifford K. Ellin, of Whittier, formerly associate professor of education at California State College at Los Angeles, has become the Center's new director. He is a former Whittier elementary school teacher and he majored in elementary education at C. S. C. L. A., where he won his BA and MA degrees and has studied for his doctorate. He was formerly employed with the technical publications group of Electro-Optical Systems and before that served 5 years with the U. S. Air Force. He has been a scoutmaster, a recreation leader, and has held office in teachers' associations. At the Audubon Center, he succeeds Paul M. Howard.

The new naturalist is John T. Stanley, Jr., who, as a naturalist, will join the Center's teaching staff. Mr. Stanley was director of the Alexander Lindsay Junior Museum, of Walnut Creek. He had been with the museum since the fall of 1965, and his duties there included class instruction and preparation of exhibits. He studied paleontology and zoology at U. C., Berkeley, and after his graduation in 1963 worked for a year at the University's Museum of Paleontology. He has also been a summer camp nature study director.

Both men assume their Audubon duties this month (October, 1967).

THE GREATEST NEWS since the inception of "Audubon Field Notes" over twenty years ago has been announced in the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory newsletter. It is no secret that to many of us, the living bird is more interesting and meaningful in the scheme of things than the dead bird. We have been distressed that it has been considered necessary, even at this advanced period of accurate identification, that many "wanderers" have been collected just to prove that they were in our area. It is with extreme pleasure that we bring you the following announcement:

RARE BIRD COMMITTEE -

Several interested ornithologists and field birders have come together with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to form a new concept in birding for the United States -- a Rare Bird Committee. This Committee, modeled on similar committees in Europe, will tend to replace the necessity for collection of rare birds and will thus, through careful observing, document their occurrence in California. Guy McCaskie, one of the best field birders in the state, has written recently on this matter:

"Observations of unusual birds will be submitted to the committee and the results of their judgments will be published in a new state-wide publication, CALIFORNIA BIRDS, which will also include observations similar to AUDUBON FIELD NOTES but in greater detail; the coordination and results of state-wide censuses on rare, endangered and otherwise interesting species of birds; and conservation issues of state-wide and local interest that would otherwise not get coverage throughout California."

The various Audubon Society branches and affiliates are especially being encouraged to become an integral part of this endeavor, and Audubon members are expected to be primary supporters of the new publication.

FARALLON ISLANDS EXPEDITION -

A reconnaissance trip was made by PRBO personnel to the Farallon Islands on Sept. 20-26 by Henry Robert, Richard Stallcup, and C. J. Ralph, primarily to work on the breeding Cassin's Auklets and Ashy Petrels. During the week, however, their attention was distracted by a wave of migrants on the 23rd-25th. During the week, a total of 118 species was seen, including a probable Great Crested Flycatcher (awaiting confirmation from photographs). Twenty-one species of warblers were observed (19 banded) including Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll (an amazing 12 banded), Prairie, Palm, Northern Waterthrush, and American Redstart. Also observed, in what must have been the most productive vagrant week in California birding, were Pectoral Sandpiper, Sage Thrasher, Bobolink, Orchard Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Green-tailed Towhee, Vesper Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Clay-colored Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. PRBO plans to man the islands full-time next year if it can raise the necessary funds, to carry out research on the endangered breeding birds and will, if possible, assess migrant occurrences.

THE MEANING OF CONSERVATION

BY ROLAND G. CLEMENT

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Conservation is neither a science nor an art, but a doctrine. It includes the attitudes and the practices we approve for the intelligent use of the earth's natural resources. These resources are commonly divided into convenient categories:

1. The nonrenewable resources, including ores, minerals and the fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas).
2. The renewable resources, which include soil, natural vegetation (forests, grassland, and so forth) and wildlife.
3. The so-called flow resources, including water and air, which are naturally, if slowly, renewable but less amenable to man's control than the other renewable resources.

Policy concerning each of these categories necessarily varies greatly. All that man can do in wisely using nonrenewable resources is to husband them carefully, avoiding waste and seeking to share them fairly. Once exhausted, they are gone forever. Since these are extractive resources, obtained by mining, the rate of use is best regulated by society - that is, by the government.

The same applies to the use of flow resources - of which we have only recently become generally aware - since human population growth and our avaricious way of life have created shortages in the quantity or quality of these resources.

We still blame too many of our water shortages on drought instead of on excessive local demand and pollution. Water and air pollution are still too widely shrugged off as mere inconveniences, whereas they are already affecting our health unfavorably.

As their name implies, the renewable resources are self-perpetuating. However, their regenerative power is due to complex and interrelated processes that have developed on earth only since life appeared. Man's ability to continue exploiting the earth's renewable resources for his own benefit depends on his awareness of those interrelationships and on his self-restraint in exercising his "mastery" over nature.

When the word conservation was first coined, during President Theodore Roosevelt's administration (1901-09), the United States was still an agricultural society but already in the midst of the industrial revolution. Roosevelt was a sound naturalist and well aware of the importance and the interdependence of all the natural resources. He urged the nation to adopt a co-ordinated plan for resources development. Congress balked at this proposal to allocate resources scientifically, however, preferring its traditional logrolling tactics.

When Roosevelt took his cause to the people, they misunderstood him and turned the conservation movement, originally aimed at scientific development and use, into a movement of resource preservation. The words wise use were interpreted as saving. For this reason, much misunderstanding

about the meaning of the word conservation and the objectives of the conservation movement persist to this day.

Historically, also, concern for resource conservation developed in reverse order of resource importance, but in order of resource abuse. The first conservation laws were for wildlife protection. Rhode Island had a closed season on taking deer as early as 1646. Next came concern for forests - and none too soon, since the gutting of the Eastern forests of the United States, the world's best, was as shameful a chapter in resource liquidation as the slaughter of the bison.

Not until the dust bowl disaster of the 1930's did the United States begin paying national attention to soil conservation. Water conservation is a newer concern still. And people are only now waking up to the importance of preventing air pollution by the myriad pollutants - from gasoline fumes and chemical pesticides to radioactive wastes - which our technological society spews forth.

Finally, we have just begun, in the mid-1960's, to recognize that the sheer weight of human numbers as well as the level of understanding and self-discipline of various societies is a critical factor in every equation that has to do with resource use.

Man's newly developed skills in substituting one resource for another, through chemistry, have eliminated the specter of resource scarcity that concerned early conservationists. Today's conservation problem in the technologically advanced societies is the challenge of crowding more people into the landscape without robbing it of its charm and great diversity of plants and animals which make it interesting and keep it productive.

The problem is the challenge of not fouling the total environment through slovenly habits or economic greed. Finally, it is the challenge of learning to live with one another in such a way as to profit from our success in eliminating material scarcities, by re-establishing contact with nature and enriching our minds and our spirits.

Conservation is thus the doctrine that aims to preserve the health and productivity of our only home, the planet earth, of which we, too, are a part. It involves facets of our religious, political, and economic attitudes. It is built on our scientific understanding of nature's laws, not only in the working of atoms but in a running stream and in the relationship between mice and foxes.

Its success - which will also be the success of our particular civilization - depends on our ability to be humble as technological power continues to multiply; on our care in passing the earth and its resources from one generation to another like a treasured legacy; and even on our willingness to love one another. Rather than discard the word, as some impatient with its misuse have suggested, we should recognize that the growth of human numbers and the discoveries of science and technology have made conservation the crucial human enterprise.





SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

By G. SHUMWAY SUFFEL

(Editor's note: Readers of "Audubon Field Notes" will recognize Shum Suffel's name as that of a frequent contributor of observations. We are fortunate to have such a good field man as successor to our former writer of this column, - David Gaines, who will be living in Santa Cruz while attending the University of California at Santa Cruz.)

Activity in November settles down to a normal pace, after the hectic migration days of early fall. Once again we see robins and juncos on our lawns, White-crowns and Kinglets in the bushes, and hear the high-pitched notes of Cedar Waxwings overhead. Each one of these species may have a rarer sibling species in close association with it. So, the eager birder examines the flocks in hopes of finding that one odd bird - a Varied Thrush, a Slate-colored or Gray-headed Junco, a Harris Sparrow, a Golden-crowned Kinglet or a Bohemian Waxwing.

October, as expected, was a whirlwind of rare birds, but slower than usual for the "to-be-expected" migrants. Quality not quantity was our fate. The treesful of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers just never happened. Shirley Wells, alone or in company with Abigail King, Jay Shepard, Rich Milne, or Shum Suffel, led the parade of rare bird finders. An Ovenbird under the bushes at Pt. Fermin Park seemed well settled, but left after 24 hours. A highly colored male Redstart was admired by all Shirley's associates; at least one other Redstart was seen at Richard Milne's in Palos Verdes. Averill Park in San Pedro attracted two, maybe three, Indigo Buntings - one of these an amazing pied bird, rich cinnamon brown with indigo blue patches on the breast, wings, and tail. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Averill Park and a Blackburnian Warbler in the willows at Harbor Park were found on the weekend of Oct. 8th.

The San Diego area produced the best birds of the fall migration. A Yellow-green Vireo in a pepper tree at Wendover Ranch was seen by many members of the L. A. A. S. on their field trip, before it flew off toward Mexico (this is the 3rd sighting in California). The Greenbergs from Palo Alto showed up the local experts by finding a Ruff in a flooded pasture. It soon flew to a plowed-under tomato field where it was re-discovered by Bruce Broadbooks and his party. Other rare birds seen by many observers were: a bright male Canada Warbler (3rd California record), a Blackburnian Warbler, one or more Tennessee Warblers, two Magnolia Warblers, two or more Clay-colored Sparrows, and on

Pt. Loma Prairie, Black-throated Blue Warblers, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and two Dickcissels. These birds were virtually unreported in California until a few years ago. Alice Fries, Shirley's mother, reports from Capistrano Beach - a Black-and-white Warbler, a Sage Thrasher, and several Brewer's Sparrows. She and Shirley made their quickest and most spectacular find within two minutes after leaving the freeway - a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Buena Vista Lagoon. This beautiful "sunny tan" bird is the fifth recorded in the state. There is a fine picture of three Buff-breasts in the new Shorebird book (it's the greatest! Grace Nixon can get you one!). Paul Steineck reports eighteen Jaegers - Pomarine, Parasitic, and unidentified - in the San Pedro Channel while aboard the research vessel Valero IV.



Welcome!

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