

PART TWO -

A Frontier Naturalist: William Gambel

By Jo Vaughn

(Editor's Note: Part One of this account described Gambel's route westward, and his arrival in Southern California. As we resume the narrative, Gambel is heading north.)

It is fun to picture his route. Of course he followed El Camino Real. Secularization had left only shells of some Missions, but services were still held at a few. Gambel was amused at the Barn Owls that nested in the rafters and drank the sacred oil from the lamps. He "waxed eloquent" over the House Finch, "*Carpodacus Mexicanus*", (Mexican fruit-biter) and wrote a description that might have been written recently:

"This handsome songster we first observed in Santa Fe... In California it is extremely abundant and a familiar resident and called by the inhabitants 'Buriones.' During winter they assemble in flocks frequenting the brushy plains and hillsides (What did they perch on in long lines when there were no utility lines or fences?)... and living on various kinds of seeds. They also sometimes do considerable damage to the grapes. Early in March they start pairing;... placing entire trust in man they persist in building about houses... prefer rafters under sheds repaying the inmates for the privilege with their song. The nest is made of small sticks or stems of weeds... lined with horse hair. They usually lay five eggs sometimes of a plain bluish white color, but generally having a few scattering streaks and specks of brown on the larger end. It would be impossible with words to describe the song of this western Orpheus; although California contains many song birds, among them the Mockingbird, yet there is none more exhilarating to the feelings or melodious and tender to the ear than the song of this finch."

The winter of 1842 had been a rainy one after a drought of fourteen months. Rain and wildflowers being synonymous, El Camino Real to the San Fernando Mission would have been a passageway under the spreading arms of the live oaks with golden tassels that sputtered yellow dust when a breeze played against them. The Black-headed Grosbeaks would be singing, and a few Bullock Orioles might be sucking juice from the wild *Nicotiana* flowers whose color almost matched their own. The Gambel Sparrows had not left for the north and would be picking at seeds newly ripened on roadside plants, maybe dried-up purplish wild *brodiaea*.

At Santa Barbara he found Nuttall's "yellow headed Anna's hummer" but saw that it was not a "freak," only a little bird that had rubbed its head against pollen-laden stamens.

It may have been on this beach that he saw the Condors. "It is very voracious, and nothing less than the carcass of a horse or a cow can make a meal for them... It is not uncommon to see them assemble with the gulls, and greedily devour the carcasses of the whales which have been cast a-

shore... The male in perfect plumage has the head and neck orange-yellow, and the irides carmen."

He must have had the opportunity to observe one closely but assuming he wanted to collect it - preparing the skin and carrying it on horseback could present difficulties.

The padres crossed the mountains on their way to the Santa Inez Mission by the way of El Refugio and it is possible that Gambel chose this route, too. Along the trail would have been baby-blue-eyes, the seeds of which David Douglas had sent back to European gardens; yellow johnny-jump-ups; purple *Collinsias*; and in a hidden glade, the pink fairy lanterns of the Mariposa tribe. The Yellow-breasted Chat would have just arrived and would be entertaining with his repertoire of "songs." There would have been fields of amethystine shooting stars on the hillsides, too. A cock California Quail at the sound of horses' hoofs would have mounted a rise and, his little question-mark plume bobbing with excitement, called his "Take-care-

..... continued on next page.

there-take-care-there. Gambel would have grinned, no doubt, and many times he must have thought of the words of Townsend's Narrative:

"None but a naturalist can appreciate a naturalist's feelings - his delight amounting to ecstasy when a specimen such as he has never seen meets his eye, and the grief and sorrow which he feels when he is compelled to tear himself away from a spot abounding with all that he has anxiously and unremittingly sought for."

Gambel had time to stop and look. Through the mountains from the San Miguel Mission to the Mission of San Antonio du Padua he could have had the bewildering pleasure of holding a wind poppy in his hand as its blossoms fell off forthwith. There would be a new yerba santa with wooly gray leaves and on an off road he might have found the pink-flowered bitter root named after Meriwether Lewis who had found it in the future Montana. The Yellow-billed Magpies would be gathered around a dead jack rabbit while Turkey Vultures soared over head. Brown Towhees had so often skittered back and forth across the road in front of his horse's feet since leaving Los Angeles that he paid no attention any more. Rufous-sided Towhees "bree-ee-eed" in the tangle of ceanothus and coffee berry coming into bloom.

There is mention of sugar pine cones being sent back home with a note "Santa Lucias." As he followed Portola's and Serra's trail through the Santa Lucias on the way to the Salinas Valley and the Soledad Mission he could have gathered them along the way.

At the San Juan Bautista Mission a note is made that he collected a White-tailed Kite, but it was not a new bird. In the Valley and on the hill-sides would have been unending fields of tidy-tips and other members of the composite family and mustard as high as his head. Across the fields, too, that stretched to the Coast range, the western border of the San Joaquin Valley, and dotted with white oaks (*Quercus lobata*) the Meadowlarks would have been sending out their clarion calls announcing spring.

In September he came to Monterey. It was a town of pride with red-tiled, whitewashed adobe houses in a green lawn setting. There was the Plaza and the Custom House and the Presidio, too. Several leagues away at Rancho Alisal, owned by William Hartnell and his wife, Dona Teresa Hartnelly de la Guerra, young men wishing to be educated and of intellectual curiosity were eagerly welcomed by Hartnell; so not surprisingly, Gambel became their guest. Remember, Americans were a minority group in California in 1842.

It was at Monterey that Gambel found the Wren-tit and renamed the California Thrasher. He writes about the little bird with the glaring white eye and resounding voice:

"For several months before discovering the bird I chased in the fields of dead mustard stalks, the weedy margins of streams... a loud grating scold which I took for that of a species of wren but at last found it to proceed from this wren-tit if it may be so called. It was difficult to be seen and kept... close to the ground... If quietly watched it may be seen when searching for insects mounting dried twigs sideways jerking its long tail and holding erect like a wren... tail long and graduated external feathers about an inch and half longer than those in the middle of the tail. Entire plumage of body composed of long silky puff like feathers." "*Chamaea fasciata*" (fastened to the ground).

Grinnell says apparently only one skin was collected - in fair condition but yellowed with age No. USNM 3339. Perhaps even in those days Gambel was a conservationist. This could be the reason he did not collect a Condor. He knew that Townsend had done so, which was the one that Audubon had used for the painting made by him; so why sacrifice another one?

The Plain Titmouse was another bird new to the ornithological world discovered and named by Gambel. This bird's topknot was not too conspicuous so it became "*Parus inornatus*" (the unadorned tit). (USNM 3340 - skin in good condition - little if any faded. After 89 years!)

Much excitement was brewing in Monterey. Two United States Naval vessels were anchored in Monterey Bay - the corvette "Cyane" with Commodore Thomas ap Catesbey Jones in command; and the frigate "United States" with Captain Armstrong.

While in South America the Commodore had read sinister meanings in the behavior of the British ship; and scuttlebutt relaying the news of Mexico and the United States being at war, Jones decided to get to Monterey before the British did.

On October 19, 1842, he ordered the Captain with a detachment of marines to go to the Custom House. There the Stars and Stripes were raised and the Commodore took over California. Alvarado, the acting governor, was scared, and Thomas Larkin, United States Consul, was annoyed. When the Commodore was told that the rumors of war were not true, he ordered the flag lowered the next day much to the disgust of his crew- they had expected to receive prize money. The Commodore apologized and a ball was given to show that all were friends again.

Dr. Richard Maxwell, the twenty-year-old assistant surgeon aboard the "United States" inevitably met the other young man of his own age who liked to hunt "quail, doves and hares." Once they went over to the Old Mission and got an old woman to make them tortillas, and she stewed their quail with red peppers. The young doctor and Gambel became congenial friends. Henry La Reintree, the Commodore's secretary, resigned on reaching Monterey. Gambel confided to Maxwell about financial worries. Inevitably again,

with the comment from Maxwell that Gambel could speak Spanish fluently! In November the Commodore welcomed Gambel to his staff as Clerk.

In February, 1843, the "Cyane" sailed south along the coast of California with Gambel aboard. In this short time the young man had proven the right to be called a naturalist. He had many birds in his collection - he had discovered and named four new ones. Only four? In the world of American ornithologists - with the collections of birds brought back by Nuttall and Townsend added to those of Audubon's - it was believed that there were no new ones to be found. John Cassin, Dean of Ornithology, who was miserly with praise, exclaimed, "Eureka... it is marvellous!" A summarizing paper that Gambel wrote later brought forth comment that this was "the first paper of note on California ornithology and the basis for subsequent work."

He was not only an ornithologist, but a versatile naturalist with his discovery and naming of two western rodents - the kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys agilis agilis*) and the parasitic mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*).

In the eight short years of the "soothsayer's prediction" Gambel demonstrated that he had the ability of an explorer and a field naturalist whose potentials had been evident when the nineteen-year-old youth rode over Cajon Pass on his own expedition in November 1841.

As the "Cyane" cruised past San Diego, the Isomeris that Nuttall had found there perhaps could be seen; and atop each bush, yellow-flowered even in mid-winter, White-crowns singing plaintively.

-THE END-



Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow
Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii

The Western Tanager

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More about COLORADO

from Hugh Kingery

Lyons, Colorado 66 has been redesignated U. S. 36, but is still the road to Estes Park.

Rocky Mountain National Park. Since so many people come to Colorado to see the White-tailed Ptarmigan, here are more detailed directions on how to find them. Denver Field Ornithologists annually take a field trip up to the Park to find the Ptarmigan, and with these directions usually succeed:

Drive to the top of Trail Ridge Road to the parking place just west of the Rock Cut. Take the trail up to the Toll Memorial. This is an interesting tundra Nature trail and I recommend that you follow it to the Memorial, which points out all the mountains you can see in 360 degrees of direction from this high-up perch.

West and north of the blacktop trail to the Memorial is an old rock quarry. Ptarmigan like a mixture of tundra and rocks; the birds inhabit this area around the rock quarry. If you spend an hour or two walking up and down and back and forth, you should be able to find some of these interesting birds. Watch out for the altitude - it's over 12,000 feet, and even a short walk can be strenuous.

Note: The above is an addendum to Hugh's "Colorado Gazetteer", in the July-August and September, 1968, issues of "Western Tanager."

INTERFERING WITH THE BALANCE OF NATURE - ONE MORE EXAMPLE

Dr. Dick Neuman gives us our only fall report of Swainson's Hawks. While visiting Rose Hills Cemetery in the Whittier Hills, on the 29th, he saw more than twenty hawks soaring overhead. Twelve of these were Swainson's, the others being Red-tails with a Kestrel or two. While watching the hawks, he heard rifle shots, and discovering a helicopter to be the source of the shots, feared that they were shooting at the hawks. The next day he read, as many of us did, that the helicopter had crashed, killing the two occupants "while shooting coyotes". Let us hope that this tragedy will teach those responsible, what any professional ecologist could tell them, - that it is needless folly to shoot coyotes. The cost to the taxpayer could not have been less than several

hundred dollars per head, - and for what? The coyote is the most efficient rodent destroyer in the West-- a real "old pro" in this business. He should be encouraged, not destroyed!



By G. Shumway Suffel

Hawk



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2165 West Silver Lake Drive
Los Angeles, Ca 90039

WE CORDIALLY INVITE OUR NEW MEMBERS TO ATTEND EVENING MEETINGS, AND FIELD TRIPS. IF YOU ARE AN EXPERIENCED BIRDER - PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP IN OUR ACTIVITIES. IF YOU ARE A BEGINNER, PLEASE LET US HELP YOU LEARN THE FASCINATING GAME OF "BIRDING"



Audubon Activities

FIELD TRIP - Tijuana River Bottom ... (San Diego) - A total of 47 members and guests were on the annual field trip to San Diego for fall migrants. The weather was favorable, with overcast mornings, as we saw the usual birds moving through the Tijuana River Valley. In addition, a Golden Plover, two Solitary Sandpipers, a Tropical Kingbird, a Virginia's, and a Lucy's Warbler were observed. Lucy's Warbler is very rare along the coast. Other unusual birds seen by members of our group included 2 Reddish Egrets, a Ruff, and a Bobolink. 129 species were listed. -- Larry Sansone, Leader

EVENING MEETING - Oct. 8 - Loran E. Perry of the Desert Protective Council showed us a potpourri of natural and man-made scenes with a strong underlying theme of conservation. An interesting shot was that of the photographic equipment necessary for the closeups, long shots, etc. in this program of beautiful nature slides. - Our membership is finding it very rewarding to visit Audubon House before or after the evening program in order to see and buy at Grace Nixon's well - stocked sales department.

FIELD TRIP - Cabrillo Beach & PV Peninsula - About 15 people, including some of our new members, enjoyed the knowledgeable leadership of Shirley Wells & Richard Bradley on the Oct. 12 trip; the weather was excellent, and many of the usual species were seen, plus two interesting birds, a Common Murre and a White-winged Dove.



DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP
(Ovis canadensis nelsoni)

Once ranging from southern British Columbia as far south as the mountains of Baja California, the bighorn is now protected in most of its present range. The animal is not numerous, and should remain on the protected list of endangered wildlife. The desert race of the Bighorn Sheep may be seen occasionally in the Joshua Tree National Monument, and at higher elevations of the Borrego Desert.

--- Dan Leavitt
(Courtesy of the San Diego Audubon Society)



calendar

Miss Laura Jenner, *President*
 639 W. 32nd, Street
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 748-7510

HEADQUARTERS, LIBRARY AND NATURE MUSEUM LOCATED AT AUDUBON HOUSE
 PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046 876-0202

November 1968

Mrs. Abigail King, *Executive Secretary*
 700 Halliday Avenue
 Los Angeles 90049
 476-5121

Barn Owl



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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Nov. 7 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Audubon House

Nov. 9 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - SANTA BARBARA. We will have a well known local Santa Barbara birder to lead us. This trip has produced 80-100 species in the past and should be an excellent trip. Meet at the Bird Refuge (east end parking lot) at 8:30 a.m. Turn off freeway at Cabrillo Blvd. Bring lunches.

Leader: Nelson Metcalf — for information: Bruce Broadbooks: 670-8210

Nov. 12 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING - 8:00 p.m., Great Hall; Plummer Park. L.A. Audubon member Mrs. Ruth Cordner will present this program, — "Vignettes of Nature" consisting of slides on many aspects of natural history taken during her travels around the country. Audubon House will be open before and after the program.

Nov. 24 SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - EATON CANYON. Meet at 8:00 a.m. We will observe wintering foothill birds. Take the Pasadena Freeway to Colorado Blvd. Turn right and continue to Altadena Drive. Turn left and continue to intersection of Midwick & Roosevelt with Altadena Drive.

Leader: Pauline Cole

Dec. 14 SATURDAY-SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - CARRIZO PLAINS - for those who may
 15 be new to birding or new to the area, this is the trip where we go in search of the Sandhill Cranes. We have seen as many as 2000 individual cranes on the plains. We often get good looks at Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks and Mountain Plovers. Those staying overnight make reservations with the California Valley Lodge, California Valley 93453.

Leader: Jim Huffman 545-1224

ALWAYS BRING lunch and binoculars on field trips

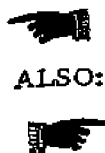
PLEASE no pets, and no collecting on any kind

EVERYONE WELCOME AT ALL ACTIVITIES

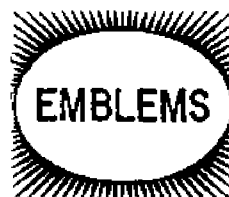
GRACE NIXON, SALES CHAIRMAN, STATES:

"THE SALES DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE AUDUBON CHRISTMAS CARDS

FOR CHRISTMAS MAILING; MAKE YOUR ORDERS THROUGH AUDUBON HOUSE."



ALSO:





During November we can expect a change in emphasis from the excitement of the fall migration to the more stable conditions of the winter season. There will still be a few late migrants, and they should be studied carefully, since they will comprise a larger proportion of vagrants (lost birds, largely immatures who are off course both locationwise and timewise).

The early arrival of winter residents in September almost stole the spotlight from the more glamorous migrants. White-crowned Sparrows made their earliest appearance in many years. The first birds were seen on the 14th by Shirley Wells, and within a few days were found in small numbers both along the coast and inland. This is two weeks ahead of normal, and almost a month ahead of last year. Cedar Waxwings showed up even earlier -- a small flock was at Palos Verdes on the 7th (Jean Muller) and by the end of the month, flocks of fifty or more were seen in Pasadena (Ralph Mancke) and elsewhere. This in contrast to their usual erratic, but late, fall arrival. Audubon Warblers, expected in early October, were heard and seen in small numbers by mid-September. A possible explanation, according to Roland Ross, who has made a study of the effect of weather on birds, was a southerly flow of cold polar air in mid-month. We all remember how unusual the weather was then, with alternate cold and hot weeks.

There were unusual numbers of swifts reported this September, species-wise. Vaux's Swifts were seen from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border in small numbers, but 50 or more at the Sepulveda Recreation Area (John Dunn) and several hundred at Pt. Fermin Park (Ralph Mancke) on the 29th were the only large flocks reported. Kim Garrett gives us one of the few fall reports of Black Swifts. He saw more than 50 at Brush Canyon in the Hollywood Hills on the 23rd. We have had two reports of Chimney Swifts this month, which very possibly are correct, but which must be confirmed to be accepted. Separating this bird from the migrant Vaux's Swifts is most difficult. The only sure characteristic is size, relative to other swifts or swallows in the same flocks. Lightness or darkness on the throat and breast is a relative value, strongly influenced by light conditions.

Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen chasing terns in the coastal lagoons. One was at Bolsa Chica on the 20th, and another at Marina del Rey in early October (Hal Ferris). Solitary Sandpipers were seen singly (or rarely in twos) throughout the month and into early October. Baird's Sandpipers were reported by several observers to mid-month, mostly at the Capistrano Beach sewer ponds. Knots were observed more often than usual at all coastal lagoons, but chiefly at the better-worked Upper Newport Bay. Pectoral Sandpipers were also at the sewer ponds, and as many as four were in a flooded field, with a rare Ruff (or probably a Reeve) near the Mexican border on the 21st. Sandy Wohlgemuth re-

ported a male Summer Tanager at Tapia Park on the 22nd, and by month's end it had been joined by a female and a young male (red tail and under-tail coverts with a green back and yellow under-parts). Rusty Scalf was rewarded with a bright red male Summer Tanager and a Townsend's Solitaire at Palos Verdes on the 29th, a good morning's work. Richard Bradley made the most of his proximity to the coastal marshes by finding an immature Franklin's Gull at Bolsa Chica on the 12th, and a Louisiana Heron at Upper Newport Bay on the 29th. Not to be outdone, the Paul Hesslers found two Louisiana Herons at the Imperial Beach lagoon on the 28th.

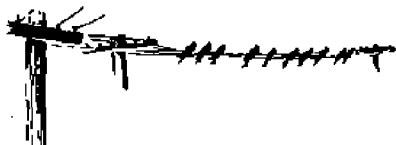
The more intensively birded locations turned up many good birds. Pt. Pinos near Monterey produced the best bird of the fall, - a Cape May Warbler - and it was exclusively a L. A. A. S. production. The Russ Wilsons and the Harold Baxters found it on Oct. 4th, and more than thirty eager Auduboners hurried to see it after the pelagic trip on the 5th, - but only two lucky L. A. A. S. members (Jan Tarble and G. S. S.) saw it well, before it exploded from the bushes and disappeared into the pine forest. Two Palm Warblers and a Tropical Kingbird served as consolation prizes for the rest of the group. The Goleta area was productive on the 6th with another Palm Warbler (maybe two) and another Tropical Kingbird at the sewer ponds, and a male Harlequin Duck (in eclipse or immature plumage) at the mouth of the lagoon. This rare duck was found by Arthur Langford of Quebec a week earlier and reported to the local birders by him.

Pt. Fermin Park in San Pedro had many rare birds, reported by Shirley Wells unless otherwise noted. Leading the parade was a Redstart on the 11th, to be followed by two Virginia's Warblers on the 18th, a White-winged Dove on the 20th (Grace Nixon), a Blackpoll Warbler on the 22nd (Ralph Mancke), a Yellowbreasted Chat on the 25th, an immature Claycolored Sparrow on Oct. 2nd, and a female Black-throated Blue Warbler on the 4th. This illustrates very well that good birds are there and intensive birding turns them up. The Capistrano-Doheny Park area proved its worth to many careful observers. In addition to the Baird's, Solitary, and Pectoral Sandpipers, and the Lark Bunting reported last month, there was a Virginia's Warbler on the 27th, a Tennessee Warbler on the 28th (Ralph Mancke), a Blackpoll Warbler on the 29th (Alice Fries), and a Bobolink on Oct. 5th (Paul Steineck). In addition, three very rare "possibles", needing confirmation, were a Canada Warbler on the 23rd (Ellen Stephenson), a Philadelphia Vireo on Oct. 5th (Paul Steineck), and a Prothonotary Warbler on the 7th (Fern Zimmerman). Can anyone supply the needed confirmation? The San Diego area fairly bristled with rare birds, particularly Pt. Loma and the Tijuana River Valley (Tj. R. V.). The first Tropical Kingbird and the first Bobolink were in the Tj. R. V. on the 28th (Bruce Broadbooks & G. S. S.). A Clay-colored Sparrow on the ground, and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the fig tree were at the Pt. Loma cemetery on the 15th. The latter bird

A Living Heritage of the West
THE WILD HORSE

was a cause of considerable embarrassment to a few nameless birdwatchers who pronounced it a Black-headed Grosbeak, because it looked like one, - unless one saw the rose-colored wing-linings which are characteristic of the Rose-breasted. Some of the unusual warblers were: Virginia's, Lucy's, Tennessee, Blackpoll, Magnolia (netted), and a probable Mourning Warbler (netted and measured). The latter, if verified, would be a first record for California.

In addition to the parks and coastal lagoons, the cemeteries and golf courses will provide good habitat for winter birds. Two individual birds which have wintered with us in the past will be anxiously awaited. The first is the Hepatic Tanager which has wintered at Rancho Park for the past four years; and the other is a Rock Sandpiper which has been seen on the breakwaters at Marina del Rey for several winters, but did not show last year. Who knows -- even the Coues' Flycatcher at Brush Canyon may favor us again this winter.



(Since we received the following letter from Beula Edmiston, the Congress has adjourned; however, Beula assures us that the issue is still very much alive, - and that we -- you and I -- possess the weapon that can win the fight: the power to write letters, and more letters, and to spread the word to everyone with whom we come in contact. A clear, concise, hand-written letter carries great weight with our public servants; we are therefore printing Beula's message just as she wrote it, in the hope that all our members will become involved in this cause. Here is the opportunity to save a magnificent symbol of the Old West as contrasted with phony "corrals" and "Wild West Shows".

Dear friends,

We who love the Wild Horse - and cherish the living heritage of the west - may well hail two recent developments that public demand has brought about, and redouble our efforts to insure their success, and the Wild Horse's survival.

On Sept. 16, 1968, Hon. Walter S. Baring introduced H.R. 19789 - "To direct that wild unbranded horses, mares, colts, and burros be declared to be endangered species of wildlife" . . . and the Secretary of the Interior authorized and directed to undertake immediately appropriate measures for their conservation and protection. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine & Fisheries.

Days earlier, Boyd L. Rasmussen, Director of the Bureau of Land Management, issued the statement that the Secretary of the Interior had set aside a 31,000-acre wild horse and wildlife range "for the protection of this national heritage in the Pryor Mountains along the Montana-Wyoming border.

This is a brave, new step in the right direction. With the benefit of public opinion, it can develop into a permanent, inviolate Wild Horse Sanctuary. It must.

Like the Wild Horse, our Public Domain of more than seven and a half hundred million acres, under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, is a priceless heritage that needs our knowledge and interest. Under present law, the B.L.M. recognizes the fact that not all the multiplicity of uses best serve every part and parcel of the Public Domain; and with enough public support, the B.L.M. performs some splendid acts of preservation.

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!NOTICE!



Don't forget



**Christmas
Bird Count**

DECEMBER 29, 1968

VOLUNTEER NOW
Your Help is Needed

Call Audubon House 876-0202

If you wish to enlarge your knowledge and appreciation of the Audubon Society in our land, drop in at the Audubon House Library and look over the exchange bulletins that arrive each month from our sister chapters. You will be encouraged by conservation efforts in every corner of the country; you will learn of the typical birds of each region, and of field trips that will show you these birds when you travel. - Your editor is rightly proud of the high quality of the newsletters and quarterlies of the various chapters. Don't miss the enjoyment of seeing the big picture of Audubon influence in the U.S.

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The urgent need is for a great Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary - not a token herd "managed" on a hunting range.

"MANAGE" the Wild Horse? Should we also "manage" the free-furling majesty of Old Glory? It is charged that Wild Horse lovers view them with "emotion". May the day never dawn when Americans fail to view the Wild Horse, the Liberty Bell, or any symbol of freedom and beauty -- without emotion!

And what does "Management" entail? "Removal" is the name for it. In the past, "removal" has often been accomplished by Wild Horse Runners whose cruel and sadistic practices are too gruesome to recite. (But they are well documented).

The B. L. M. announces that it has suspended plans to trap or round up Wild Horses on the Pryor Mountain range, pending recommendations of an Advisory Committee. It had, however, expended substantial sums for traps with which to achieve "removal" when thirst should force the hapless creatures out of their mountain fastnesses for water. They would be sold at auction. Rodeo? Dog food? Sold, - to the highest bidder!

May it never come to pass. May we care enough to refine the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse and Wildlife Range into a real Wild Horse Sanctuary. -- There is evidence that the threat of starvation on this range is over-emphasized at the present time. However, skillful seeding of the range might well be considered. If the circumstance should arise where the threat of starvation were imminent, it is an established fact that hay agrees with horses, and its cost is peanuts as compared with the cost of "management" and "removal". And I am glad to say that "Operation Haylift" is not a new idea.

The life of another valiant band of Wild Horses on Public Land in the Bookcliff Mountains of Colorado hangs by the slender thread of public opinion. Let's take up our pen. The lives of the Wild Horses are precious in their own right -- and they are our living heritage of the West.

S O S - Concern over increased exploitation of Southern California's beautiful shoreline and ocean environment drew over 200 conservationists to an emergency meeting of the American Cetacean Society last Aug. 26th at the Marina del Rey Hotel. A panel of marine and conservation experts addressed the meeting, and they described the crises now confronting us, including: waste pollution of waters; destruction of estuarine ecology; and conversion of prime coastal recreation and wildlife areas into urban and industrial jungles.

The Cetacean Society suggested establishment of a separate fund, termed Save-Our-Seas (SOS), to finance newsletters, educational brochures, and general meetings in order to alert the public and the legislature to the urgency of the problem. This fund (SOS) could be administered by a board including members of such conservation organizations as Sierra Club, Audubon, Ocean Fish Protective Ass'n, etc. Persons interested in helping to organize the Save-Our-Seas program, which will include action to preserve waterfowl and shorebird habitats, are asked to contact the American Cetacean Society, P.O. Box 306, Venice, Ca 90291; or call Laura Jenner, 748-7510.

We are always pleased when we hear of a lodge or hotel which caters to birders. Such a one is The Lodge on the Desert, in Tucson, -- the heart of birding country. Almost daily bird tours will be conducted by graduate students in ornithology at the University of Arizona from the Lodge, making your trip a richer one in avian observations. Write to the Lodge, 306 N. Alvernon Way, P.O. Box 6669, Tucson, Ariz. 85766, for more information.

Write your Congressman and two Senators. Also write: Hon. Edward A. Garmatz, Chairman Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

House Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

To support and refine the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse and Wildlife Range, write:

The Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Boyd L. Rasmussen, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Washington, D. C.

Harold Tysk, State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Federal Building, 316 N. 26th St.
Billings, Montana 59101

D. Dean Bibles, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
3021 Sixth Ave, North
Billings, Montana 59101

If we act now, the future of the Wild Horse might be bright!

Sincerely,

Beula Edmiston

Beula Edmiston
5502 Markland Dr., Los Angeles, Ca 90022



Editor's Note. - My sincerest thanks to Miss Laura Jenner for putting together the October issue of Tanager during my three weeks' absence in September. I visited Jamaica, Panama, Colombia, Caracas (Venezuela), Trinidad, Tobago, and Puerto Rico. In a later issue of Tanager I would like to discuss with you the beautiful birds I saw, and the imminent destruction of a great deal of their habitat unless the population problem (human) is solved - SOON.