

The Western Tanager

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NUMBER 5

JANUARY, 1970

1969: A Vintage Year...

by G. Shumway Suffel

Before we "wipe the slate clean," and start making plans for 1970, let's review what happened to Southern California birds in 1969. BOHEMIAN WAXWINGS continued their winter invasion southward almost to the Mexican border for the first time in more than a decade. For the most part their numbers were small in our area with the count of 120 at Holcomb Valley being by far the greatest, but in Las Vegas, Nevada, just east of our region over 12,000 were seen.

The search for rare waterfowl occupied a major portion of our local birder's time last winter. There were reports of eight drake EUROPEAN WIDGEON (the females are almost indistinguishable from our American Widgeon), an unusually large number for Southern California and fortunately readily available at Upper Newport Bay where there were four drakes. Six EMPEROR GEESE were reported in December 1968 for their furthest south penetration. One of these stayed until March at the entrance to Anaheim Bay, Seal Beach. The Salton Sea Christmas Count revealed the presence of two RED-BREASTED GEESE flying with tens of thousands of Snow Geese there. Separating them from the hordes of Snows proved to be an eyeball-popping task for many of our members and an unsuccessful one for me. The EUROPEAN WIDGEON, mentioned above, started a chain of rare duck observations. While looking for the widgeon, the FALCATED TEAL was found, and while searching for the Falcated Teal the COMMON TEAL was discovered among

the thousands of Green-winged Teal at Upper Newport Bay. The status of the Red-breasted Geese and Falcated Teal, as wild vagrants or as escapees, is still unresolved.

For the first time VAUX'S SWIFTS were found here in the winter. Over one hundred spent the entire month of February near Vista in San Diego County, and there were scattered reports of smaller numbers from the Salton Sea to the coast. Since none were seen from October through January, we have to assume that these were early migrants.

The spring migration of small passerines was about two weeks late but in normal numbers for the most part. Morongo Valley again this year proved to be one of the best spots not only for small migrants, but as the most westerly outpost for nesting LUCY'S WARBLERS, SUMMER TANAGERS and WIED'S FLY-CATCHERS (all three common in Arizona).

For the most part summer was dull bird-wise, unlike the summer of '68 when several new species were recorded locally. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES summered along the coast and at the Salton Sea in unusual numbers, after last winter's heavy invasion. The presumed nesting of BLACK RAILS along the Colorado River above Yuma was the cause of much excitement among eager birders attempting to lure them out of their cat-tail marsh with taped and vocal imitations of their calls. As so often happens, the early attempts were

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1969: A Vintage Year

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successful and several open views were obtained, but the birds soon became conditioned to the calls of their supposed rival and refused to put in an appearance.



By mid-July wanderers from the south began showing up at the Salton Sea—two BLACK SKIMMERS at the Salton City Marina, and an immature ROSEATE SPOONBILL (a month later two were seen here) with the hundreds of WOOD IBIS at the Red Hill Marina. In late August an invasion of Boobies from the Gulf of California began and by mid-September a count of thirty BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES and seven BROWN BOOBIES was recorded. Both these figures are greater than the aggregate of all previous records for these species. At about the same time southern herons and egrets put in an appearance. At least four REDDISH EGRETS were seen: one at Pt. Mugu, two at the north end of the Salton Sea, and one at the mouth of the San Diego River. LOUISIANA HERONS also arrived in unusual numbers: one or two in the San Diego area, one at Pt. Mugu, one at Upper Newport Bay, and three in the Seal Beach marshes. A single LITTLE BLUE HERON (very rare in California) made it barely across the Mexican border into the Tijuana River Valley, was seen in the morning by our L. A. A. S. president and ex-president Clarke and Small, respectively (and respectfully), and was found dead that afternoon.

The outstanding bird of the fall season certainly had to be the SHARP-TAILED SAND-PIPER near Santa Barbara in mid-September. This was the first record in Southern California since 1921. There were equally amazing occurrences of vagrant passerines this fall which are covered in the October and November issues of "The Western Tanager."

More recent reports will be covered in detail here as we do every month. This apparently is going to be a FULMAR winter—they were fairly common on the pelagic trip from San Diego November 22 and several individuals have been reported near piers from Santa Barbara to Oceanside. A REDDISH EGRET seen at Pt. Mugu in mid-November by

Sandy Wohlgemuth and a few days later by Charles Black is probably the same one found there in mid-August. If so, it has been a very elusive bird, as several people have looked for it without success in the interim. CATTLE EGRETS returned to the region in greater numbers than ever before—about three hundred were at the south end of the Salton Sea in November and Guy McCaskie reports that three of these had gray bills with dark tips instead of the normal yellow or orange bills. Trudi Siptroth reports five CATTLE EGRETS at the U. C. Irvine campus with the cattle there. This is the same place where the first West Coast bird was seen.

Jerry Johnson has been keeping track of the Scoter flocks near the various piers (they eat the mussels on the pilings), and reports that WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS make up a third to a half of the flocks against 5 to 10% last winter. In these large flocks there are sometimes one or two COMMON SCOTERS, and if you are as lucky as Don Sterba and Kay Yagii a fine male OLDSQUAW At the Santa Monica pier. This handsome and rare little duck was not reported last winter south of Morro Bay, where one was seen on November 23rd by Richard Webater.

Russ and Marion Wilson, operating from their trailer parked temporarily at Huntington Beach found a LAUGHING GULL on the State Park beach there. They are rare except at the Salton Sea, particularly in winter, but another was seen by Guy McCaskie on Pt. Loma in mid-November. Ellen Stephenson reports a GLAUCOUS GULL in very light immature plumage (second year?, see April '69 "Tanager" for discussion of this subject) on the beach at Bolsa Chica on November 24th. All Glaucous Gulls locally should be identified with extreme care and confirmed by another observer, because other large gulls particularly Glaucous-winged in worn or retarded plumage can be nearly as white, with the primaries apparently lighter than the rest of the wing. You must have a size comparison (larger than other large gulls), see the definite division between the pink base and the dark tip of the bill, and the faint buffy mottling on the top of the wings and tail.

One of the major events of late November was the coastal occurrence of thousands of RED PHALAROPES, many of them in a dead or dying condition. Apparently they were starving to death, as Joe Jehl of the San Diego Museum weighed dead specimens collected along the beaches. They weighed 30 to 35 grams versus a normal weight of 60 to 70 grams. Whether this was due directly or indirectly to pesticides,

Continued on Page 10

a message from the president

Affairs of the Los Angeles Audubon Society have been operating fairly smoothly. We have had the usual number of crises, most of which have been or are being solved. One problem was the retirement of Jim Clements from the editorship of the "Western Tanager" because of the press of business. We are very fortunate in having Gil King to take over as the new editor. We feel sure he will do an outstanding job but he will need all the support we can give him.

Once in a while something happens to shake a person out of his complacency. It is routine procedure that we contact individuals who join National Audubon directly and hope that they would wish to make their membership a joint one with the Los Angeles Chapter. Following is a verbatim reply to one of these contacts.

No thanks. I joined the Audubon Society because I am concerned about the desperate problems of preserving wildlife and its natural habitat. I find the birdwatcher's titterings in the "Western Tanager" to be pretty silly and frivolous, and I would therefor (sic) rather have my dues go entirely to the National Branch of the Society.

Our excellent Membership Chairman, Ginny Johnson, sent the following response along with an invitation to attend one of Joann Leonard's conservation meetings.

Thank you for your note. I understand your position and am not at all miffed that you wish to support the National office.

But we are upset that you think us silly, frivolous, and titterers.

We learn, we report, we get mad, we write letters. We speak to Councilmen and Supervisors, Commissioners and realtors. Our conservation chairman spends most of her time - literally - attending meetings of the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commissions, Water Quality Control Board, and many others. She presents Audubon's views. She presents the facts.

We do not list all that we do in the "Tanager" and I admit that some of the articles are lighthearted. But those which describe birding and conservation in other areas serve a purpose, and the lists of birds seen in our area are of use to people in the field.

I want you to realize that we are deeply concerned about the "desperate problems of preserving wildlife and its natural habitat" as you so aptly described it. A field trip is an excellent technique for teaching. I know this because the magnitude of the problem in Southern California was not brought home to me until I had been to some of the endangered areas and seen the problem first hand.

Well, I hope that I have convinced you that most of us do not fit the cartoon stereotype of the birdwatcher. National Audubon would not encourage the establishment of new local societies (23 last year) if it did not feel that we are vital to its growth and strength.

Again, we are glad that you are a member and understand your point of view. I just hope that you understand ours a little better.

Thank you for letting us know how you feel.

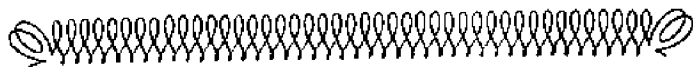
Mrs. M. K. Johnson
Membership Chairman

We have among our members, I am sure, some people who are not seriously interested in conservation. But I believe they are few. Our membership includes a large number of experts, even nationally recognized ornithologists, both professional and amateur. Through them (as well as others of us who are still learning) the bird populations of our area are kept track of. Birdwatching is one method of observing the effects upon our bird life of poisons, of swamp drainage, of estuary filling, of oil spillage, air pollution, and the spread of housing and "civilization" upon our land.

Now this brings several questions to mind. Are we emphasizing birding too much as this gentleman seems to feel? On the other hand, should we become an organization of militant conservationists to the exclusion of all else? Although a balance is attempted to be maintained between birding and active conservation, apparently it is impossible to satisfy everyone.

The officers of the Society would like to hear from as many members as possible on this subject and we will print the consensus of opinion as well as your comments in the "Western Tanager." Let's not have a silent majority. We try to make this Society into the kind of organization most members want, but you have to make your wishes known to us. Send your ideas to Gil King in care of Audubon House, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046, and perhaps we will all learn something from one another.

Herbert Clarke, President
Los Angeles Audubon Society



AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

By Otto Widman

December 9 - Evening Meeting

With close to 200 members and friends assembled President Herb Clarke called the meeting to order. New members were introduced: Mr. & Mrs. Warnaar from Rhodesia, reminded us how far our influence has spread. Joann Leonard on the other hand reminded us that influence at home remains strictly in own hands. She stressed the fact that "we" are the "they" in such statements as "Oh, they will take care of it." She read a cogent editorial from the Illinois Audubon Society President on our duty as conservationists. The "birders" of the fifties - indifferent to our environment have been transformed by the awareness of the sixties,

and now another mutation is necessary because the "active" seventies are here with the demand that action must be taken. The article is well written and deserves reprint for all members to read and act upon.

Russell Wilson, with Marion's able assistance at the projection machine, began his evening of slides in the Dry Tortugas with a perfect slide of a nesting Noddy Tern, and from here we began a grand sweep of the United States and Canada, ending in Arizona. "After 600 - What?" really should have been labeled the "Next 100," because Russ and Marion were really looking for those species that had eluded them the first time around. They had pictures of birds in breeding plumage that we here in L. A. seldom, if ever, see. It was a pleasure to see a Dunlin in its 'other' plumage. The memorable slides for me were the Harris Hawk on its nest, the Brown Pelican on a piling, painted Buntings. The list is very long, each bird more beautifully shown than the last. Russ admitted difficulties with Hummers and Trogons, and this was in the hopes that other birders would come forth with their pictures. If there ever was a desire to satisfy our wanderlust, here was the opportunity, for the pictures shown of our country and Canada were truly magnificent. We wish Russ and Marion luck on their "Next 100."



Welcome to **NEW MEMBERS**

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. Michael E. Anderson
Los Angeles | Mr. R. L. Kenyon
Los Angeles | Judith Moulton
Huntington Park |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Beckler
Los Angeles | Mr. Earl L. Kesler
Los Angeles | Inst. Occidental College Library
Los Angeles |
| Dr. Clyde Bergman
Hacienda Heights | Mr. G. B. Kleinpeter II
Los Angeles | Melbowne P. Omeara
Los Angeles |
| F. P. Burns
Los Angeles | Mrs. H. Klein
Los Angeles | Robert E. Proctor
Los Angeles |
| Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Caris
Los Angeles | Mrs. Kenneth Kulzick
Los Angeles | Lise Quigley
Los Angeles |
| Mrs. E. O. Carse
Los Angeles | Mrs. Aileen Loyer
Torrance | Mr. & Mrs. John Ralmon
Los Angeles |
| Mr. & Mrs. M. H. Cheshire
Lynwood | Mrs. Irene Lynch
Los Angeles | M. W. Rennegarbe
Los Angeles |
| Dr. Robert M. Chew
Los Angeles | Mrs. W. R. Mack
Los Angeles | Elizabeth E. Tara
Los Angeles |
| Sylvia S. Cody
Los Angeles | Mrs. Robert C. Marston
Los Angeles | Mr. C. W. Thomas
Los Angeles |
| Dr. N. P. Eisenburg
Los Angeles | Mr. John May
Los Angeles | John & Gudrun Wasson
Los Angeles |
| Earl Hanson
Los Angeles, | Mr. & Mrs. H. J. Meyerdierks
Los Angeles | S. T. White
Los Angeles |

AUDUBON CALENDAR

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

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



JANUARY 1970						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- January 7 WEDNESDAY Reservations due for Annual Dinner, \$7.00 per person. Mail to Los Angeles Audubon Society, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046.
- January 8 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8:00 p. m.
- January 10 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP. Lake Norco. Meet at 6th and Hamner in Norco at 8:30 a. m. Take San Bernardino Freeway (Interstate 10) to Milliken Turnoff, about 10 miles east of Ontario. Go south about 8 miles to Norco. An alternate route would be Santa Ana Freeway and Riverside Freeway to Corona, then north to Norco via Hamner Avenue. Wintering ducks and other waterbirds - Wood Duck, European Widgeon, Night Herons, etc.
 Leader: HAROLD BAXTER 355-6300
- January 13 TUESDAY ANNUAL DINNER. Fox and Hounds Restaurant, 2900 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Social hour, 6:30 p. m., Dinner, 7:00 p. m.
- January 24 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP. Salton Sea. Meet at 8:30 a. m.
 January 25 SUNDAY at Wister Turnoff on Highway 111 (about 36 miles south of Mecca) north of Niland. Those wishing to camp Friday or Saturday night may do so at Finney Lake, about 1-1/2 miles south of Calipatria. Enter at Ramer Lake and follow signs. Bring firewood and water. For others there are good motels in Brawley. This is an excellent trip for wintering waterfowl and shore-birds.
 Leaders: BETTY & LAURA JENNER
 748-7510
- February 5 THURSDAY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 8:00 p. m.
- February 10 TUESDAY EVENING MEETING 8:00 p. m. Plummer Park. Shumway Suffel, Symposium on Bird Migration as it occurs in California.
 Program Chairman: ARNOLD SMALL
- February 14 SATURDAY FIELD TRIP. Morro Bay. Meet at 8:00 a. m.
 February 15 SUNDAY at the foot of Morro Rock. This is one of the best areas for wintering coastal birds. Many go up Friday night in order to have a full day Saturday and a half day Sunday. Camping at Morro Bay State Park; several good motels in the town of Morrow Bay.
 Leader: To be announced.

book reviews



By Bonnie Kennedy

Lekagul, Dr. Boonsong. BIRD GUIDE OF THAILAND. Printed with the advice of the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, Bangkok. xxviii, (4), 272 pp., errata, 84 color plates by the author. \$7.50

This excellent and long-needed field guide has color illustrations of all 829 known Thai birds. The author follows to the extent practicable the checklist of 790 birds published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1963 and places in a final chapter the 39 birds discovered since then. The foreword by S. Dillon Ripley (Secretary of the Smithsonian and President of the International Council for Bird Preservation) praises Dr. Lekagul as a tireless student of birds and nature in Thailand for more than thirty years.

The Thai name of each bird is given in the Thai alphabet with a transliteration into Roman characters that should be of considerable help to the foreigner birding with local residents. The Latin technical name and the English equivalent are also given. Descriptions are short to keep the book to a reasonable size, but are clear and to the point despite some occasional charming awkwardness in the English. Dimensions are in centimeters.

The illustrations in the 84 color plates use the Peterson technique of indicating key field marks by arrows. The accompanying text indicates both the frequency and season of occurrence as well as habitat and description. For additional indication of salient differences there is a two-page black-and-white spread of smaller shorebirds and another of birds of prey.

Valuable supplementary features are a list of the provinces of Thailand, a vegetation map of the country, a glossary of terms that will be useful in communicating with a Thai fellow-birder, a table of contents, a single alphabetical index of both technical and English names, and another list which I take to be a Thai index.

Color reproduction, quality of paper, and typography are not up to the standards of the Peterson guides, but where the color reproduction is somewhat inaccurate the verbal description helps to compensate for the defect. Being unfamiliar with the birds, I am not able to comment on possible inaccuracies;

the qualifications of the author seem excellent, however, and I would consider this book indispensable for the birder visiting Southeast Asia as well as a welcome addition to the too-slowly growing list of field guides for the Orient. Bonnie Kennedy
Reviewed also in "The Auk," October 1969.



Gould, John, and A. Rutgers. BIRDS OF ASIA. Taplinger (c. 1968), 312 pp. \$15

Not comprehensive enough for a field guide nor large enough for a coffee-table book, this handsome volume nevertheless deserves a place in the library of any birder interested in augmenting his collection. It should also prove useful to the birder planning a trip to Asia, for although handbooks of varying quality are now available for Thailand, South Vietnam, and the Indian subcontinent, no ornithologist has yet attempted to do for Asia what Peterson has so ably done for North America, Britain, and Europe.

John Gould (1804-81), English ornithologist, taxidermist, artist, and curator to the Museum of the Royal Zoological Society, wrote, illustrated, and published more than 40 folio volumes containing more than 3000 color plates of birds in all parts of the world. The present volume reproduces 160 of the plates from his *Birds of Asia*; best represented are the pheasants, babbblers, thrushes, finches and buntings, and parrots. Each full-page plate shows the bird in its habitat after the manner of the Audubon figures; opposite each illustration is a charmingly written page of descriptive matter that includes habits and habitats.

The text was written by Abram Rutgers, noted Dutch ornithologist and author, who in 1967 did equally good service for Gould's *Birds of Australia*.

There is a complete table of contents, but the books would have been improved by the addition of an alphabetical index; one might also wish for an account of the basis for selection of the plates reproduced and an indication of what fraction of the birds of Asia is represented. But perhaps one should not carp, since Gould ranks with the

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BOOK REVIEWS

continued ...

finest ornithological artists and it is a shame that his beautiful and accurate work has become nearly inaccessible except in rare book collections; Rutgers and Taplinger have done us a great service in making at least part of them generally available. One hopes that their commercial success will warrant further publishing ventures of this sort.
Bonnie Kennedy

BOOKS REVIEWED

This section will give reference to major reviews of books in our Bookstore or Library, when they contain information or judgments of interest to our readers.

Alden, Peter FINDING THE BIRDS IN WESTERN MEXICO. The University of Arizona Press. 1969.

Reviewed by Fred G. Evenden, Executive Director of The Wildlife Society, in "Atlantic Naturalist," Vol. 24, No. 3, Autumn 1969, p. 179.

Hickey, Joseph J., Editor. PEREGRINE FALCON POPULATIONS: THEIR BIOLOGY AND DECLINE. University of Wisconsin Press. 1969.

Reviewed by C. Eugene Knoder, Chief of the Section of Upland Ecology, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in "Atlantic Naturalist," Vol. 24, No. 2, Summer 1969, p. 112.

Lansdowne, J. Fenwick and John A. Livingston. BIRDS OF THE EASTERN FOREST: 1. Houghton Mifflin. 1968.

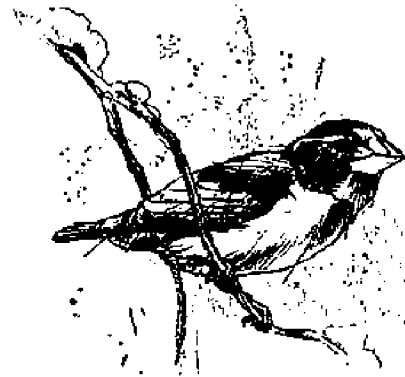
Reviewed by Shirley A. Briggs, in "Atlantic Naturalist," Vol. 24, No. 1, Spring 1969, p. 40.

Wetmore, Alexander. THE BIRDS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. Part 1. Tinamidae (Tinamous) to Rynchopidae (Skimmers). 1965. Part 2. Columbidae (Pigeons) to Picidae (Woodpeckers). 1968. Smithsonian Institution Press.

Reviewed by George H. Lowery, Jr., Boyd Professor of Zoology and Director of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, in "Atlantic Naturalist," Vol. 24, No. 3, Autumn 1969, p. 173.

Announcement...

The President and Board of Directors are pleased to announce the receipt of a gift from the Estate of Elaine S. Bishop, in the amount of \$10,302.



LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Western Tanager

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Production Editor	Robert M. Sandmeyer
Field Notes	G. Shumway Suffer
Typing	Hanna Stadler
Mailing Supervision	Hans Hjorth

FREE TO MEMBERS - ALL OTHERS \$2.50
yearly

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Editor is pleased to announce the volunteer help and support of James D. McClelland as Assistant Editor of "The Western Tanager."

AUDUBON HOUSE

Sales Department

We are pleased to report arrangements have been made to obtain Zeiss binoculars for members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society. Descriptive material available at Plummer Park.

LAKE ERIE
Down the Tube, or Up the Shaft...
Depending on How You Look at IT.

...Joann Leonard

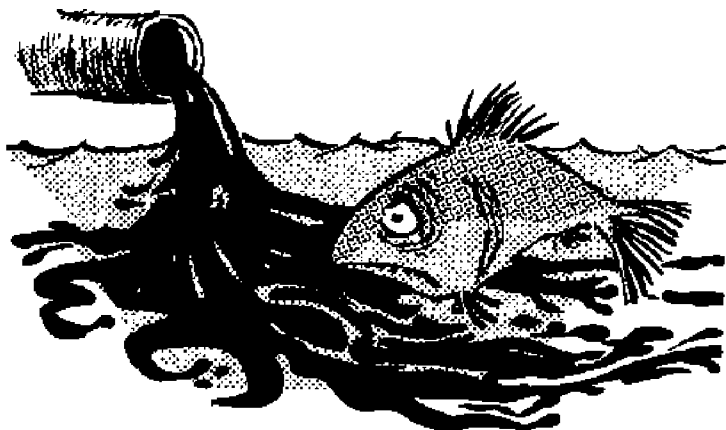
SEE YOU LATER ALLIGATOR

We recently wrote a short article on Lake Erie. So have many other people and organizations. Most biologists, hydrologists and ecologists agree that the lake is almost dead, but that just maybe there might be a chance, maybe. A chance to save the lake if we do something right now, if massive funds are expended.

Well, we have news for you. Massive funds may be expended, the League of Women Voters reports. U. S. oil companies feel that oil and gas discoveries are likely, and increasing pressure is being put on lakeside states to grant lakebed leases and permit large-scale drilling. Canada has drilled more than 500 offshore wells, 50 within the past year, and one oil spill has occurred.

Much public concern has developed in all states bordering the lake, but pressure from the oil industry is a difficult thing to contend with as we know so well. So, the classic situation confronts us.

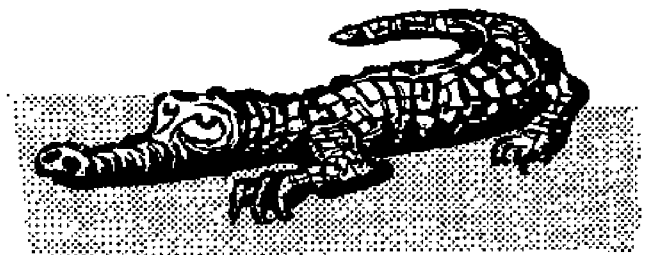
The stronger Senate version of the Endangered Species bill has been accepted by the House. By the time you read this the President should have signed it into law. This is the bill that has been labelled the "alligator" bill, because one of its main provisions will be to protect the American alligator by making it a federal offense to deal in the skins of illegally shot alligators (there aren't any shot legally). In addition, a bill to outlaw the sale of all American alligator products in New York City is now under consideration by the City Council. It could serve to considerably strengthen the new legislation. We wonder, would this protection also apply to the alligators which are alleged to flourish in New York City's sewer system? Hmmm.....but....



PROGRESS???

The Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (FWPCA) reports that more than 15 million fish were killed "by identifiable pollution sources" last year, a 31 per cent increase over the past year!! That makes it more than 100 million fish killed by pollution since the reports started in 1960... and, of course, countless millions more were never born because of poisoned waterways or other mistreatment of the nation's aquatic resources!

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING: January 26, 1970. That's a Tuesday, the fourth Tuesday in January. We meet at Audubon House at 7:30 p.m. The meeting adjourns at 10:00 p.m. All persons interested in the environment are welcome!



Here is a thought for some of our members. How about writing, or contacting your councilman or woman and suggesting that he or she introduce such a bill or motion re-enforcing the Endangered Species legislation. Back your suggestion up with information about the endangered species bill, SB. 335, and the legislation that has been introduced in New York City. If your councilman agrees to do this or seems receptive to the idea, try to round up some support among his constituents. If anyone would like to work on this project, and would like suggestions and help, please try to come to our Conservation Committee meeting, or let me know.

WE NEED YOU AS MUCH AS YOU NEED US

We hope a question comes into the minds of those who read the above article, and who perhaps feel frustrated and a bit helpless when confronted by the magnitude of the problems. Question: "What can I, as one individual do?" Answer: "Probably not too much." (Bet you didn't expect that answer, did you?)

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The point being made is, that as one individual, as a cypher, there is not much that can be done, however, there is considerable that an informed individual can do to literally "help save our world," for that is what we are talking about. Following this thought along, there is a great deal that can be accomplished by informed individuals working together in a group. The opportunity to do just this is what our Conservation Committee offers our members.

We know that through participation in the Committee you will become better informed. We know you will be exposed to stimulating concepts, to ideas that may be new to you. We know that your understanding of how to take the necessary action will be enhanced. You will be able to participate more effectively, whatever corner of the environmental arena you might select. If you would like to become involved in the Conservation Committee, but can't get to the meetings, don't feel left out. Let us know what you want to do and we'll arrange something. We hope to help you become better informed too.

MEGA-PROBLEMS

The link between man's ravaging of his environment and the population explosion has finally stimulated authorities on both problems to get together and pool their knowledge.

Recently a joint conference of conservation and birth control groups contributed to the spelling out of the predictable results of failure to reverse the twin cycles of pollution and uncontrolled population growth.

The poisoning of air and water and land has become so serious, and the consumption of irreplaceable minerals and natural resources so excessive, that the earth can no longer be expected to support indefinitely even our present 3-1/2 billion people. In 30 years the population

*** NOTICE *** NOTICE *** NOTICE ***

(Someone please, notice, AND VOLUNTEER!)

Our State Department of Fish and Game has advised us that they need counters. That's right, counters! The need is for persons who are available on a regular basis to count totals of species of birds in a given location. Sounds like fun to me! Sort of like a Christmas Count all year round!

The reason for the counts is to obtain statistics that will support proposed legislation aimed at protecting our shoreline and estuaries. The data gathered will also help in implementation of existing shoreline and estuarine legislation.

If you want to be counted aboard, give me a call at 654-9594. Joann Leonard

of the earth, based on current trends, is expected to be doubled.

It is long past time to re-examine, and continue to re-examine until attention is paid to the problem, the previously inviolable concept that growth, economic and human, is necessarily good in itself. Roland Clement, National Audubon's vice president told this conference: "Our growing numbers and the repercussions of our new technology are jeopardizing our future."

However, the conviction grows that while these repeated warnings from the experts are being heard in high places, the experts receive only the bones of a nodding acknowledgement that are flung at them; they are not being listened to.

No large-scale, coordinated programs seem in the offing. There seems little administrative sense of urgency, of recognition that a major crisis is at hand. The crisis is right now, not in some far-off time during the next couple of decades, for by then it may well be too late.

In most metropolitan areas, particularly the monstrosity of a megalopolis that is being created here in Southern California, overcrowding and contamination of what is left of our natural environment must be considered of critical importance. It will take federal, state, and municipal cooperation and action to tackle these related problems effectively.



WHAT IS SO SAD AS A QUESTION WITHOUT
AN ANSWER?
A need without a help.

There are so many needs, so many "top priorities," and relatively few people doing most of the work. To ameliorate this sad and trying situation the Conservation Committee has prepared a questionnaire/fact sheet which you will find enclosed in this issue of "The Western Tanager." We want to know what your interests are. By utilizing this form of voluntary interest inventory we hope to improve our ability to provide articles, information, programs, and action that reflect the environmental concerns of our members. Also, if you can participate directly in our activities, BE SURE to let us know!

Please take a few moments, right now, to provide us with this very helpful information.



1969: A Vintage Year

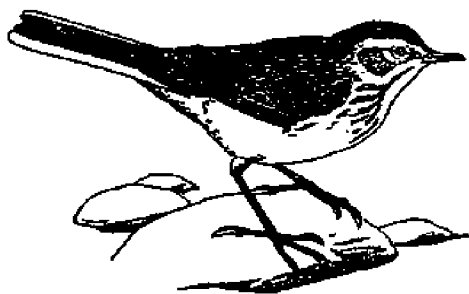
Continued from page 2

or to a natural die off of plankton in our off-shore waters is not known.

Three of our active young members, Rusty Scalf, and David and Richard Bradley, have been conducting a periodic shorebird census in the Palos Verdes - Redondo Beach area. In addition to shorebirds, they found a very late BLACK TERN on November 16th, and a few COMMON MURRES (and a possible RHINOCEROS AUKLET). These were all seen from shore.

LEWIS' WOODPECKERS were found locally, where they are rare, but not at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, where 5 or 10 usually winter. One was at the Arboretum in Arcadia on November 15th (Kay Yagii) and remained there into December, and another was seen by Anne Kahle at Lake Sherwood in the Malibu Mountains on the seventeenth. Last month a comment was made about the scarcity of wintering sparrows locally. Fortunately we were premature. Abigail King and Joan Mills report from West Los Angeles a great increase in the number of WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS from mid-November on, and certainly they have increased on the east side of town as well. With them, Jon Atwood reports the return of the adult HARRIS' SPARROW and an adult (?) (it almost has to be if it's the same bird as last year) WHITE-THROATED SPARROW to the Arboretum in Arcadia.

The End of the Year...



Two very rare birds have been found since our last report. Dave Bohlen of San Diego reported a SPRAGUE'S PIPIT near Scotty's Castle in Death Valley in early November. This is the second California record (I believe) and comes from the most likely area for this mid-western bird. Unfortunately, he was alone at the time and the bird could not be found the next weekend. The other rarity was a YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (third California record) found near Riverside by Gene Cardiff on Saturday, December 6th. It was seen on

Sunday by Larry Sansone and a group from San Deigo, and on Monday by Bruce Broadbooks and Shum Suffel. The Rare Bird Alert went into operation Monday night and fizzled. The Clarkes and Don Sterba searched independently on Tuesday without success, but the final result cannot be assessed until next Saturday (the lucky 13th) when the area will be well covered by many R. B. A'ers. This is an extensive area of riparian growth where one small, quiet bird can easily escape notice.

The New Year...

Now that the slate is clean, let's think of plans for early 1970. For one-day trips there are many fascinating places. A new one to me was the riparian area, mentioned above, in Fairmount Park, Riverside. In addition to the rare Vireo there were five or more SOLITARY VIREOS, a like number of BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLERS, one TOWNSEND'S and one WILSON'S WARBLER, all rare in winter, in addition to a BROWN CREEPER and a host of normal winter birds. The Arboretum in Arcadia promises two uncommon SPARROWS HARRIS' and WHITE-THROATED, with a good possibility of a LEWIS' WOODPECKER or YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. Upper Newport Bay may have rare ducks again by January and should be a favorite with the "scope" fraternity.

For a larger trip try the Salton Sea after the fifteenth (end of hunting season) for ducks, geese and shorebirds; or Death Valley anytime, the winter weather is superb. At Thanksgiving-time we had five HARRIS' SPARROWS, two (!) TREE SPARROWS and two RUSTY BLACK-BIRDS there in addition to the normal SLATE-COLORED JUNCOS and other winter birds.

Your assistance sought!

Wing-Marked California Gulls

The following was received by the Editor: I am writing to solicit the assistance of the Los Angeles Audubon Society in reporting movements of wing-marked California gulls which breed and summer in Wyoming. We have over 600 wing-marked gulls which are part of long-term population and behavior studies being conducted here in Wyoming.... It is also important to report the single digit and to state whether the marker is on the left or right wing.... Kenneth L. Diem, Prof. of Zoology, University of Wyoming, University Station, Box 3166, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

IV LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- A. I am an active member of other conservation organizations; (specify) _____
- B. I am a member of civic organizations that could have beneficial contacts with Los Angeles Audubon Society;(specify) _____

V INTERESTS, SKILLS and EXPERIENCE

I wish to participate in the conservation efforts of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, and have interests, skills, and/or experience in the following areas or disciplines. (Please indicate regardless of your experience, and comment briefly.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture-Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Ornithology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biology | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Studies | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecology | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity and Media Liaison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretarial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Preparation | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geography | <input type="checkbox"/> Typing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Liaison | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing-Editing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Interests + Comments _____ | |

VI SPECIAL FACILITIES

I have access to the following facilities and tools; and can make them available from time to time.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Equipment(specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat (specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> Projection Equipment (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dupileator | <input type="checkbox"/> Tape Recorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mimeograph | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Equipment + comments _____ | |

We thank you for taking a few moments to answer this questionnaire. We hope you will help us in conservation. Mrs. Anne Kahle has graciously volunteered to take time out of her busy schedule to attend to the data gathering. Mrs. Kahle is employed by RAND in Santa Monica, and commutes between RAND and UCLA as part of a workstudy program, plus her duties as a homemaker and mother of 4 active youngsters. Our very special thanks to you Anne!

CONSERVATION INTERESTS QUESTIONNAIRE & FACT SHEET

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Area Code: _____

Check appropriate spaces, and mail to: Anne Kahle
(Use extra sheets for any additional 19767 Grandview Drive
comments.) Topanga, California 90290

I DEGREE OF INTEREST IN CONSERVATION WORK

- A. I wish to become actively involved in conservation work.
- B. I would like to learn more about the Los Angeles Audubon Society's conservation activities; am probably interested in becoming actively involved.
- C. I do not have time to become very active, but I would like to help when my skills would be especially useful for a specific project.

II CONSERVATION INTERESTS

- A. Southern California and regional issues are of particular interest to me. I am most interested in the following:
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Coastline, | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshes, Estuaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Pollution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Beaches | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountains | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Planning & Open Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deserts | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation on any or all of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Establishment | the above (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> and Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Studies and |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Education | Research, (specify) _____ |
- B. National issues are of particular interest to me. I am most interested in the following:
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Protection | <input type="checkbox"/> National Environmental Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Parks, Monuments, | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seashores, Wildlife Refuges | <input type="checkbox"/> Population Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilderness Areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide & Biocide Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanctuary Establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation on any or all of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> and Protection | the above (specify) _____ |

III COMMUNICATIONS

- A. I would like to be on a alert; to write letters when needed and requested.
- B. I am also willing to be a link in a alert chain; to be responsible for notifying others.
- C. I can carry petitions when asked; even if only for getting friends names.