

The Western Tanager

VOLUME 37 1970-71 NUMBER 3 NOVEMBER

Pelagic Birds Off California By Alan Baldridge

Fall is the season when the thoughts of California birders turn to seabirds and the possibilities of arranging a boat trip to encounter them.

California is fortunate in the richness of its marine environment. A useful combination of oceanographic features such as the southward flow of the California current and a narrow continental shelf lead to upwelling, whereby nutrient-laden cold waters are brought to the surface close inshore. The nutrients cause intense 'blooms' of phytoplankton (microscopic, singled-celled plants and animals) which are 'grazed' by animals from the next sized group in the food chain, the zooplankton (small shrimps and other crustaceans, larval stages of various molluscs and fishes). These in turn are consumed by larger fishes and directly by plankton-feeding birds such as storm petrels, phalaropes and small alcid.

Generally speaking the cold current systems of the world's oceans, such as the Benguela (off S.W. Africa), the California, the Peru and those of the polar regions, are the richest in marine life, including birds; the 'biological deserts' of the oceans are the tropics, and in such places as the Sargasso Sea and parts of the tropical Pacific. Here birds can be few and far apart indeed.

Bird populations vary from year to year in a given area as the oceanographic conditions themselves vary. The amount of bird feed, in the form of zooplankton and small schooling fishes, is dependent on the volume of upwelling, which itself a function of wind and current. These factors may affect local breeding birds, as well as migrants.

The food preferences of most of our seabirds are unknown and their place in marine food chains little understood. They are being radically affected by the most destructive intrusions into the environment, demonstrated by the DDT-caused decimation of Brown Pelican and Double-crested Cormorant breeding populations in California and the massive kills of many species of seals associated with oil spills.

Sea birds often associate with feeding whales, porpoises, sea lions, tuna and even plankton-feeding Basking Sharks. Many feed predominantly in the twilight hours, especially those feeding on zooplankton food species which migrate upward towards surface waters as daylight fades. Small

petrels and some shearwaters are in this category.

Birdwatching from a boat can entail certain difficulties. Observation from a heaving, rolling boat deck is often difficult and frustrating. The elusive birds, as often seen flying as swimmers, have the annoying habit of disappearing in the wave troughs, being lost amidst surface glare, or in other ways avoiding giving the observer a satisfactory view! Mal-de-mer can debilitate even the most enthusiastic birder, although modern pharmacology has produced some useful antidotes.

There was a time when pelagic birding experiences were the lot of the fortunate few but nowadays there is a choice of well-publicized cruises out of San Diego (California Field Ornithologists, Inc.), Monterey, San Francisco (both Golden Gate Audubon Society and Arcata (Redwood Bay Audubon Society) on the far north coast.

California's pelagic birds may be divided into three main categories:-

1. Species Breeding in the State

Fork-tailed Petrel, Leach's Petrel, Ashy Petrel, Black Petrel, Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot (only marginally pelagic), Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet and Tufted Puffin.

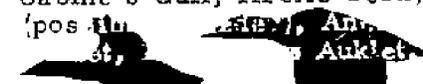
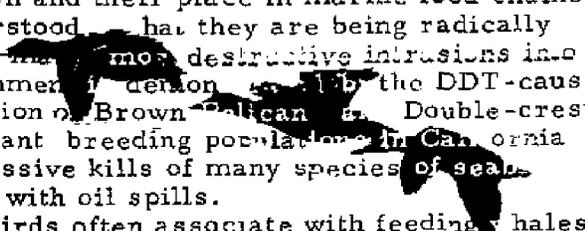
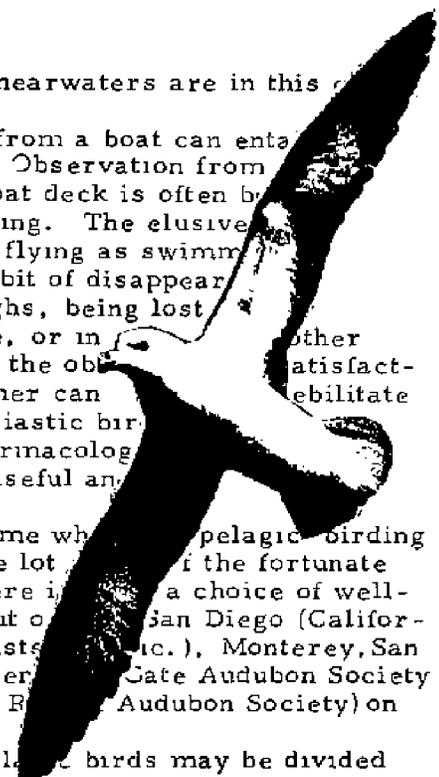
2. Northern Breeding Species which Pass through Spring and Fall, or Winter Here

Fulmar, Red Phalarope, Northern Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Gull (marginally pelagic), Black-legged Kittiwake, Sabine's Gull, Arctic Tern, Marbled Murrelet (possibly also), Murrelet, Parakeet Auklet.

3. Migrants from South Hemisphere (S) or Western Pacific (W) or Faja California (B)

Black-footed Albatross (W), Pink-footed Shearwater (S), Laysan Shearwater (S), New Zealand Shearwater (S), Sooty Shearwater (S), Slender-billed Shearwater (S), Manx Shearwater (B).

Continued overleaf



Least Petrel (B), Wilson's Petrel (S), Red-billed Tropicbird (B), Skua (S), Craveri's Murrelet (B).



Perhaps the best picture of bird life in California's offshore waters can be given by taking each season in turn:

Spring: April finds northbound Northern Phalaropes and Bonaparte's Gulls moving offshore, followed in May by Arctic Terns, exquisitely patterned Sabine's Gulls, Red Phalaropes, Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers.

Large numbers of Sooty Shearwaters appear off central California in May and remain until July attracted in hundreds of thousands by spawning squid. Pink-footed Shearwaters are few in number at this time but increase gradually to their fall peak. The largest of all of our pelagics, the Black-footed Albatross, is at its most abundant off central and northern California waters at this time, sometimes attracted in hundreds to the fishing fleets and their attendant discarded 'trash' fish and scraps.

Summer: This is the breeding season for our local species, central and north coast offshore rocks being covered with nesting Common Murres. Cassin's Auklets breed on several islands along the length of the coast, visiting their burrow nesting sites nightly, notably on the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, where they are in fact the most common bird. Tufted Puffins breed in small numbers from the Farallons north to Oregon, while squealing red-gaped Pigeon Guillemots breed the length of the coast in small numbers. The more southerly Xantus' Murrelet breeds in small numbers in the Channel Islands off Santa Barbara, wandering north in fall as far as Monterey.

Each summer large numbers of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls and Elegant Terns appear on our coasts in a post-breeding northward dispersal from breeding areas in Baja California waters. The first two go north as far as Vancouver Island, while the tern is normally not found north of San Francisco Bay. These three are not normally pelagic, and prefer shallow waters, but they are mentioned here for their special interest and origin.

Fall: This is of course the period of greatest variety of species. While Sooty Shearwaters have by this time declined, Pink-footed Shearwaters have increased and the boldly marked New Zealand Shearwater appears in central California waters. Late fall or early winter in some years may produce a very few Pale-footed and Slender-billed Shearwaters.

"Storm Petrels," of several species occur at this time. In the south Black and Leach's Petrels mass on favorite feeding grounds, while the formerly "rare" Least Petrel is now seen

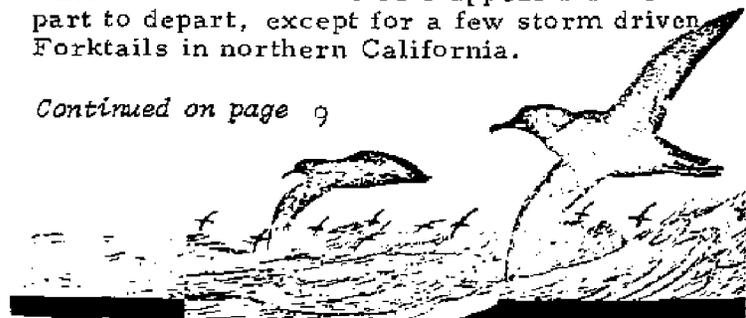
regularly and even in some abundance off San Diego. Off central California Blacks and very large numbers of Farallon breeding Ashy Petrels gather in Monterey Bay, often in thousands. This appears to be about the northern limit for Blacks. They are occasionally joined by small numbers of Fork-tailed Petrels, this species gradually becoming the dominant petrel off northwest California, where it breeds.

Southbound Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers linger to feed in the richer areas such as Monterey Bay, often in considerable abundance. Northern Phalaropes pass through mainly in the early part of the autumn and by October the Red Phalaropes are on the move. Their abundance is often related to weather conditions far offshore, for if storms prevail, then they may appear in massive flights, with thousands of birds thronging the great kelp beds along rocky coasts.

One of the more exciting sights of this season is that of a great school of anchovy or saury, pursued by voracious Bonita (member of the tuna family). The small fish, in their endeavors to escape the feeding frenzies of the Bonita, leap from the surface, where Pink-footed Shearwaters, Sabine's Gulls, Arctic Terns and attendant jaegers seize them.

Winter: This is the season hardest on the observer, for rough seas often prevent observation from shore or boat for long periods, particularly in the northern half of the State. Black-footed Albatrosses reappear offshore. Fulmars, which vary markedly in abundance from year to year, but in good years penetrate far south in the State, will frequent harbors for refuse. A remnant population of Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters remain to winter, while Manx Shearwaters arrive off the San Diego coast to winter in good numbers. They appear to be rather rare elsewhere. The Storm Petrels appear for the most part to depart, except for a few storm driven Forktails in northern California.

Continued on page 9



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alan Baldrige was born and educated in England, and came to the United States in 1962, bringing with him his knowledge and interest of pelagic birds. He is a professional Librarian, and after four years in Oregon, in 1966 came to Stanford University's Hopkins Marine Station, in Pacific Grove. He has edited the *Audubon Field Notes* for the North Pacific Coastal Region, and more recently, for the Middle Pacific Coastal Region. He is well known to many of us as a delightful leader of pelagic trips in the Monterey Bay.

concluded FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE

GRANDFATHER Otto Widmann

Now the stage was set

the reference books, the cane-gun, the field glasses, the Giant wood, and the desire to know the birds. So from 1874 to 1880 the woods were haunted by this 5'10", 145 pound man who was developing a tendency toward asthma. He was alone with nature. The birds his cane-gun produced for study he gave to the St. Louis Public Library for their future protection. Through the Library he learned of Julius Hurter, August Eimbeck, Ben Gault, John Kastendieck, Henry Nehrling, all bird collectors. They became lifelong friends and through them he could study their collection of skins, all taken in Missouri. (You can see their pictures along with my Grandfather in Vol. 5, #5, of "Bird Lore," along with Ridgway he was to meet later.)

The Library also produced *Journals on Explorations of Western Missouri 1854*, by Dr. Hoy; *Journals on North American Birds, 1832 and 1858* of Maximilian, Prinz zu Wied; and *Missouri River Journal, 1843* of Audubon. In the six years of intense study, he learned of Nuttall's *Bulletins*. So in 1880, when Grandfather had finished his study of the Empidonax Flycatchers (Acadian and Traill's), he wrote an article and sent it in. Coues, the editor, published it in January. Later in the year he published *Notes on Birds of St. Louis*. In 1883 other articles appeared on the "Cuckoo" and the "Approach of Spring in St. Louis." An article on the *Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley in the Spring 1882* appeared in the *Forest & Stream*, Vol. XIX, in October of that year. What had amazed him in the Spring of 1867 came to fruition in 1882. The next year the Second List appeared and Robert Ridgway published it in his *Bulletin of Ridgway Ornithological Club of Chicago #1*. These two lists so impressed the newly founded American Ornithological Union (September 1883) that in their second meeting in Spring 1884 they elected Otto Widmann as a Fellow in the Society. He remained a Fellow for the next 49 years until his death in 1933 at the age of 93. ●

PART TWO WILL APPEAR
IN A LATER ISSUE.



CRAMER,

St. Louis, Mo.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS CONCLUDED

By early November the migration will be almost over and the winter birds will be getting established on their winter territories. Some birds return year after year to the same tree or bush winter after winter. Is it possible that the Hepatic Tanager could return to Rancho Park for the eighth time or the Harris' Sparrow to the Arcadia Arboretum for the third winter? Whether these individuals return or not, we know that the ducks, geese, and northern gulls will be here by the thousands and this alone is reason enough to be out in the field. The Salton Sea (despite hunting season) and Death Valley are at their best in the late fall. The coastal lagoons should have rare herons from the south and the open ocean pelagic birds from the north, so be of good cheer in what is left of our wide open spaces. ●

Announcements

KILL THREE BIRDS WITH ONE STONE

Audubon Memberships for Christmas will
Please your friend or relative
Help the Society
Be deductible on next year's tax return.

1984 COMES TO BIRDS

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING BIRDS. IF YOU SEE GULLS
WITH COLORED AND NUMBERED KNAPSACKS OR CIRCULAR TAGS,
DR. WIGSNALL WANTS A REPORT C/O DEPT. BIOL. SCI.,
CAL. STATE COLLEGE, HAYWARD, CALIF. 94542. PELICANS
WITH DYED ABDOMENS OR STREAMERS ARE WANTED BY JAMES
O. KEITH, DENVER WILDLIFE RES. CTR., BLDG. 16,
FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLO. 80225.

Mr. Herbert Clarke, President 9/10/70
Los Angeles Audubon Society

Dear Herb:

..... I was pleased to learn that the Los Angeles Audubon Society had made another generous contribution to the National Audubon Society's Condor Fund.

.....let me say how warmly we all appreciate the devotion of the Los Angeles Audubon Society to the maintenance of this special condor program and how helpful it is for us to have the support of your membership.

With all good wishes in your important chapter activities and with warm appreciation of your support, Roland C. Clement, Vice President, Biology, National Audubon Society.

* Sales Audubon House Department

BOOKS RECORDS BIN- OCULARS

WANTED: HUMMINGBIRDS

The Los Angeles Audubon Sales Department wishes to buy as many copies of Crawford H. Greenewalt's book, "Hummingbirds" that are possible. They are now out of print and cannot be supplied by the publishers. Anyone having access to this book and are willing to sell or donate it - please contact Janis Robinson at Audubon House or Grace Nixon (271-2788) during the evening hours.

Mr. Herbert Clarke, President 9/8/70
Los Angeles Audubon Society

Dear Mr. Clarke:

The National Audubon Society wants to thank you and the members of the Los Angeles Audubon Society for their generous contribution to the AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST scholarship fund.

Mr. David Donahue of Idyllwild, Mr. David Dunaway of Bishop, Mr. Richard Harris, also of Bishop, and Mr. C. D. Thompson of the McArthur Burney Falls area all actively participated in our full program. They were exceptionally fine campers to have had with us this summer, and we are sure they will all be able to take back valuable ecological experiences to be used in their vocation.

Very sincerely, Robert K. Turner, Director,
Western Regional Office, National Audubon Society

Los Angeles Audubon Society ANNUAL DINNER...

WILL BE HELD AT ROBAIRES
FRENCH CUISINE RESTAURANT
348 S. LA BREA, L.A., MONDAY,
JANUARY 11, 1971, CHATEAU-
BRIAND AND FRENCH PASTRY.

! By choosing Monday we have the whole restaurant available to us. !

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



1970		November					1970
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
1	2	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						

- Oct. 28 WEDNESDAY - CONSERVATION MEETING, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m. Meet at Audubon House or Great Hall, depending upon the number of participants. Mrs. Kathy Brooks, Chairman.
- Nov. 5 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 8:00 p.m.
- Nov. 10 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m. Program: "Wildlife in the Wilderness West" presented by Dan Fisher, former president of the San Bernardino Audubon Society, who will illustrate his talk with colored slides of birds and mammals.
- Nov. 14 SATURDAY - FIELD TRIP - Capistrano Beach, Oceanside, Solana Beach. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to Doheny Beach State Park. Take the San Diego Freeway south to Capistrano Beach; follow signs to the State Park. This is, in a way, an exploratory trip as we have not had trips in this area before. Leader: Bob Blackstone, 277-0521.
- Nov. 22 SUNDAY FIELD TRIP - Griffith Park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot in Fern Dell (Western Avenue entrance to the park). This is a close-in, half day field trip which we feel should be especially attractive to neophyte birders. Leader: to be announced.
- Dec. 3 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 8 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING, Plummer Park, 8:00 p.m. Program: "Kinabalu" which shows the wildlife and birds of Borneo, presented by Jim Clements and illustrated with color slides.
- Dec. 12-13 SATURDAY - SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP - Carrizo Plain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Maricopa at the junction of US 399 and State 166. Besides Sandhill Cranes this trip usually produces LeConte's Thrashers, Ferruginous Hawks, Golden Eagles, Mountain Plovers and more. Those planning to stay at California Valley Lodge should write or call for reservations: California Valley, California 93453 or phone (805) 475-2272. Leader: to be announced.
- Jan. 11 Monday ANNUAL DINNER Robaire's, 348 S. La Brea

**Audubon
 Bird Reports
 874-1318**

LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Western Tanager

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EDITOR Gilbert W. King

audubon activities



FIELD TRIP - Tijuana River, September 26. Despite the hot Santana wind and the heavy covering of smoke from the disastrous Pine Valley fire, 71 species were seen in the river valley and on the Otay Mesa. Of particular interest were a **WHITE-FACED IBIS** at a pond in a grassy field, and an **OSPREY** and **PRAIRIE FALCON**, both of which flew directly overhead affording everyone good views. Warblers were abundant including many **BLACK-THROATED GRAY**, **TOWNSEND'S**, **NASHVILLE**, while a single sighting was had of a **HERMIT** and a **BLACKBURNIAN**. A few birders who went back to the river area after leaving the mesa were rewarded with several **BOBOLINKS** and three **WHITE-TAILED KITES**.

PELAGIC TRIP, Monterey Bay, October 3

Val da Costa, of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, again organized a splendid pelagic trip out of Monterey—calm seas and overcast skies provided excellent seeing conditions, but very few birds were seen at first. Dall porpoises put on an excellent show at the bow of the boats most of the day. Finally a raft of 5000 petrels were located on the north rise of the canyon off Moss' Landing, mixed **BLACK** and **ASHY PETRELS**, but including at least two **WILSON'S** and one **FORK-TAILED PETREL**. Numerous **SOOTY**, **PINK-FOOTED** and a few **NEW ZEALAND SHEARWATERS** were seen, with two **XANTUS'** and one **RHINOCEROS MURRELET**, and several **CASSIN'S AUKLETS**.

FIELD TRIP - Cabrillo Beach, October 10. An enthusiastic group of 39 birders met on a clear, warm Saturday at Cabrillo Beach, proceeded to Pt. Fermin and Averill Parks, and the South Coast Botanic Garden. With Shirley Wells' helpful leadership the group was able to study the local birds to advantage. There were no unusual warblers seen but a total of 67 species were noted. A **SHARP-SHINNED** and a **COOPER'S HAWK** were pointed out and comparisons made. The surprise bird of the day, usually seen in the desert, was a **PHAINOPEPLA** at Pt. Fermin.

EVENING MEETING - October 13. Competing for an audience with "Zoos of the World" on TV, Frank Todd, curator of birds for the Los Angeles Zoo, gave us a very enlightening program on the plight of the California Brown Pelican. Mr. Todd, an authority on this bird, has devoted considerable time and research to this species. His excellent slides gave graphic proof of the soft-shelled condition of the eggs in the rookeries of Anacapa Island. Only two young were known to have fledged out of 1272 nests studied.

In contrast, the Brown Pelican in Florida appears to be holding its own, although no comprehensive studies have been made. One difference in the birds' habits brought out in the pictures was the choice of nesting sites. In Florida the nests are in trees, whereas on Anacapa Island they are on the ground, making them more subject to predation. However, the extremely low reproductive rate is due to the thin, soft shell of the eggs, a condition resulting from the concentration of DDT ingested by the birds from their diet of fish which, being at the end of the food chain, store an extremely high percentage of pesticides in their fatty tissue. Mr. Todd's prediction for the California Brown Pelican is indeed dire. He says, in fact, the bird is beyond being an endangered species - it is a doomed species!

BIRDS ARE A PLAGUE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

SALISBURY, Rhodesia (AP)—A two-ounce bird has developed into a modern plague in southern Africa, replacing the locust as the continent's worst problem in nature.

It is the quelea finch, or red-billed quelea — pronounced KWEE-leaf. One official estimates that there are 10 quadrillion of them south of the Sahara. That is a thousand times a trillion.

In the last 25 years, the queleas have grown from a nuisance to a major headache, with the help of bigger and better grain crops.

The birds need lots of water and various areas where they existed in naturally controlled numbers are now linked by dams and irrigation projects, making once hazardous migrations much easier.

Queleas once died in vast numbers in the rainy season when there were no seeds, but now cultivated seed crops are available and even when they are not the birds find it simple to migrate to reach them.

Queleas move in vast flocks that resemble thick, fast-moving smoke. Before roosting they often land at lakes and rivers.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

Dickinsons Give Land To the Virgin Islands

ST. CROIX, Virgin Islands, Oct. 17 (AP)—An area of 153 acres is being given to the Virgin Islands by Mr. and Mrs. Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. of Ridgewood, N. J. It will be restricted to park and recreational use.

More than a half mile of beach frontage is included.

Mr. Dickinson said his association with the islands over the years had made him aware of population stresses and the need to preserve tranquil areas.

Mr. Dickinson, a New Jersey State Senator, is head of Becton, Dickinson & Co., a manufacturer of precision medical and laboratory instruments. The company was founded by his late father, who also was a founder of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

A Nature Group Buys



MIAMI, Oct. 17—Two small Florida keys, regarded as an isolated ecological system, were purchased this week by the Nature Conservancy, a leading environmental organization, on behalf of Harvard University, Cornell University and the University of Miami.

The Washington-based organization paid \$1.95-million for the Lignumvitae Key and Shell Key, thus preventing their commercial development.

Dr. J. L. Lunsford, one of the owners of the keys, said that he and his partners had turned down a \$5-million offer by J.

Two Florida Keys

Abney Cox and Nelson Pearson, commercial developers.

Birds such as the bald eagle, white crown pigeon, white ibis and great white heron are abundant, and deer and a variety of small mammals have also been found on the island.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1970

POINT MUGU Recreation Area to become SMALL CITY?

One of Southern California's most beautiful and most ecologically valuable state owned parklands is in danger. The State Department of Parks and Recreation is planning to erect, in their own words, "a recreational community of small city proportions" on what is now the essentially unaltered country encompassed by Point Mugu State Recreation Area. This area has always been one of the most attractive parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, and due to its management by the former owner, it now stands as one of the very few remaining reminders of what the wilderness of the coastal mountains, canyons and valleys of Southern California was like before the coming of the white man. One part of the park in particular contains what is one of the last remnants of a once widespread plant association. La Jolla Valley contains large areas of valley grassland which have retained essentially all of their native constituents. It is the only remaining area of this community where annual grasses of foreign origin do not predominate. Once all of the new heavily populated basins of the Southern California coastal area were covered by the perennial grasses that make up valley grassland. This is an area that deserves the same concern given to the state parks containing the last redwoods.

By far the most valuable inland areas will be extensively modified by development. Because it is fairly level, the heaviest development is planned for La Jolla Valley. In addition to the flora, a lake in the valley provides one of the few undisturbed nesting and feeding areas for many marsh birds and is used by migratory waterfowl.

Concentrated on the one-half square mile level area of the valley will be 22,295 people, several lodges, a dormitory, cabins, tents, swimming complex, shopping complex, gas station, pavilions, golf course, and parking facilities. There are many more developments planned, but they are still in the preliminary stages. It is important that the planners are quickly made aware of the opinions of the people on this matter. Development is due to begin this year and will be finished in three years, unless we do something about it. **WRITE NOW!**

William Penn Mott, Jr., Director
State Dept. of Parks and Recreation (1)
Resources Administration Building
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Norman Livermore, Secretary
Resources Agency (2)
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Sacramento, Ca 95814

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Sacramento, Ca 95811

Carl Anderson
Assistant Deputy Director (4)
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
128 Plaza Street
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

PESTICIDE INFORMATION: How to control common house and garden pests without using chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides. (From the Public Information Division of the Los Angeles Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.) Listed below are 15 pesticides, none of which are chlorinated hydrocarbons, and 30 common garden and house pests. After each pest is listed the numbers of the pesticides effective for control. The names of the pesticides will be found listed as "active ingredients" on containers. The use of brand names is for convenience only, and constitutes no endorsement.

Non-chlorinated Hydrocarbon Pesticides

1. Cygon (dimethoate)	9. Nicotine sulfate
2. Diazinon	10. Petroleum oils
3. Dibrom (naled)	11. Piperonyl butoxide
4. DDVP	12. Pyrethrum (pyrethrins)
5. Di-syston	13. Rotenone (cube)
6. Malathion	14. Sevin
7. Metaldehyde	15. Sodium fluosilicate
8. Meta-systox-R	

House and Garden Pests (Pesticides Effective)

Aphids (1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13)
Ants (2, 6)
Beetles (2, 6, 13, 14)
Borers (2, 14)
Caterpillars (2, 3, 12, 13, 14)
Codling moths (2, 6, 14)
Cutworms (2, 3, 14, 15)
Diabrotica (2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14)
Earwigs (6, 14, 15)
Flies (1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13)
Grasshoppers (2, 3, 6, 14)
Grubs (2, 14)
Lawn moths (2, 3, 12, 13, 14)
Leafhoppers (2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14)
Leaf miners (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13)
Mealybugs (2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14)
Mosquitoes (2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14)
Oak moths (6, 14)
Scale (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14)
Slugs (7)
Snails (7)
Soil mealybugs (1, 5, 8)
Spider mites (2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10)
Spittlebugs (2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 14)
Symphylids (2, 14)
Termites (consult exterminator)
Thrips (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14)
Weevils (2, 6, 14)
Whiteflies (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10, 14)
Wireworms (2)

Any pesticide can be dangerous if used improperly. Read labels carefully and follow directions to the letter. Do not use any pesticide near food, and keep all pesticides out of the reach of children.

SHAKLEE PRODUCTS (highly biodegradable, phosphate free, non-toxic cleaning compounds for laundry, dishes, etc.) can be purchased from Lynn Beard (475-5319).



environment besieged



by

KATHRYN BROOKS



VANISHING WILDERNESS debut on KCET (Channel 28)

On Sundays, at 8:30 p.m., the authors of the book by the same title, are presenting a series illustrating how Americans are dangerously upsetting nature's balance and endangering our own species. Particularly upsetting were the films in the first of the series "Of Broccoli and Pelicans and Celery and Seals" of the mother California sea lion on San Miguel Island who killed her pup in a futile, senseless, and tragic manner. In four days, 80 dead pups were found on the island. It is thought that because the adult sea lions live off their fat during the mating period, and that DDT concentrates in the fatty tissues, that DDT may be upsetting the hormone balance in the mothers, causing their confusion and disregard for the pups.

help-please
call Kathryn at 479-0830
in the evenings to
VOLUNTEER FOR

typing . . . mailing . . . running errands . . .
participating in telephone alert chain . . . print-
ing or duplicating ecology resource materials for
distribution . . . speaking . . . writing letters
. . . carrying petitions . . . distributing materi-
als at fairs and conferences . . . making posters
. . . drawing cartoons & sketches for "Western
Tanager" . . . attending hearings . . . analyzing
federal, state, & local legislation which affects
our environment (in general) and birding (in parti-
cular) . . . directing subcommittee activities . . .

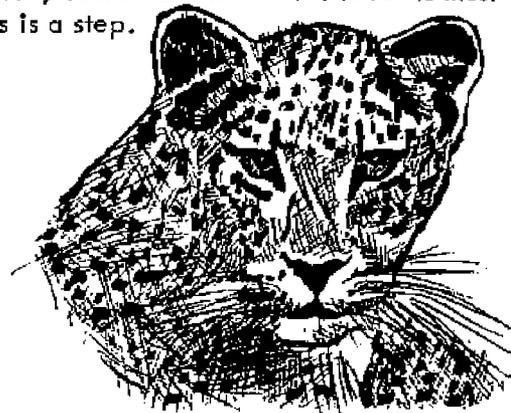
PUBLIC PARK PRESERVATION ACT VETOED BY REAGAN

AB 1231, introduced by Assemblyman Alan Sieroty, which would have prohibited any governmental body or public utility from taking park land for non-park purposes unless it replaces the land with park space of equal size and characteristics in the same general area as the original park, was passed by the Assembly and Senate. This was a good measure, and one that Los Angeles could have greatly benefited from, but the Governor vetoed it. Why? We hope that Assemblyman Sieroty will reintroduce this measure.

CALIFORNIA to protect ENDANGERED SPECIES

Thanks to Senator Beilenson, SB 128, operative on December 1, 1970, makes it unlawful to import into California for commercial purposes or to sell within the state, the dead body, or any part or product thereof, of any alligator, crocodile, polar bear, leopard, ocelot, tiger, cheetah, jaguar, red wolf, timber wolf, vicuna, sea otter, free roaming feral horse, or Spanish lynx. This also applies to any species or subspecies of any fish, bird, mammal, amphibian, or reptile, the importation of which is illegal under and which is listed in the Federal Register by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969.

The purpose of the law is to provide some measure of protection to these animals by eliminating California as a market for their skins, hides, or furs. The furriers will not be hurt; exotic furs are only 1% of the fur business. Of course, action at the federal level is most desirable, but this is a step.



The World Wildlife Fund spearheaded the global campaign to stop the fashion industry's use of products made from animals in danger of extinction. In a letter several months ago, they said that we had been the single, largest contributor of pledges to save endangered species. Your letters and petitions do have an effect, and in consequence, some of the world's most beautiful wild creatures now stand a better chance of survival.

REAPPOINTMENT of ELLEN STERN HARRIS to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is essential. Before her membership, the board was controlled by the very industries that caused the pollution in the first place. She is a strong, energetic, and efficient champion of the antipollution fight. She has dedicated her life to cleaning up the air, water, and earth, to the expansion of our public beaches, and the preservation and enlargement of our park system. WRITE NOW to THE GOVERNOR, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814.

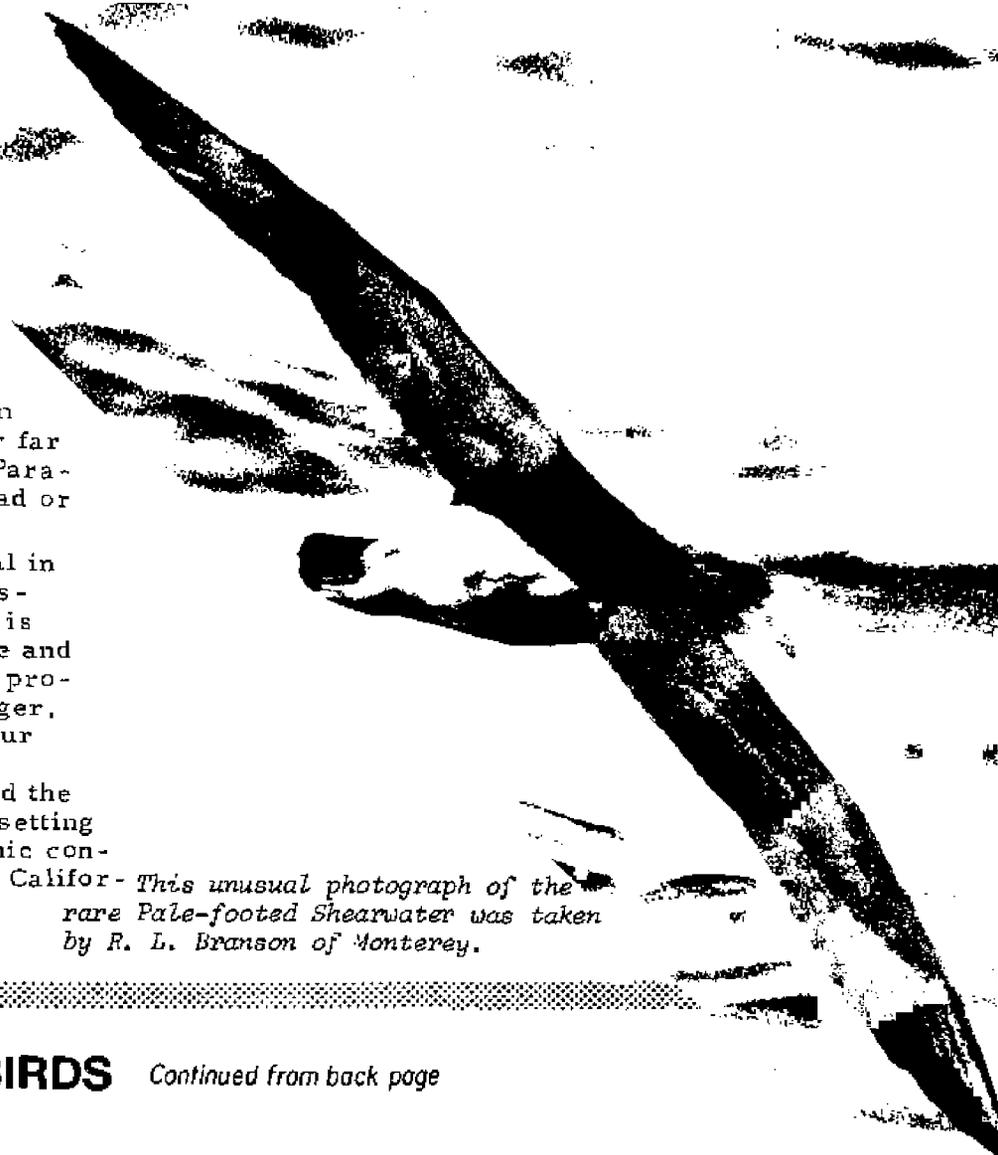
PELAGIC *continued*

Winter is the season for locally breeding species of alcids to be augmented by the more northerly species, especially Ancient Murrelets and Rhinoceros Auklets. The former fluctuate from year to year in southern California waters, although regular in the Monterey region. Rhinoceros Auklets occur along the length of the coast and in huge numbers in Monterey Bay. Tufted Puffins are rare away from known breeding sites and perhaps winter far offshore. The rare Horned Puffin and Parakeet Auklet, when found, are usually dead or moribund on northern beaches.

While most gulls are strictly coastal in winter, straggling Western and Glaucous-winged Gulls range well offshore. This is the domain of the Black-legged Kittiwake and where it is often abundant. These gulls provide a meal ticket for the Pomarine Jaeger, the only species to regularly winter in our waters.

Towards the end of the winter period the upwelling of deep water recommences, setting in motion again the cycle of oceanographic conditions which make for the abundance of California's pelagic birds. ■

This unusual photograph of the rare Pale-footed Shearwater was taken by R. L. Branson of Monterey.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS *Continued from back page*

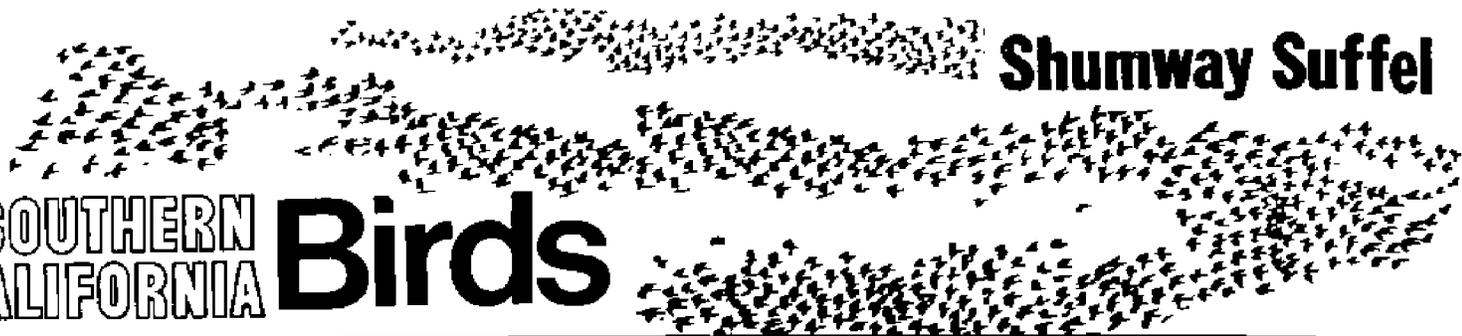
below San Diego on the 30th (Olga Clarke). A single STILT SANDPIPER was seen below San Diego in late August (Guy McCaskie) and a few were found at the south end of the Salton Sea on Sept. 26th (Bruce Broadbooks).

Those ever-fascinating warblers were the "stars" of the birder's world in September. RED-STARTS were widely reported along the coast but more sparsely inland - one in Monrovia (Beulah Mills) and one near Duarte (Mike San Miguel). VIRGINIA'S WARBLERS were found in fennel patches near the coast two or more at Palos Verdes from the tenth to month's end (the Bradleys and Scalf), one at Pt. Fermin Park on the 28th, and one below San Diego from the 13th on. Three BLACKBURIAN and two CAPE MAY WARBLERS were seen - unusual for these rare vagrants. Shirley Wells had BLACKBURIANS at the S. C. Botanic Gardens on the 23rd and 30th, while Jon Dunn and Kim Garrett found one below San Diego on the 26th. The first BLACKPOOL WARBLERS were found during the week beginning Sept. 24th -

one near Trancas Beach, Malibu (Jon Atwood), one at the Botanic Gardens (Shirley Wells) and one below San Diego (Olga Clarke). The Tatum's breakfast was brightened by an OVENBIRD feeding on the lawn of their home in Pacific Palisades on Oct. 1st. Marge describes it's dainty high stepping gait as "walking as though it were wading."

Our oddity for the month is a WOOD IBIS shot in Cuyama Valley and now in the Fish and Game Department's freezer. To be in this dry, interior valley north of it's normal range was odd enough for a Wood Ibis, but the real oddity was that this bird had a lock-on band with "#40" (nothing more) on its leg. It is almost surely an escapee and would very probably have been reported as an out-of-range vagrant if it had been seen only.

Concluded on page three



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Birds

Shumway Suffel

As this is being written, devastating fires are scattered along a one hundred mile arc of mountains from Malibu to the Mexican border. When you read this, these fires will be only unpleasant memories to most of us, but their effects will stay to haunt us for many years. It's not only the thousands of acres of blackened hillsides, the streams gorged with mud running through charred snags, but also the massive destruction of wildlife. Horrible as these results are, fires have happened before and nature can heal the scars - our chaparral regenerates quickly, streams will run clear again and wildlife will slowly fill in the suitable habitat. It is the more subtle and far reaching effects we must guard against. What effect would a freeway in Malibu Canyon have had on the fire? What about the future of the Santa Monica Mountain Park; the refuge for our Mountain Sheep; our wild lands; our rature spots? Chaparral is our strength (for watershed protection) and our weakness (in case of fire). We must be on our guard. Developers and politicians will think of these things to their advantage. We must too!

Strangely enough, birding was good in coastal areas surrounding the Malibu fire. Whether this was a result of birds being forced out of fire areas or the known disposition of migrants to move with favorable winds - in this case the sometimes violent, south-flowing, Santa Ana winds - we do not know. The best bird was the GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER found by Jo and Tom Heindel in west Pt. Fermin Park on Sept. 26th. This is the only record for the mainland of California (the first two Great Crested were banded on the Farallon Is. a year or two ago). Complete descriptions, including details of the tail pattern which is diagnostic in Myarchus flycatchers, were written by those fortunate enough to study the bird during its one day stay. Birders looking for the flycatcher the next day were disappointed but found two AMERICAN REDSTARTS nearby. Bonnie Kennedy found a LITTLE BLUE HERON at Malibu Lagoon on the 28th which was not there on the 24th, so it must have arrived while the great fire was burning nearby. This may be the same bird which was at Oceanside in mid-month. On the same day the Palos Verdes area was alive with migrants. In addition to good numbers of the expected western migrants (flycatchers, vireos, warblers, etc.), a VIRGINIA'S WARBLER was found in the Pt. Fermin fennel patch. An EASTERN KINGBIRD rested atop a tall pine and an INDIGO BUNTING perched in the weeds at Averill Park. A SOLITARY SANDPIPER fed with the Killdeer on the lawn and a

BLACKPOLL WARBLER hunted in the shrubbery of the South Coast Botanic Gardens. During the week of the fires, the coastal areas near San Diego were also productive. Two CAPE MAY WARBLERS (among California's rarest) were found (one banded by the Craigs), a second RED-EYED VIREO and the first of the BLACKPOLL WARBLERS were present in final days of September.

There were scattered reports, mostly coastal, of rare birds in mid-September. David and Richard Bradley, and Rusty Scalf studied and wrote a detailed description of a small sparrow at Palos Verdes on the 10th, which, after studying museum specimens, they concluded was a FIELD SPARROW. Their description indicates that they had the first mainland record for California (one was banded on the Farallon Is.) of this common eastern bird. In the course of taking their periodic shorebird census this same enthusiastic group saw both PARASITIC and POMARINE JAEGERs from shore as well as a male COMMON SCOTER (unusual even in winter and particularly so in September). The two ROSEATE SPOONBILLS reported by Warren Blazer last month were found again on Sept. 12th by members of the San Fernando A.S. They were in typical immature plumage - light pink with yellow spoon shaped bills and yellow legs. Bob Copper of the Pasadena group also reports a very early SHORT-EARED OWL at the Sea.

Shorebirds received a lot of attention from birders in September as this is their peak time and, for a few species, their only time locally. PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were found singly or in small groups - four at Pt. Mugu on the 24th (Jon Atwood), one to three at Malibu nearly all month, and single birds at Oceanside and San Diego. While studying the Pectorals at Malibu, Dennis Heineman of U. C. L. A. noticed a similar but rustier, less streaked bird which he identified as a rare SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER. BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were early (as expected) and scarce in our area - one at Catalina Island on Aug. 15th (Jon Dunn), one at the Salton Sea on Aug. 30th (Kim Garrett & Jon Dunn), and one at Buena Vista Lagoon near Oceanside (Jerry Johnson). East of the Sierra Jon Atwood and I found over twenty of them at four alkaline ponds in the Owen's Valley - Deep Springs area on the 3rd & 4th of September. SOLITARY SANDPIPERS were solitary and wide-spread at Pt. Mugu on the 24th, with Killdeer on the extensive lawns of the South Coast Botanic Gardens on the 28th (Shirley Wells), and in a flooded field

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