

C. C. STEIRLY CAPE HATTERAS

CAPE HATTERAS in North Carolina, is a point of ornithological interest, an excellent example of the sandy beach habitat stretching from above Cape Cod to Florida.

A narrow strip of sand between the sea and the sounds of North Carolina is called the Outer Banks. On crossing Currituck Sound on a rather lengthy causeway one arrives on the "Banks" and I would propose that our visitor take the by-pass road and avoid the sprawling summer resort towns of Kill Devil Hills, Kittyhawk, and Nag's Head, continuing on southward to a huge sign proclaiming the entrance to the Cape Hatteras National Seashore. In the distance will be seen a spirally painted black and white lighthouse. This is an old one, built, I believe, in 1872 and known as Bodie Island Lighthouse. Park here and take a short nature trail through a brushy thicket to a large brackish pond with an observation platform jutting out into it. Sometimes it is loaded with shorebirds, herons, gulls, and ibis, and in winter it might contain a rich assortment of waterfowl—and again it could be virtually empty.

Along the highway there are numerous turn-outs where one might pause to look over a series of ponds for whatever they might produce in the way of herons, gulls, waterfowl, shorebirds, etc. In summer some of these might offer nesting Black-necked Stilts, Willets, Boat-tailed Grackles and so on. In winter, of course, frequent stops will be made to look at ducks, geese, and swans, and at that time there is always a chance to see a Marsh Hawk or a Short-eared Owl. The brushy growth along the road usually teems with the smaller birds—in winter Myrtle Warblers and Palm Warblers will be abundant, along with Savannah Sparrows, Song Sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds.

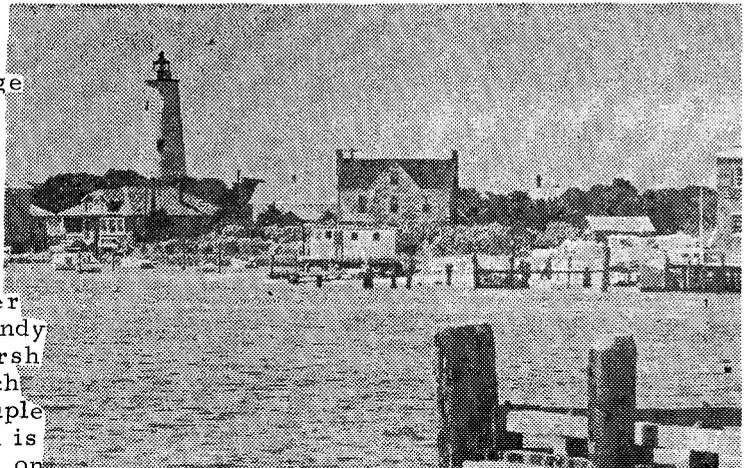
Eight miles below the Park entrance the highway passes over a rather lengthy new bridge that crosses Oregon Inlet to Hatteras Island. This bridge replaces what used to be a lovely ferry ride to the bird watcher. From the top of the bridge a person gets a good view of the ocean, and if there is not much traffic he can go slowly and pick up a few gulls, terns, and other items of interest on the sandbars below.

For the next fifty miles or so the traveller is on Hatteras Island, a long narrow band of sandy country with the ocean on one side and salt marsh and Pamlico Sound on the other. Here the beach is virtually unspoiled, if one can discount a couple of fishing piers. The northern part of the island is the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Here, on

a series of impoundments one can have a field day with the waterfowl in winter for it attracts large flocks of Canada and Snow Geese (with now and then a Blue), Whistling Swans and many kinds of ducks including Mallards, Blacks, Shovellers, Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Gadwalls, and so on, to say nothing of herons, gulls and the wintering shorebirds. In summer the waterfowl of course are gone but there are a number of breeding pairs of Gadwalls here. At this season one can see Snowy Egrets, Louisiana Herons, Common Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Green Herons, Willets and Black-necked Stilts.

The highway runs just behind the sand dunes and there are numerous parking places from which one can work the salt marsh on the one side or the seashore and sand dunes on the other. Terns to be seen here include the Gull-billed, Royal, Common, Least, Forster's, and Cabot's. The summer gull here is the Laughing Gull although one will see a number of non-breeding Herring and maybe a Black-backed Gull or two. In winter the Herrings, Black-backs, and Ringed-billeds are abundant and there is always a good chance of seeing a flock or two of Bonaparte's off shore, along with Gannets, Double-crested Cormorants, Horned Gebes, Common Loons and perhaps a Parasitic Jaeger.

Finally, after passing through several little towns (complete with billboards and real estate advertisements), one sees the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Here next to the town of Buxton there is a visitor's center and museum maintained by the Park Service. This museum pertains entirely to the sea, meteorology, and the old Life Savings Service. It is well worth a visit. A nature trail through a wooded area and around a brackish pond



Bodie Light, Cape Hatteras

can be highly productive of the smaller birds at any season. Out to the cape itself is a walking trip through the sand from a parking place. Here one might find the Piping and the Wilson's Plover among the sand dunes and on an extensive flat kept free from vegetation by occasional incursions of the sea. Hurricanes shape and re-shape this whole area and it is seldom the same shape as indicated on even the latest of maps.

At Buxton there is a pine woods (loblolly pine) that usually contains a number of land birds in season. This is the only woods of any extent on the island. Passing through this one comes to the village of Hatteras. From here there is a free ferry over to Ocracoke Island. This ferry ride is a delight summer or winter. The route passes close to a few sandy islands on which, in summer, breeding Black Skimmers, Royal, Cabot's, Common and Least Terns can be seen. Also there are possibilities of Oystercatchers and occasional non-breeding Brown Pelicans. In winter these islands are occupied by gulls, Double-crested Cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Sanderlings, and on occasion, Brant. The waters through which the ferry passes might yield, in winter, Oldsquaws, Common and Red-throated Loons, Horned Grebes, etc. In 1971 we had a Magnificent Frigate-bird, and the year before, Greater Shearwaters.

Ocracoke is a lovely island some fifteen miles in length with a quaint village at the far end. The seashore here is undisturbed for miles. At the ferry landing area there is a sizeable tidal flat on which, in season, virtually all of the shorebirds can be seen and on the drier sandy flats one might turn up the Wilson's and Piping Plover, both being breeding birds. All along the route the sound side is bordered by extensive salt marshes which could yield Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Clapper Rails, etc. Down here I should point out the Laughing Gull is a breeding gull and they are virtually everywhere during the summer. On marshy islands which one can reach by rented boat, in the sound there are the nesting Forster's and Royal Tern, as well as Brown Pelicans.

The highway running from the ferry landing to Ocracoke village passes through some fascinating country of wind swept vegetation including live oaks, red cedars, yaupon, yucca, myrtle (*Myrica*) and groundsel. This is excellent cover for small birds and in summer the Yellowthroat is quite common. Several creeks are worth quick stops for whatever they might offer in the way of herons and so on, the Green heron being rather common.

Ocracoke village surrounds a little bay called Silver Lake and although well developed for now for the tourist trade it is still a quaint old fishing village. Here the Park Service maintains a marina, a campground and small museum pertaining to sea shells and of course the lore of Blackbeard the pirate who flourished here before the British Navy killed him in the nearby waters in 1718. By this time it is time to think of staying overnight. There is no better place than Island Inn, in the village. This establishment is used to catering to bird people and the meals served in its dining room are excellent.

A few miles out in Pamlico Sound, and accessible only by small boat, are several rather bleak marshy islands. On one of them is the northernmost breeding station of the Brown pelican. The rest of this particular island is shared with breeding Royal Terns, Cabot's Terns, Laughing Gulls, and Oystercatchers. Another nearby island has a nesting colony of Snow Egrets, Louisiana Herons, more Laughing Gulls and Forster's Terns. After looking this over one can try his luck on Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows.

Having exhausted Ocracoke, the traveller must either double back the way he came down or take a two-hour ferry to Cedar Island on the North Carolina mainland joining with major highways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author is a district forester with the Virginia Division of Forestry. Prior to that he worked in Arizona, New Mexico, and Minnesota for the U. S. Forest Service. While working on tentless caterpillar outbreaks in Minnesota, he became interested in ornithology through identifying birds observed feeding on the caterpillars.

In Virginia one of his chief interests has been studying the red-cockaded woodpecker and persuading timber companies to modify cuttings around nest sites in order to preserve the nesting habitat of this unique and threatened species.

A natural area on the Blackwater River in Sussex County was named for him after he persuaded a lumber company to donate the area to the state conservation department. The area was a heron rookery in virgin cypress-tupelo timber.

The author makes frequent trips to Cape Hatteras for a breath of sea air and a complete change of scenery. Vacations are normally spent in the Maritime Provinces of Canada with bird study, botany and marine biology as the objectives.

FRIENDS OF NEWPORT BAY ASK FOR LETTERS
Although the Bay land swap has been found unconstitutional and the County Board of Supervisors acted on May 1st to speed up the appraisals necessary before purchase of the uplands for public use, the Friends of Newport Bay are asking for letters to Senator Cranston and Senator Tunney to assure continued attention.

In the April issue of "Auk," the official publication of the American Ornithological Union, is a list of the new names assigned to the forthcoming revised AOU Checklist of North America Birds. A review of this article will appear in a future issue of "The Western Manager." This revision reflects the latest ornithological reasoning on speciation and certain related changes in the scientific names of birds, which, provided it is in accord with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, is within the authority of A.O.U. However, whether or not the A.O.U. has the power to change the vernacular names remains to be seen. In the meantime those individuals who keep A.O.U. and state life lists of bird counts will make adjustments according to their own judgments.

THE CONDOR CHALLENGE by John Borneman

It's 10:00 a. m. in Hopper Canyon in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. The sun has been beating down on the chaparral covered slopes for several hours. The air is filled with the constant hum of myriads of insects that provide the continuo while the rhythm is provided by the dry clicking of leafhoppers and grasshoppers; an arhythmic stacatto is added to the fugue by the exploding seed capsules of the ceanothus; the wren-tit, bushtit, and Bewick's wren give out with their own cadences and the chaparral symphony continues throughout the day. Tomorrow's concert will sound pretty much the same to the untrained ear but the imperceptible changes in day length, temperature, air pressure, humidity and innumerable unknown factors will combine to provide nuances to this symphony that our senses cannot apprehend. Changes—sometimes subtle, sometimes dramatic—is the rule in God's creative process and the biota's response to the changes that take place in it or through it are only partially understood by man.

The California condor plays a part in this symphony of action and reaction and like the rest of the biota its responses to the nuances of change are only partially understood. In 1965 a tortuous "jeep road" was the only direct route from the Tar Creek oil fields to Hopper Mountain and thence to a road that ran along the boundary of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, terminating in the heart of the Hopper Canyon nesting area. Today, the road that runs along the boundary has returned to chaparral within the sanctuary while the road from the oil fields to Hopper Mountain can now be easily traveled by a sedan and terminates at two large drilling pads at the sanctuary boundary. Electrically operated pumps quietly extract the oil from the rock. In 1965 the wells were farther away from the boundary but were operated by noisy single cycle gasoline engines. As we view these changes that have taken place in the immediate vicinity of the Sespe Sanctuary, we ask ourselves which of these changes have been for the better or for the worse from a condor's point of view: closer, quieter pumps or noisy pumps at a greater distance? Which is more disturbing to a nesting condor? We don't know and maybe never will know, therefore if we are to give the condor the chance it needs to survive we must also give it the benefit of the doubt. With the "energy crisis" making headlines every day there will be greater pressures put on the U. S. Forest Service to open the sanctuary to oil activity even though it is extremely doubtful that the amount of oil stored beneath the Sespe sandstone would be a "drop in the bucket" toward alleviating the oil "shortage." In the meantime while we are giving protection to the condor above the ground, the oil will still be there below the ground!

Thirty miles northeast of the Sespe Condor Sanctuary (and about an hour's flight away for a condor) lies the Tejon Ranch, one of the largest single blocks of privately owned land

in the United States. Its 290,000 acres includes some of the most beautiful examples of oak/savannah, grassland and conifer habitat to be found in California. The Tejon is a well-managed ranch and provides some of the best protection for condors outside of the National Forest. Access to the ranch is strictly controlled and all hunters using the Tejon are informed about condors and the laws protecting them. The pressures of higher taxes and high land values have forced ranchers to the north of the Tejon to sell to land developers, thus eliminating about 100,000 acres of foraging habitat from the condor's range. Tejon stockholders, naturally wish to see a return on their investment and so the Tejon is now planning an 8,000-acre recreational home development in the vicinity of Lebec, California, near Interstate #5. Local environmental groups have opposed the project but the proposed project may in the long run buy more time for the condor if the remainder of the ranch remains in cattle production. An unpleasant alternative to the proposed project could be the selling off of small or large units of the ranch. If this would happen, the demise of the condor could be hastened considerably.

If the fate of the condor was the only problem facing those who own or manage the vast lands used by the condors, and if unlimited funds were available, the condors' problems might be alleviated considerably and we could just "leave them alone." Since this is not the case, however, we have to work with the tools at our disposal. In the use of these tools a large amount of insight and political "know how" have to be brought into play. What would seem to be a reasonable solution to a low-level land manager may seem most unreasonable to his superior who sits closer to the heat of partisan politics and the pressures generated in the upper levels. Our exasperation at the "insensitive bureaucrat" should not cause us to overlook the people in the various government agencies who are our allies and need our support and encouragement. The "professional" and the "amateur" can no longer afford to view cooperation as compromise and go separate ways. We need each other's insights and support. We even need to benefit from each other's mistakes.

The challenge is an exciting one and the lessons we learn while meeting the challenge may very well give us the knowledge we will need to face the many present and future environmental challenges. God's command in Genesis to "subdue" the earth and "have dominion" over it's creatures carries with it an awesome responsibility that goes with stewardship: If our environment is to be utilized for the long-term benefit of our fellow human beings we have to "use it" sensitively and intelligently. The California condor may very well be the gauge that records our degree of success.*

audubon activities

DONALD ADAMS



PELAGIC TRIP, SAN DIEGO—60-mile BANK—May 19. A calm sea with no wind and dense high fog provided excellent seeing for a variety of ocean birds. Most noteworthy were several spectacular pairs of RED PHALAROPES in full breeding plumage. The larger size of the female was conspicuous. Another magnificent bird was a SOUTH POLAR SKUA (*maccoormiakti*). An excellent view of a single RHINOCEROS AUKLET revealed beginning of its two white whiskers. Small flocks of CASSIN'S AUKLETS, several pairs of XANTUS' MURRELETS and a few COMMON MURREs filled out the alcid list. Only three species of shearwaters were seen. SOOTY (hundreds). PINK-FOOTED (several), and MANX (a few). In addition there were SABINE'S GULL, a remarkably clear view of ARCTIC TERNS on kelp, POMERINE JAEGER and a flock of 20 ARCTIC LOONS. BLACK PETRELS were common, and one lone ASHY appeared. Black Turnstones, Hermit Warblers and a Hammond's Flycatcher passed the boat far out at sea. At Corona Islands several AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS were seen flying with BLACKS.

MT. PINOS, MAY 21. Although spring had not yet arrived at the upper levels of Mt. Pinos, the lower altitudes produced a good variety of species. Black-chinned, Brewer's and Chipping Sparrows were much in evidence, giving everyone an opportunity to study both the individual birds and their songs. The elusive Mountain Quail was heard but not seen. However, the group of ten birders was more fortunate with the White-headed Woodpecker and the Olive-sided Flycatcher, both of which were easily visible to all. Cassin's Finches, Pine Siskins, a Pygmy Nuthatch, Green-tailed Towhees and Brown Creepers were among other species present. Patches of snow and the complete lack of spring flowers probably discouraged the hummingbirds, as few were seen.

Abigail King, leader.

MALIBU LAGOON, June 2 About a dozen birders collected at the lagoon early in the morning where they waited hopefully, but vainly for their leader. Pam Greene, having made an early start to be sure to be the first to arrive, had a flat tire and with all the ensuing problems, did not arrive at all. However, the group organized themselves and had a successful morning. An Anna's Hummingbird sitting on her nest was the bird of the day. Forster's Terns were seen along with several species of gulls. However, the group was unable to find the Murrelets mentioned on the Bird Tape. We are indebted to Mary Stewart for the bird list for the trip.



The Horned Puffin which was seen on the Field Trip of the Los Angeles Audubon Society out of Oxnard, May 12.

Photograph by Keith Axelson.

LUCIA SUFFEL

With great sorrow we report the death on May 28 of Lucia Suffel, daughter of Shumway and Betty Suffel. The Executive Board, the Audubon House staff and the staff of The Western Tanager extend their deepest sympathy to her family.

Mt. Pinos, May 27. A more perfect day for birding Mt. Pinos could not have been ordered. Strong winds blowing on the way to Frazier Park turnoff obligingly abated before we began birding.

In the field at the base of the mountain a beautiful Lazuli Bunting greeted us with a song. While studying singing Black-chinned and Brewer's Sparrows perched in low shrubbery Pine Siskins flew overhead. In the woods nearby the Western Wood Pewee and chipping Sparrows were located.

After this inspiring beginning we proceeded to Fir Ridge Road, stopping on the way to view a singing Olive-sided Flycatcher. The walk to the loop produced Brown Creepers, Audubon's Warbler and a beautiful Hermit Warbler in trees along with Mountain Chickadees. The highlight here was the finding of a Wood Pewee sitting on her nest.

We had no sooner sat down for lunch than a singing Dusky Flycatcher produced a life bird for several people. With the scope we could see the brownish upper surface of his tail. Several Green-tailed Towhees and Fox Sparrows were about, and male Cassin's Finches feeding on the ground were admired. About this time an immature Golden Eagle sailed overhead.

Sixteen people enjoyed the trip and several added birds to their life list. Forty species were identified. Ed Navajosky, leader.

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

- July 7 SATURDAY - BUCKHORN FLAT. Meet at 8 a.m. at the entrance to the campground. Follow Angeles Crest Highway, Rte. 2 (state) from its intersection with Foothill Blvd. in LaCanada, about 35 miles to Buckhorn Flat. Good area for resident mountain birds. Leader: Otto Widmann, phone: 221-8973.
- July 28 SATURDAY - MT. PINOS. Group will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the summit. There will be no specific leader as most of the birding will be done from the Condor observation point. Look for Red Crossbill, Purple and Cassin's Finch, Calliope Hummingbird and Condor. Call Pamela Greene for further information: 398-2955.
- Aug. 11 SATURDAY - IRVINE AND O'NEILL PARKS. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at entrance to Irvine Park. Take Santa Ana Freeway, Interstate 5, south to Chapman Ave. off-ramp in Orange. Follow Chapman Ave. thru city of Orange to entrance of the park. A small parking fee is charged at the park. Leader: Les Wood, phone: 256-3908.
- Aug. 25 SATURDAY - MT. PINOS. Same as July 28 field trip described above.
- Sept. 6 THURSDAY - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - 8 p.m., Audubon House.
- Sept. 8 SATURDAY - Pelagic trip on the Vantuna, on board at 5:30 a.m. Directions to Vantuna's berth will be sent with confirmation of reservations. Reservations are limited to 30 persons and will be accepted by mail only. Fare: \$15. Make check payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society and send with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Joann Gabbard, 823 19th St., Apt. D, Santa Monica, CA 90403. Leader: Arnold Small
- Sept. 11 TUESDAY - EVENING MEETING- 8 p.m. Plummer Park. Program: two extraordinary slide sound National Geographic films- "The Way of a Bird" and "The Mystery of Migration" presented by Arnold Small.
- Sept. 16 SUNDAY - MALIBU LAGOON) See
- Sept. 22 SATURDAY - MT PINOS) details in Sept.
- Sept. 24 MONDAY - MALIBU LAGOON) Tanager

Any changes or additional information on field trips will go on the Bird Report on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled trip.

ANSWER to last month's DOUBLE-CROSTIC

Ludlow Griscom "*Modern Bird Study*": "In ancient and medieval times such interest as there was in birds was largely a question of their use to man in various ways for food, game or sport or especially in ancient times with vultures, eagles and owls for augury and omens."

NEW LIBRARY POLICY

At the June meeting, the Executive Board concluded that in order to preserve the present excellence of the library, a change in policy will be necessary. It was voted to make the library a strictly Reference Library, with permission to remove books limited for use in official Audubon Society activities. Written approval will have to be obtained from a member of the House staff. Records may be borrowed by putting down a deposit equal to the cost of the album. The deposit, less 10¢ a day, will be refunded on the return of the album.

All Field Trips will start at the stated times. Party moves off five minutes later. Allow enough time to fill up with gasoline at the start. People with pets will not be allowed to join.

Annual subscription to "The Western Tanager" is \$3.50; first-class postage \$4.50. Free to members assigned by the National Audubon Society to the Los Angeles Audubon Society.

Los Angeles Audubon Society

The Western Tanager

Official Publication of the LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY

ALASKA

Join us on the tour to see ALASKA wildlife and wilderness. Among the places we will be visiting will be the Nome area, St. Lawrence Island, McKinley National Park, and Kodiak Island. We expect to see many birds, animals, and wildflowers, as well as savor the magnificent scenery of this far northern state.

For information, call or write the tour leaders:

Herb or Olga Clarke
2027 El Arbolita Dr.
Glendale, Calif. 91208
(213) 249-5537

EDITOR

Field Notes

Audubon Activities

Calendar

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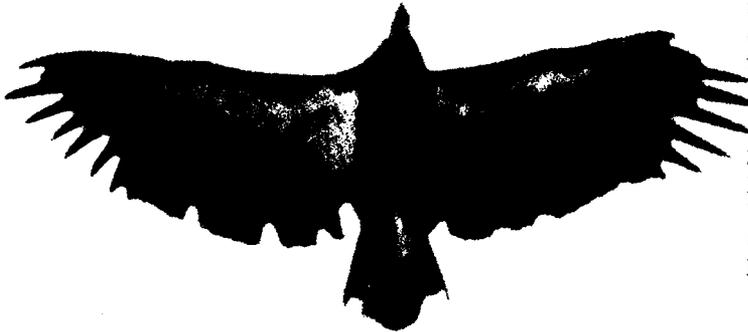
Hans Hjorth

CONDOR FUND

ONCE EACH YEAR THE LOS ANGELES AUDUBON SOCIETY ASKS ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR SANCTUARY FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE OF COURSE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "CONDOR SANCTUARY FUND" AND MAIL TO LAAS, PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES 90046. THIS FUND IS FORWARDED TO NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, WHICH USES IT TO SUPPORT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY'S CONDOR NATURALIST, RESIDENT AT THE SANCTUARY.

WE ARE ENCLOSING ENVELOPES WE HOPE WILL BE RETURNED WITH DONATIONS FOR THE CONDOR FUND.



The new President of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, from a photograph taken at the Dry Tortugas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1973-4

At the Evening Meeting, May 8, 1973, the membership of the Los Angeles Audubon Society elected the following officers for July 1973 to June 1974.

President	Dr. Gerald Maisel
1st Vice-Pres.	Dr. Freeman Tatum
2nd Vice-Pres.	Mr. Sanford Wohlgemuth
Executive Secretary	Mrs. Agnes Evans
Treasurer	Miss Mary Stewart
Corr. Secretary	Mrs. Mary Clements
Registrar	Mrs. Ruth Lohr

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

Continued from back page

at Morongo Valley on May 19, a singing male INDIGO BUNTING was there on May 15 (Abigail King and Joan Mills), and a MOUNTAIN QUAIL with ten chicks was seen on June 2 (Bruce Broadbooks). The latter is amazing, as this is habitat for Gambel Quail which also have large broods there this year. A singing male LUCY'S WARBLER found on June 2 is the only sighting there this year. Usually several pair nest there and arrive in late March. At nearby Yucca Valley, Hank Brodtkin "hit the jackpot" on May 20 with fifteen EVENING GROSBEAKS, a VIRGINIA'S WARBLER, a female GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (new to that area) and two CATTLE EGRETS (on May 13). Kim Garrett found an out-of-range BENDIRE'S THRASHER at Cottonwood Springs on May 13.

Closer to home the "banders" at Camp Pendleton during the first two weeks of May reported a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, a TENNESSEE WARBLER and a BELL'S VIREO. Jon Dunn keeps an eye out for swifts and swallows at Encino Reservoir when skies are overcast, and on May 30 he found two CHIMNEY SWIFTS with the hundreds of Cliff Swallows there. On the next day one was seen briefly before the weather cleared. After seeing this single CHIMNEY SWIFT, Hal Baxter had his "eye on the sky" while gardening in Arcadia on

June 3, and saw at least four BLACK SWIFTS and ten PURPLE MARTINS overhead. These high flyers presumably nest in the nearby San Gabriel mountains. Upper Franklin Canyon maintained its reputation as an excellent place to bird on June 3, when Dick Neumann found an OVENBIRD there. They are secretive, and rare in California. Another CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER was singing in Richard Bradley's garden in Palos Verdes on June 10. A male CARDINAL in Oak Grove Park, Flintridge, on May 26 was no treat for Jerry Pace who is an Easterner, but is one of the few Southern California records away from the El Monte area. LEAST BITTERNS are seldom seen locally, and one observed by Rusty Scalf at Harbor Lake, San Pedro, on May 19 is noteworthy. Quite infrequently we have reports of BLACK OYSTERCATCHERS on the mainland coast (they are common on the islands), but Elizabeth Copper's report of seeing two on several occasions on the tip of the L. A. harbor breakwater makes one wonder if they are resident there. Some twenty breeding plumaged COMMON MURRES just outside Los Angeles harbor on June 8 must have been late non-breeding birds (Charles Collins, Richard Bradley).

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIRDS

Continued from back page

rent. It seems unlikely in the vast expanse of the ocean that the same bird would be found twice. The alternative is also unlikely, that the same conditions which caused one bird to become flightless and to drift to our area from Alaska, might have involved many birds and result in three sightings in one week.

Almost or quite as rare as the Horned Puffins were the following: a spring plumaged male GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (5th California record) at Deep Springs on May 20 and 21 (the John Luthers), a "lifer" for me; two MISSISSIPPI KITES (4th and 5th California record) at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, on May 23, one of them stayed on into June (the Prathers, who teach school there and others); a KENTUCKY WARBLER (3rd or 4th California record) on treeless Santa Barbara Island on June 1 (Kim Garrett); and three species of tanagers, Western, Summer and the rare SCARLET Tanager on San Nicholas Island, 75 miles off the coast (Lee Jones). Lee and Kim separately, also found INDIGO BUNTINGS on Santa Barbara Island, while Lee, alone, had three ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS, a PALM WARBLER, a REDSTART and many western warblers there on May 12. In addition, Lee saw a NORTHERN WATER THRUSH and a male BOBOLINK on San Nicholas in early June. Since these islands are seldom visited by birders, the results reported above indicate that our offshore islands would at least equal the Farallone Islands as rare bird magnets, if they received the same year around coverage.

Nor were these the only rare birds reported. The Werner Schumanns of Inglewood studied a male HOODED WARBLER on May 11 at Dos Cabezas Spring in Borrego Park near the Mexican border, and another male HOODED WARBLER was found at Oasis in Mono County on May 28 (two in one season is unprecedented). Also at Oasis were a female PARULA (Van Remsen), an OVENBIRD, two REDSTARTS, a rare CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER on June 1 (Guy McCaskie) and June 8 (Hal Baxter), a male ROSE-BREASTED GROS-



LAYSAN ALBATROSS seen 23 October 1971 twenty-three miles west of Humboldt Bay, Eureka, California, on a pelagic trip of the Redwood Region. This is the only observation by organized birders, although the bird is occasionally reported by fisherman. Photograph by Ron LaValle.

BEAK, an EASTERN KINGBIRD on June 8, and at least twenty EVENING GROSBEAKS. In the lower, hotter part of Inyo Co., Scotty's Castle was relatively dull with only one REDSTART and a female BALTIMORE ORIOLE, but Furnace Creek Ranch was active with, not only the MISSISSIPPI KITES, but a WIED'S CRESTED FLY-CATCHER (Jon Dunn) and a female GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (Harry Kreuger), both northernmost records, a DICKCISSEL on June 1 (Guy McC.) and an EASTERN KINGBIRD on June 5 (the Prathers). A rare avian "odd-couple" was a male WOOD DUCK and a male BOBOLINK in close association on a flooded portion of the Furnace Creek golf course on June 9. We assume that this was some sort of symbiotic relationship - the Wood Duck stirred up insects for the Bobolink, but how the Wood Duck benefitted we don't know.

Our local oases were not so productive, although there was a credible third-hand report of a male BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (very rare)

Continued on page six

THE WESTERN Tanager COLORING BOOK.

LEARN THE CORMORANTS BY COLORING THE GULAR PATCHES AND POUCHES CORRECTLY.

Cormorants

