



The Phainopepla

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In co-operation with the National
Assn. of Audubon Societies



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No. 3

The Song Sparrow

I am a happy Sparrow bird,
Singing all the day;
I build my nest in your pampas grass
To keep the cats away.

"Hark, hark, Spring is here, spring is here!" called the Song Sparrow joyously, the cheerful little song ringing out on the still morning air as if to arouse the unwary and call attention to the fact that it was a glorious morning and all Nature was smiling.

For the most of the year the little Song Sparrow sings his rollicking song, bringing cheer to those who will listen. "I love California," he seems to say, "spring, summer or winter, it all suits me! And I love its dry sandy deserts, its moist fertile valleys, its wooded mountains and its bubbling streams. And when I live in the desert I wear a light brown suit that just matches the sand, so my enemies will not see me; and when I live in the dark wooded canyons I wear a dark brown suit, so that my enemies there will not see me. Don't you think I am a clever bird to make my clothes, or feathers, match my surroundings? Could you do that, dear reader? I suppose those of you who know and love the birds, do that very thing. You wear a brown, or dark green, or drab suit so that you will not scare us away when you are looking for us. I am sure you would never wear a white suit, for it would reflect the sun and attract attention, and we might not know that you were our friends. I like to build in the pampas grass in the Audubon ladies' yards, because the sharp edges of the grass help keep the cats away, and the Audubon ladies put bread crumbs out for the birds and we feed it to our nestlings. It is much easier than catching bugs all the time, and the babies are fond of it. I wish they were not such forward youngsters and would stay in the nest longer, but you see we Sparrows are birds that live a good deal on the ground, and so the babies must learn to hop about and look out for themselves sooner than the Orioles and other birds that stay in the trees most of the time. Our babies have long, strong legs, and how they can hop!" and Mr. Song Sparrow trilled a happy little song as he flew away, as if to show how proud he really was of his little ones.

Father and Mother Song Sparrow are clothed alike, having striped brown and black backs, with white under-parts which are speckled on the breast, having one dark spot in the middle that looks like a little button. They do a lot of good eating insects and weed seeds and never molest gardens or fruit. Though dull in plumage, they are such cheerful, good-natured birds, staying about all the year around, that we would surely miss them should they leave us.

The Phainopepla

Bulletin of the
CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Organized May 31, 1906
Incorporated April 3, 1913

Honorary President Dr. David Starr Jordan
President Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers
311 North Ave. 66, Los Angeles
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Fifty cents a year, or 5c a copy. Thirty
cents a year for 10 or more, sent to one
address.

We are glad to announce that beginning
with this number we are issuing our Bulletin
in co-operation with the National Associa-
tion of Audubon Societies, with whom we
have long been affiliated, and who in the past
have given us financial and moral support.
We are glad to have their encouragement
and approval in this, our latest undertaking.

USE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREES

We wish also to acknowledge with thanks
the flattering notice of our "Phainopepla"
given in our sister Bulletin, "The Gull," pub-
lished monthly by the Audubon Association
of the Pacific, of San Francisco. It was the
success of this little paper that gave us cour-
age to launch ours. Continued success to
"The Gull"!

USE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREES

The editor wishes to express to all bird
lovers, and the birds, the wish that they have
a joyous holliday season. Perhaps the bird
lovers might bring joy to themselves, as well
as to the birds, if they would put out fresh
water and food for the latter.

STATE BIRD CAMPAIGN

Northern, Southern and Central Califor-
nia are keeping step together in the educa-
tional contest for a state bird.

"Listen in" over KGO, San Francisco, for
Bert Harwell's voice Tuesdays between 6:30
and 7:00 p. m., and for Dr. Mars F. Baum-
gardt over KNX, Hollywood, Tuesdays from
7:00 to 7:30 p. m. and learn about the cam-
paign voting process.

John Tyler is stirring things up generally
in San Joaquin Valley and Mrs. Ben L.
Clary in Coachella, Colorado Desert, Mrs.
Jessie Hatch of Imperial and Mrs. C. T.
Warren of Mission Beach are working
among the Southern District, C. F. W. C.,
while Mrs. H. L. Hildreth of Julian is
"specializing" in the Indian schools.

Mrs. Harriet Williams Myers, President
of the California State Audubon Society
under whose "wing" the campaign is func-
tioning, and Miss Helen Pratt who is "moth-
ering" the Junior Audubon work of the
state, have just finished a successful tour
among the schools of Ventura County. Mrs.
Edwin S. Fuller, of Inglewood, is doing good
service in arousing an interest in the Los
Angeles District, C. F. W. C. Others are
doing individual work in different parts of
the state. The present outlook is encourag-
ing for a regular "Hoover landslide" of
votes by spring, for the committee has de-
cided to continue the campaign into 1929.

Send your choice for state bird either to
Mr. C. A. Harwell, 2626 Haste St., Berkeley,
Calif., or Mrs. F. T. Bicknell, 319 South
Normandie Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

JUNIOR AUDUBON CHIRPS

Miss Helen Pratt is the Junior Club Sec-
retary for California, and orders should be
sent to her. Junior Club material may be
obtained, also any of the National Educa-
tional leaflets at 5 cents each, and any
leaflets issued by the California Society.

Talks will be given on request, illustrated
with specimens, portraits in color, or stere-
opticon slides. A small expense fee is ex-
pected.

Procedure in Forming a Junior Club

Explain the purpose of such a club (to
study birds together and promote their wel-
fare), and tell of the materials to be ob-

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tained. Ask how many would join. Act as temporary chairman while a president is elected. Proceed to elect vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Let the children all together or each child separately agree to a simple pledge, to at least study birds and be considerate of them, and let the secretary take the names, and the treasurer the dimes, which may be sent via check or P.O. Money Order for material, which is six leaflets and a button for each member. The time of meeting, and a club name should be chosen.

The leaflets may form the basis for several club meetings' study. If the membership of a club is 25 or more, the magazine Bird Lore will be sent free, and it contains much study material. Discussion of a State Bird may well occupy this year's meetings. A list of birds seen about the school should be maintained. Cat proof drinking places and feeding-tables are desirable. Bread and cake crumbs or baby chick feed will prove attractive, and the birds will be more easily enjoyed at their bath or feeding.

As to Junior Audubon memberships, this last month 507 memberships have been supplied with material, and 289 orders are now waiting, making 796 members applying this month. This makes a total of 1,040 Junior members so far this school year.

POISONING OF GROUND BIRDS

At the twenty-first annual meeting of the State Humane Association, recently held in San Francisco, Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, President of the Audubon Association of the Pacific and Representing California Audubon Society, read a paper on "Poisoning of Ground Birds by Throwing Grain on Ground for Squirrels or other Rodents."

Dr. D'Evelyn, after careful investigation, reported that the State Division of Fish and Game were fully cognizant of this admittedly complex problem—some 12,000,000 acres are involved in the area that warrants squirrel infestation control measures. Potentially associated with the Fish and Game Division are the State Department of Agriculture and U. S. Biological Survey. The Penal and Political Codes, if complied with, were ample as safeguards. In each case of loss of birds reported, such loss has been traced to the improper or careless use of poisoned grain. Hence, in the destruction of Doves or other birds by poisoned grain, Audubonists must simply recognize that someone has blundered or disobeyed. **FIND OUT THE SOMEONE AND SUBMIT SAME TO "LEGAL" EDUCATION OR ATONEMENT,** and this truly regrettable loss will be reduced to the mere minimum of accident.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

The bird lover who plays golf gets an added interest out of the game, since golf links, which are scattered throughout the State and ever increasing in number, are becoming refuges for our wild birds. On the open, treeless stretches one finds Killdeer Plovers, Meadowlarks, Brewer Blackbirds, Horned Larks, Road-runners and other ground-loving birds, while those having canons, brush-covered hillsides and oak trees, are veritable paradises for birds. Early in November a large flock of Pipits were seen at the Pasadena Municipal Links in the Arroyo Seco as well as Robins, Bluebirds, Audubon Warblers, Say and Black Phoebes, Quail, California Jays, California Woodpeckers, Brown Towhees, Thurber Juncos, Green-backed Goldfinches and Linnets, and Red-Tailed Hawk. At another course a Red-breasted Sapsucker was seen, as well as Kinglets, a Hermit Thrush, Sparrow Hawk, Shrike, and the more common birds.

It would seem that our golf links may be added to our city parks and cemeteries as bird refuges.

A small flock of Canvas-back ducks, mostly male, rested one night in Westlake Park early in the month. A Hermit and Townsend Warblers were seen in Echo Park Nov. 1st by the L. A. Audubon Society. A Little Green Heron, that has been there for some days, was also noted, as well as Grebes, many kinds of duck and interesting land birds.

A flock of Robins and Cedar Waxwings are reported by Mrs. Saunders to be staying at her place in Whittier.

BIRDS LISTED BY THE SOUTHWEST BIRD STUDY CLUB

Oct. 22, Nov. 12, Nov. 19, 1928

44 Residents

Eared Grebe, Pied Billed Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Calif. Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, American Coot, Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Valley Quail, Sharp Shinned Hawk, Red Tailed Hawk, Desert Sparrow Hawk, Roadrunner, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall Woodpecker, California Woodpecker, Red Shafted Flicker, Anna Hummer, White Throated Swift, Say Phoebe, Black Phoebe, Calif. Horned Lark, Calif. Jay, Western Crow, Meadow Lark, Brewer Black Bird, House Finch, Willow Gold Finch, Green Backed Gold Finch, Lark Sparrow, Rufous
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(Continued from Page Three)

Crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, San Diego Towhee, Anthony Towhee, Calif. Shrike, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Rock Wren, San Diego Wren, Sierra Brown Creeper, Titmouse, Wren-tit, Bushtit, Western Gnat-catcher.

22 Winter Visitants

Western Grebe, Calif. Gull, White Pelican, Red Breasted Merganser, Baldpate Duck, Egret, Wilson Snipe, Red Breasted Sapsucker, Calif. Purple Finch, Savannah Sparrow, Gambel Sparrow, Golden Crowned Sparrow, Thurber Junco, Fox Sparrow, Dusky Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Pipit, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Alaska Hermit Thrush, Western Robin, Mountain Bluebird, Western Bluebird.

2 Migrants

Wilson Phalarope, Townsend Warbler.

2 Rare Usually Summer Visitants

Western Warbling Vireo, Phainopepla.

At the request of The Science Library, Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S. W. 7, we have sent our annual reports and publications.

T W I T T E R S

The Nature Magazine is conducting a National Flower Poll. Your first, second, and third choice for a National flower may be sent to the National Flower Editor, 1214 16th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

This magazine is also offering for sale "Bird and Animal Paintings" by R. Bruce Horsfall, in book form, in which 168 pictures in full color, and a beautiful frontispiece are available. Each picture has concise description of each subject. Price only \$1.00

D I R E C T O R Y

National Ass'n Audubon Societies, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, Pres., 1974 Broadway, New York City.

California Audubon Society

Lecture. Second Thursday of each month, 7:45 p. m., in the lecture room of the Los Angeles Public Library. December meeting omitted.

Field Day. Dec. 20th, Westlake Park, 9:30 a. m., with L. A. Audubon.

Los Angeles Audubon

Pres., Mrs. Leonard S. Hall, 117 Wavecrest Ave., Venice. Santa Monica 61679.

Pasadena Audubon

Pres., Mr. A. L. Hamilton, 836 North Raymond, Pasadena. Wakefield 1872.

"The Owls of California," Teachers' Bulletin No. 10, Fish and Game Commission is fine for field observations and has some good identification notes.

The Oregon Audubon Society, W. A. Elliot, president, have started a movement for the purchase of a 25-acre tract of land near Portland on which to establish a bird sanctuary. All luck to them.

We are glad to note that the Federated Bird Clubs of New England, Inc., have purchased a 500-acre tract of land in Hancock, Berkshire Co., Mass., which will be presented to the commonwealth and will be known as the "Edward Howe Forbush Wild Life Reservation," in honor of the recently retired State Ornithologist. It is an honor justly merited and we rejoice with the Federated Bird Clubs in their accomplishment.

"Bird Banding in America" by Frederick C. Lincoln, assistant Biologist, Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., is a recent interesting publication of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

FOREST LAWN MADE SANCTUARY FOR BIRDS

In co-operation with the California Audubon Society, the Forest Lawn Memorial Park has created within its grounds a sanctuary for birds. All native and migratory birds are to be protected and furnished with material for nest-building and food. Mrs. Harriet W. Myers and Miss Helen Pratt plan to take the first group of bird students to Forest Lawn to identify the birds now making their homes there.—*Los Angeles Times.*

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Pres., Dr. Frederick W. D'Evelyn, Phelan Bldg., San Francisco.

Publication: "The Gull."

Nature Club of Southern California

Chairman Bird Study Section, Mrs. Ada B. Maescher, Union League Bldg., Los Angeles.

Santa Monica Audubon Society

Meetings. First Tuesday of each month, 2:30 p. m. in Committee Room of Santa Monica Public Library.

Southwest Bird Study Club

Pres., Miss Mary Mann Miller, 5928 Hayes Ave., Los Angeles, Garfield 3677.