

Education News

It is interesting to note that tabebuias have been found near ruins in remote tropical areas in South and Central America. An example is near the base of the Great Pyramid in the Mayan city of Chichen Itza. Flowers similar to those of the tabebuias and other bignonies occasionally appear on ornate stone carving and other works of art.

Tabebuias have been described in the journals of early explorers in the Amazon region. We relate one such description dated 1848. "It was a truly magnificent sight - a great tree covered with one mass of flowers - to hear the deep distant hum of millions of insects gathered to enjoy the honeyed feast, all out of reach of the curious and admiring naturalist - flowers are produced over the outside of the great dome of verdure exposed to the vertical rays of the sun - on many of the trees, not a single blossom is to be found at a less height than 100 feet."

Constance Wood



New Children's Education Program to Begin

The Arboretum's Education Department will inaugurate a new Children's Education Program this Summer. The three week program will feature one week sessions for children in elementary grades. Morning classes will meet in the Plant Propagation Greenhouse. Subjects to be covered include: seeds, flowers, bugs, birds and their relationship to plants. Proposed projects for the classes are to make a bird feeder, a plant press and a bug house. A complete brochure outlining the class schedule, fees and registration form will be sent to the membership later in the Spring.

The Fall Children's Education Program will feature classes after school and on Saturdays. Participants will have the opportunity for a hands-on experience in the new Children's Garden.



Christmas Bird Count



Audubon's Great Horned Owl

"The annual Christmas Bird Count ritual blends the diverse qualities of sport, social function, field ornithology and outdoor exercise; in California such counts are a unique and immensely popular experience" (Jan.-Feb. "Western Tanager," L.A. Audubon publication).

The Arboretum is included in the Pasadena - San Gabriel Valley Christmas bird count area (a circle with a 7 1/2 mile radius centered at the intersection of Duarte Road and San Gabriel Blvd.). The function of this event is to count every wild bird seen in one's assigned area thus determining the number of species and individual birds on the given day. The data from all the Christmas bird counts are compiled and published in "American Birds" (a seasonal journal published by the National Audubon Society) and are a major source in determining the numbers and distribution of wild bird populations of the U.S.A., Canada, and a few locales south of the U.S. - Mexican border.

On the morning of December 19, 1988 our Arboretum count group (Charles Hamilton, Harold Bond, Shantanu Phukan, Barbara Cohen) set forth with hope for temperate weather (which was granted) and perhaps an unexpected rare avian visitor; due to previous "scouting" this December we

held no high expectations for numbers or individuals, both were definitely down compared to previous years. The wintering Costa's hummingbirds, Gray Flycatcher, Western Flycatcher and several warbler species had not been sighted. The usual Cedar Waxwings, Robins, Goldfinches, Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows have been almost rarities. The wild duck population has been most disappointing. On a positive note, in addition to it being a "fun-day" (which terminates with a gathering of bird-counters at Eaton Canyon Nature Center for a preliminary tally of the day's efforts, dinner and "bird-talk"), we were rewarded with a visit from a Merlin (small falcon), a good viewing of a stunning Solitary Vireo and the full cooperation of our resident Great Horned Owls. The day's totals: 55 species and 1,079 individuals.

Barbara Cohen



1989 Members' Lecture Series Save the Dates

"ADVENTURES IN AFRICA"
Jalieu Tulley
Professional Nature Photographer
Friday, March 31, 1989
7:30pm

"EXCEPTIONAL TREES OF LOS ANGELES"
Don Hodel
Environmental Horticulturalist, Author
Thursday, April 27, 1989
7:30pm

Fees: Members \$5 per lecture
Nonmembers \$8 per lecture

All lectures will be held in the Lecture Hall at the Arboretum. Advance reservations are necessary. For further information, please call 818-446-8251, ext. 49.



Arboretum Library Featured

The library at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was featured in the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* on Sunday, February 5. Titled, "Libraries of the Unexpected," the article featured our plant science librarian Joan DeFato.





1988. "Arboretum library featured." *News* 1989:spring, 5.

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Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

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Los Angeles Arboretum

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