

The **SKIMMER**



Volume 41, Number 12—December 2014

SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 p.m., in the Hoffman Room of the San Diego Foundation Building, 2508 Historic Decatur Road. Going south on Rosecrans St. in the Midway area of town, turn left on Roosevelt Rd. into Liberty Station and proceed a couple of blocks to Decatur. Parking is available on the street or in the adjacent parking lots. **Note the earlier date!**

Program: Our annual holiday party. Christmas, Hannukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, or whatever excuse you choose for having fun, come and enjoy socializing with fellow SDFO members. With a Bird Quiz, 2014 Rare Birds in San Diego Review, and food and drinks! Volunteers are needed to help with party set up; please email garybnunn@gmail.com.

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2015, same time, same place. Program to be announced.

Christmas Bird Counts

Here are the dates and contact information for the county's Christmas Bird Counts:

Sunday, Dec. 14: Anza-Borrego
Robert Theriault roberttheriault@juno.com

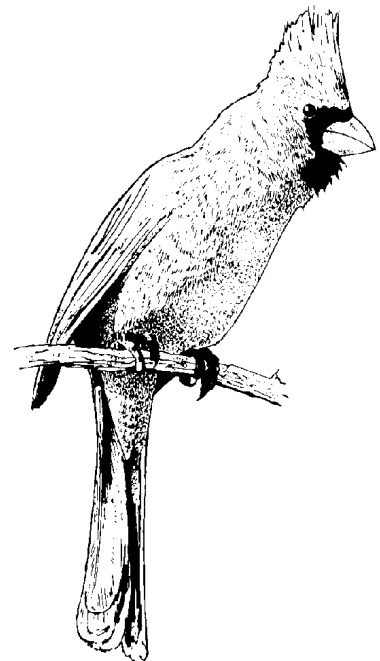
Monday, Dec. 15: Lake Henshaw
Gretchen Cummings Gretchen.bc@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, Dec. 20: San Diego
Steve Ritt stevenmritt@gmail.com
Chris Smith stlbirdman64@yahoo.com

Saturday, Dec. 27: Oceanside
Andy Mauro akamauro1@gmail.com

Sunday, Dec. 28: Escondido
Ken Weaver gnatcatcher@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, Jan. 3: Rancho Santa Fe
Robert Patton rpatton@san.rr.com



More SDFO News

Sign Up for the SDFO New Year's Day Pelagic Trip

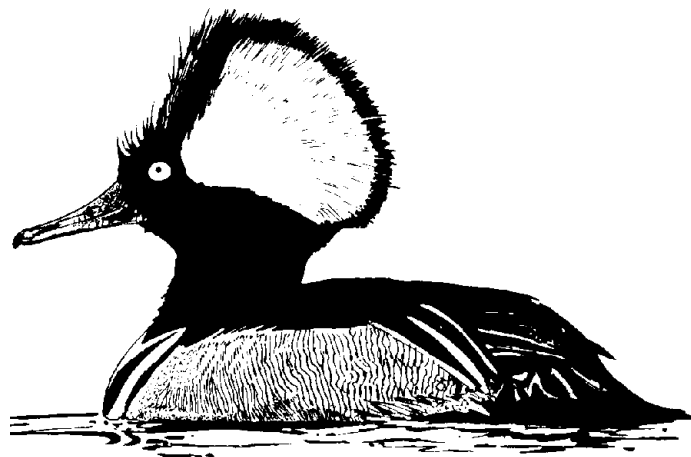
SDFO are pleased to announce our traditional New Year's Day Pelagic for 2015. This trip will cover local San Diego waters and the Nine Mile Bank. **Jan 1, 2015.**

The trip leaves from Point Loma Sportfishing, 1403 Scott St., San Diego CA 92106.

Call [619-223-1627](tel:619-223-1627) to make your reservation.

Cost \$40.00.

Arrive & sign in: 7:15 a.m., departs from dock 8:00 a.m., returns to dock 2:30 pm.



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, NOVEMBER 2014

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

The Eurasian Wigeon present at Famosa Slough and along the adjacent San Diego River since 8 Oct (JB) was still present 29 Nov (JR) and can be expected to stay into March; another male Eurasian Wigeon was on the Sweetwater River adjacent to Chula Vista on 4 Nov (PEL). A Greater Scaup at Rams Hill in Borrego Springs on 22 Nov (WTH) provides the first record for the Anza-Borrego Desert. Up to 4 Black Scoters on south San Diego Bay 21-22 Nov (MSa) are hopefully settled for the winter. Multiple Brown Boobies continue to be seen from the area of the Tijuana River mouth and Point La Jolla, with a high count of 60 at the river mouth on 12 Nov (PEL) along with much smaller numbers in La Jolla (SW). The Neotropic Cormorant found at Lake O'Neill on Camp Pendleton on 12 Oct (TH) was still present 26 Nov (JMCM); however, with the continued draining of the lake, its stay may soon come to an end.

A Zone-tailed Hawk reported over Kit Carson Park and around the east end of Lake Hodges 29 Aug-30 Nov (GDeL, MSt)

could be the bird that has roosted with the Turkey Vultures at San Diego Wild Animal Park; additional Zone-tailed Hawks were at Palomar Mountain State Park on 9 Nov (NC), at the Fairbanks Ranch horse

pastures near Del Mar on 23 Nov (MB) and over Santee Lakes in Santee on 30 Nov (BS). The known wintering Pacific Golden-Plover in Del Mar was still present 11 Nov (*fide* PEL). After the discovery of an Ancient Murrelet on Mission Bay last month, one or two have been reported seen on most days this month from Pt. La Jolla in La Jolla (PEL, SW). Most unusual were 4 Heermann's Gulls together on Lake Hodges on 12 Nov (JB), since this species is hardly ever found any distance inland from the shore.

A Tropical Kingbird found along Saturn Blvd. in the Tijuana River Valley on 31 Oct (PEL) remained through 2 Nov (PP), up to two together were in residential Coronado 2-4 Nov (PEL, JTS), one was at San Diego's Liberty Station 18-20 Nov (PEL, SBM), and another was photographed at Dairy Mart Pond in the Tijuana River Valley on 14 Nov (JP). A Bell's Vireo at Nestor Park in Nestor on 8 Nov (PEL) was either an exceptionally late fall migrant or more likely attempting to winter locally. Far more



Yellow-throated Vireo at Cottonwood Creek Park, Encinitas.

Photo by Tracy Drake.

interesting was a Yellow-throated Vireo photographed in Cottonwood Creek Park in Encinitas on 28 Nov (TD). Presumed wintering Plumbeous Vireos included single birds in San Diego's Greenwood Cemetery 10

Nov (TM), along Sun Valley Rd. in Solana Beach 15-17 Nov (PEL), along Arden Ln. in Encinitas on 16 Nov (SB), near the San Diego Mission in San Diego's Mission Valley on 19 Nov (PEL), on Coronado Ave. in Coronado on 20 Nov (PEL) and in Villa La Jolla Park in La Jolla on 26 Nov (TG).

A Mountain Bluebird at Lake Murray on 26 Nov (JRM) signaled the arrival of others elsewhere in the County, including as many as 200 at the Ramona Grasslands Preserve on 28 Nov (JMCM). The "invasion" of Varied Thrushes from the Pacific Northwest has brought multiple birds to the county, with individuals found at various locations on Palomar Mountain and throughout the Laguna Mountains, along the coast to as far south as the Tijuana River Valley (one at the Bird & Butterfly Garden on 29 Nov – GLR) with up to 5 together at the San Diego Botanical Garden in Encinitas after 18 Nov (SES), and one in the desert at Rams Hill in Borrego Springs on 24 Nov (WTH). The Brown Thrasher found in Jacumba on 30 Oct was still present on 20 Nov (EGK), and another has been frequenting a feeder at a private residence in Descanso since about 15 Nov (CBu). A lone Lapland Longspur landed briefly at south San Diego Bay on 19 Nov (MSa).

An Ovenbird was photographed at a private residence in Escondido on 14 Nov (DS). One Northern Waterthrush was still at Dairy Mart Pond on 15 Nov (PEL) and another was at Cottonwood Creek Park in Encinitas 7-29 Nov (DB, PEL). The presumed wintering Black-and-white Warbler at the Bird & Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley since 7 Oct (JMCM) was still present 29 Nov (GLR), and another at Nestor Park since 8 Oct (GMCC) was still present 8 Nov (PEL), along with three at different locations along the

eastern edge of Balboa Park on 25 Nov (PEL). Single Tennessee Warblers in Coronado near the intersection of Pine Ct. and 10th St.+ 2-9 Nov (PEL) and near the intersection of Adella Pl. and 7th St. on 27 Nov (PEL) in Coronado, along with one along Apple Tree Dr. in Tierrasanta 11-13 Nov (PEL) and a fourth along Sun



Mountain Bluebird at Lake Murray.

Photo by Jim Morris.

Valley Rd. in Solana Beach on 17 Nov (PEL) could all be attempting to winter locally. The only American Redstart reported this month was a "female" at the Dairy Mart Ponds on 29 Nov (CBa). A late migrant Cape May Warbler was along Dupont St. in residential Pt. Loma on 2 Nov (JTS). A drab female Blackburnian Warbler along Sun Valley Rd. in Solana Beach 16-17 Nov (PAG) was also likely a late migrant, as was a Chestnut-sided Warbler near the intersection of Giorietta Blvd. and Ynez Pl. in Coronado on 2 Nov (PEL). The only Palm Warblers this month were one in San Diego's Greenwood Cemetery on 10 Nov (TM), another at Southgate Village Apartments in Nestor on 14 Nov (PEL) and a third at Lake O'Neill on Camp Pendleton on 20 Nov (JMCM). The Black-throated Green Warbler that spent last winter in

Greenwood Cemetery had returned 29 Oct (MSa) and was still present 10 Nov (TM).

Numbers of sparrows appear to be well below average for this time of the year, but include a Clay-colored Sparrow photographed at a private residence in Valley Center on 6 Nov (RA), a Nelson's Sparrow at San Elijo Lagoon since 5 Nov (SB) which is no doubt one of the birds present here last winter, a Swamp Sparrow photographed at the Bird & Butterfly Garden on 17 Nov (JMcM), and single White-throated Sparrows at Pantoja Park in downtown San Diego on 18 Nov (PEL), at Borrego Springs on 25 Nov (WTH) and at Cottonwood Creek Park in Encinitas on 28-29 Nov (TD, PEL).

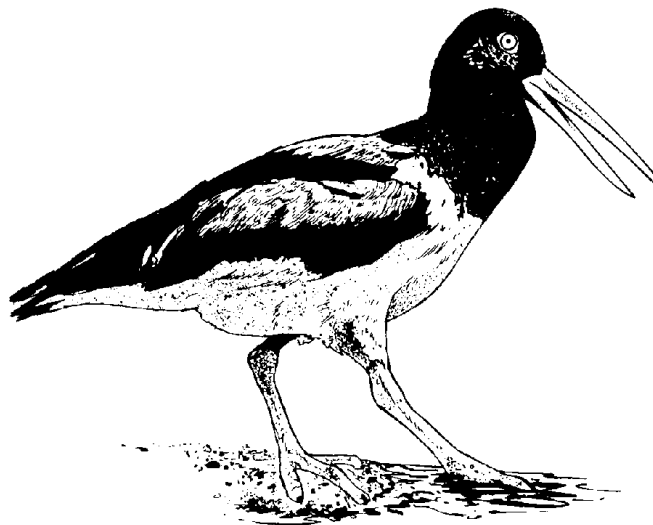
A Hepatic Tanager in the area of the Marston House in Balboa Park 9-12 Nov (CA, SBM) was no doubt the same male present here during the past four winters. At least 10 Summer Tanagers were found along the coast between Nestor and Leucadia during the month, with about half of these in and around Balboa Park. A young male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was frequenting a feeder at a private residence in San Diego's Mission Hills 11-12 Nov (JS) and a green Painted Bunting was

seen along Arden Ln. in Encinitas on 15 Nov (PEL). A young male Orchard Oriole photographed at Cottonwood Creek Park on 30 Nov (SB) is most likely wintering in that area, and three Baltimore Orioles were found, with a female at Nestor Park 8-16 Nov (PEL, GMcC), a female photographed in Jacumba on 10 Nov (EGK) and a third female along Inspiration Dr. in La Jolla on 21 Nov (PEL).

Listed observers: Ryan Andrews, Charles Baker (CBa), Dave Batzler, Matthew Binns, Steve Brad, Jim Bruin, Cynthia Burnham (CBu), Nancy Christensen, Gail DeLalla, Tracy Drake, Tom Frankenberger, Peter A. Ginsburg, Tito Gonzalez, W. Terry Hunefeld, Theresa Hyde, Eric G. Kallen, Paul E. Lehman, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie, Jimmy McMorrان, Thomas Myers, Jim Pea, Phil Pryde, Jim Roberts, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Jill Schmidt, Dick Schroeder, Brunn Struck, Susan E. Smith, Justyn T. Stahl, Mark Stratton (MSt), Stanley Walens.

Literature Cited:

Unitt, Philip. 2004. *San Diego County Bird Atlas*. Proc. San Diego Soc. Nat. Hist. 39. San Diego Nat. Hist. Mus., San Diego.



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Your contributions to *The Skimmer* are appreciated. Submit articles and notices by the first of the month of publication by mail to John Walters, 5552 Horse Ridge Way, Bonita, CA 91902, or by e-mail to johnfwalters5552@gmail.com

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