

The **SKIMMER**



Volume 39, Number 6—June 2012

SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 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. Park in the lot to the left or find street parking.

Our annual business meeting and election of officers for 2012-2013. The Nominating Committee proposes the following officers:

President: Tom Blackman
Vice President: Gary Nunn
Secretary: Ann Hannon
Treasurer: Sara Mayers
Membership: BJ Stacey

We encourage additional nominations from the floor.

Program: Tom Blackman will describe his “Western Pacific Odyssey: The Grand Pelagic.” A thirty-day pelagic birding trip from New Zealand to Japan, traveling over 6,000 miles, with several island stops. Tom will show images and discuss this pelagic trip he took in May of 2011. Pictures include the rare Beck's Petrel and New Caledonia's unique endemic, the Kagu.

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, July 17, same time, same place. Program: Pascal Title, a graduate student from Kevin Burns' SDSU lab will present further research on tanagers.



Paul Jorgensen

Friends:

It is with deep sorrow that we let you know our beloved Paul Jorgensen passed away the evening of June 8th, at his home in Borrego. He was 65.

Paul lived a tremendous life, he gave gratitude for every day, and he loved his friends and family. He was a renowned birder and ecologist. It was a joy and an honor to spend a day in the field with Paul.

In January Paul traveled to Ecuador and Uruguay for the birding trip of a lifetime. It was all the better because he shared the Ecuador part of the trip with his wife Kathy and other family members. Paul spent 25 days racking up more than 225 lifer birds, and for many days he no longer had cancer—he was totally enthralled with birding. The trip was a gift of life, joy, nature, camaraderie, and family.

Paul will be remembered for many things in the years to come---his sense of humor and pranks, his deep insight into the ecology of salt marshes, riparian areas, forests, the desert, and his loving dedication to his wife, two boys, and his granddaughter, Kaylee. We all knew him as a loyal friend, a true warrior for the environment, his dedication to Coyote Canyon and Tijuana Estuary, his knowledge of birds and his willingness to share that love of birding with all of us.

We'll gather in the fall to honor his life, swap stories, and no doubt eat something chocolate.



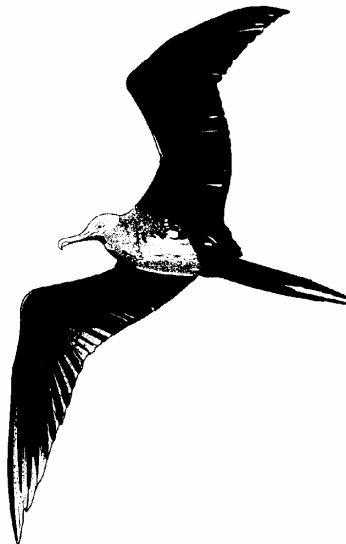
Kathy and Paul, 5 May 2012, at Jim Dice's Retirement Party.

Please keep Paul, Kathy, Evan, and Damon in your thoughts, and if you care to share your thoughts with them, we're sure they would love to hear from you in the coming days.

Kathy can be reached at:
Post Office Box 665
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Thank you for the love and friendship you shared with Paul.

—Mark Jorgensen



SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, MAY 2012

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

A Greater White-fronted Goose with ornamental waterfowl at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club in La Jolla since November, and still present 26 May (HI), is no doubt going to be present through the summer—“lost” geese associating with domesticated waterfowl at parks and golf courses sometimes stay for years. A White-winged Scoter on the ocean in Imperial Beach 25 May (SY) could well summer locally.

Black-vented Shearwaters are unexpected in California waters in May and June; this being the time of the year this species is nesting on islands off Baja California, so about 25 off La Jolla 26 May (SW) was most noteworthy. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel at Pt. La Jolla in La Jolla 26-27 May (SW, GMcC) was not only one of a very few found in San Diego County, but exceptionally late, with one on a beach in Cardiff 9 Jun 1939 providing the only record later in spring (Unitt 2004). In addition to the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, the strong winds of May 26th pushed at least one Ashy Storm-Petrel, visible with a handful of Black Storm-Petrels, 26-27 May (SW, GMcC), and a South Polar Skua 26 May (SW, BR), close to Pt. La Jolla. A young Brown Booby 12 nautical miles west of Pt. Loma 6 May (DP) likely wandered north from the Coronados Islands. A few Common Murres and Rhinoceros Auklets were still off San Diego at the end of the month as indicated by about 10 and 5 of each seen during the Buena Vista Audubon boat trip on 19 May (JSF), and at least one Common Murre at Pt. La Jolla on 26 May (SW). The presence of an adult Xantus’s Murrelet with a downy chick about 15 miles north of

the Coronados Islands 6 May (DP) establishes an early date for nesting.

In Imperial Beach two pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were attending nests at the Sports Park at the end of the month (JPe, GMcC), and an adult at Sea World 29 May (JPe) was believed to be one present here at this time last year. The pair of Harris’s Hawks in Jacumba, along with the young bird fledged last summer, are close to fledging three young (EGK). A Pacific Golden-Plover on south San Diego Bay 7 May (ND) was suspected to be a migrant from farther south rather than the one that spent the winter at the nearby Tijuana River mouth.

Two Band-tailed Pigeons at the Torrey Pines Gliderport in La Jolla 10 May (JK) were on the immediate coast where rare, and a White-winged Dove on Pt. Loma 5 May (JK) was west of the mountains where noteworthy. Over a dozen Black Swifts were reported over the coastal lowlands between 13 and 20 May, with one over El Cajon 13 May (JK), up to eight near Tierrasanta 14-16 May (JK), four over Poway 15 May (JPa) and one over Pt. Loma 20 May (JP). A female *Selasphorus* on Palomar Mountain 27 May (JC, JK) was either an exceptionally late migrant Rufous Hummingbird, or an Allen’s Hummingbird much farther east than previously known in the County. A Hairy Woodpecker at San Elijo Lagoon 4 May (MM) was well away from its expected mountain habitat.

The earliest of the Brown-crested Flycatchers this year were a pair at a known nesting location in Borrego Springs 3 May (PJ). At least two Pinyon Jays noted at

Wooded Hill in the Laguna Mts. 19 and 27 May (GLR and CZ) establish by far the latest dates of occurrence in San Diego County—since this species is a colonial nester, breeding at this location appears most unlikely. A pair of Mountain Chickadees at the Rosicrucian Fellowship in Oceanside 17 May (SB) was suspected nesting—there appears to be only one verified record of nesting in the coastal lowlands (Unitt 2004).

The hoped-for flood of May vagrant wood-warblers failed to materialize, with a Prothonotary Warbler at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma 6 May (BJS) and a Chestnut-sided Warbler near the Old Globe Theater in Balboa Park 2 May (TRS) being the major highlights. Other vagrants of note were single Black-and-white Warblers in the Mission Hills area of San Diego 2 May (JW) and at the lower end of Sorrento Valley 13 May (PAG), single Tennessee Warblers at the Bird and Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley 6 May (PEL), at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 20 May (JPa) and in Ocean Beach near Famosa Slough 22 May (PEL), and single Northern Parulas at the Botanic Garden in Encinitas 1 May (SES), residential Solana Beach 12-13 May (DR), the San Diego Zoo in Balboa Park 15 May (TRS) and at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 20-25 May (JPa, SES).

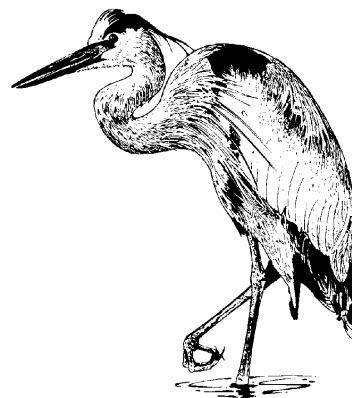
A Clay-colored Sparrow in Encinitas 6 May (PAG) may have wintered locally, but one in Borrego Springs 2 May (RT) and another at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 13 May (JP) were surely migrants. A Savannah Sparrow at Potrero 11 May (JP) establishes the latest date for a non-*beldingi* in San Diego County. A territorial Lincoln's Sparrow at the upper end of Agua Dulce Creek in the Laguna Mts. 19 May (GLR) was at the same location where present this time last year. A Summer Tanager west of the mountains at the Rosicrucian Fellowship in Oceanside 19 May (SB) and another in residential Pt. Loma 22 May (PEL) were spring va-

grants—a few pairs nest along San Felipe Creek in the eastern part of the County, but not along the coast. A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak in residential Ocean Beach 16 May (TAB) and another in nearby residential Pt. Loma 20-22 May (SG) were spring vagrants. Likewise an Indigo Bunting at a residence on Pt. Loma 17 May (SBM) and another briefly at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 20 May (JPa) were also spring vagrants. A male Baltimore Oriole was at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery ma 12-20 May (TAB) and another male was in Westminster Park on Pt. Loma 14 May (TR).

Listed observers: Thomas A. Blackman, Steve Brad, Jeff Coker, Nicole Desnoyers, Jon S. Fienstra, Susan Gardner, Peter A. Ginsburg, Hank Ingersoll, Paul Jorgensen, Eric G. Kallen, Jay Keller, Paul E. Lehman, Michael Martin, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie, Jim Pawlicki (JPa), Jim Pea (JPe), David Povey, Tina Rathbone, Bruce Rideout, Dave Rimlinger, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Susan E. Smith, BJ Stacy, Trent R. Stanley, Joe Sweeney, Robert Theriault, Stanley Walens, Susan Yamagata, Catherine Zinsky.

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 john-walters@cox.net

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