The SKIMMER

Volume 43, Number 12—December 2016

SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 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 that this is a week earlier than usual.**

Program: Our annual Holiday Party.

President Dave Povey writes, "Dinner will be Con Pane fresh baked artisan breads, a cold cuts, meats and cheese selection, fruit and veggies trays, salads, desserts, and drinks. Just bring your appetite.

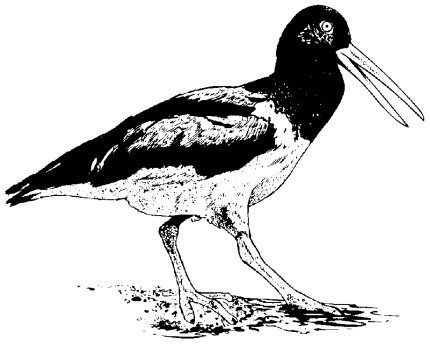
"We will run a loop of bird photos from the year—if you have photos you'd like to share, contact Tom Blackman.

"Paul Lehman will read the list of the notable sightings as a recap for 2016.

"Gary Nunn will do a fun quiz to test your birding ID skills.

"This is a relaxing evening with your birding friends and comrades. Hope you'll join us."

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2017, same time, same place. In place of a speaker, January's program will be a screening of the songbird documentary *The Messenger*, which explores the diversity of birds world wide and the human-made threats that put them at risk.



SDFO NEWS [cont.]

Christmas Bird Count Schedule

Here is the CBC schedule for San Diego County and vicinity:

Saturday December 17, 2016

San Diego Circle

Compiler: Justyn Stahl

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Sunday December 18, 2016

Anza-Borrego Circle

Compiler: Bob Theriault

rtheriau@uci.edu

Monday December 19, 2016

Lake Henshaw Circle

Compiler: Gretchen Cummings

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Tuesday December 20, 2016

South end Salton Sea Circle

Compiler: Adam Searcy

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Friday December 30, 2016

Oceanside Circle

Compilers: Tim Burr and Kirsten Winter

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Saturday December 31, 2016

Escondido Circle

Compiler: Ken Weaver

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Tuesday January 3, 2016

Rancho Santa Fe Circle

Compiler: Robert Patton

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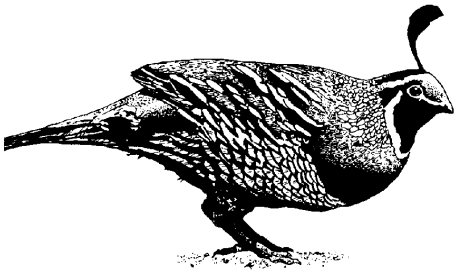


SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, NOVEMBER 2016

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

This juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper in the South San Diego Bay Wildlife Refuge on 2 November 2016 establishes the latest ever date for this species in California. *Photo by Matt Sadowski.*

A Hooded Merganser at Borrego Springs on 4 Nov (TH) was the earliest reported this fall. A Short-tailed Shearwater photographed off Pt. La Jolla in La Jolla on a windy 27 Nov (GN) was the earliest reported this fall. Unexpected were a total of 7 Brown Boobies watched flying north off Pt. La Jolla on 21 Nov (PEL), since numbers found off the San Diego County coast have declined dramatically, with no more than two or three reported during boat trips in September and October. The Neotropic Cormorant at Lake O'Neill since 16 Oct was still present on 8 Nov (PAG). The only Reddish Egret reported this month was a long-staying adult on south San Diego Bay still present on 30 Nov (GMcC). The wintering adult Zone-tailed Hawk at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido was still present on 25 Nov (JC).

Totally unexpected was a juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** well photographed within the South San Diego Bay Wildlife Refuge on 2 Nov (MSa)—this not only establishes the latest date for this "peep" in San Diego County but also the first November occurrence in California. Single first-winter Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from shore in La Jolla on 20 (GN) and 27 Nov (GN) and Encinitas on 27 Nov (JMcM). Young Sabine's Gulls off Pt. La Jolla on 21 Nov (GMcC) and 27 Nov (GN) were unexpectedly late fall migrants – Unitt (2004) lists 22 Nov 1969 and 6 Dec 1999 as the latest ever in San Diego County. The young Franklin's Gull first seen at the San Diego River mouth on 29 Oct (PEL) was still present on 25 Nov (MSe), and what was probably a different individual was at San Elijo Lagoon on 1 Nov (JMcM).

Three White-winged Doves were reported in the coastal lowlands this month, with one remaining in El Cajon through 2 Nov (CKS), another at a private residence in San Diego on 12 Nov (AB) and the third photographed near El Capitan Reservoir on 27 Nov (JK). A Short-eared Owl at the South San Diego Bay Wildlife Refuge on 12 Nov (JPe) was the only one reported this month. A Vaux's Swift with swallows over Sweetwater Reservoir on 7 Nov (JPa) was either a very late fall migrant or a bird attempting to winter locally. An adult male Broad-billed Hummingbird, a very rare to casual vagrant to California, visited a hummingbird feeder near El Cajon on 7 Nov (YMT).

This striking first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake flew past Point La Jolla in La Jolla on 27 November 2016. *Photo by Gary Nunn.*

A Hammond's Flycatcher near the Marston House in Balboa Park 30 Oct-7 Nov (CA) is believed to be the same individual present here last winter. Single Eastern Phoebes, rare fall migrants and winter visitors to San Diego County, were in Jacumba 8-13 Nov (EGK), in Ramona on 19 Nov (IK) and University City on 20 Nov (JK). Only three Tropical Kingbirds were known present this month, with one at Famosa Slough still present 6 Nov (PEL), along with single birds at the Mission Bay golf course on 6 Nov (PEL) and in residential Imperial Beach on 17 Nov (GMcC). The Thick-billed Kingbird at the lower end of Poggi Canyon in Chula Vista was still present 6 Nov (JMa). An apparent immature Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at San Elijo Lagoon 13-14 Nov (PR).

A Cliff Swallow at the mouth of the San Luis Rey River in Oceanside on 2 Nov (KW) was exceptionally late—most are gone by mid-September, and Unitt (2004) states records from late September through October are few. A Mountain Bluebird photographed on Fiesta Island in Mission Bay on 10 Nov (JRM) was the earliest on the immediate coast, then followed by twelve in the Tijuana River Valley on 25 Nov (GMcC). A Gray Catbird made a brief appearance at a Descanso home on 20 Nov (CB). A Red-throated Pipit with American Pipits on the ball fields at the east end of Sunset Ave. in the Tijuana River Valley on 24 Nov (JPa) was only the third to be found locally this fall. Up to three Lapland Longspurs were on Fiesta Island in Mission Bay 1-8 Nov (GN), and one found with Horned Larks near the intersection of Hollister St. and Sunset Ave. in the Tijuana River Valley on 13 Nov (PEL) was joined by two more 14-15 Nov (DP), with one still present on 24 Nov (JPa); a Chestnut-collared Longspur was also present there on 15 Nov (GMcC).

A Northern Waterthrush, the only one reported this month, at San Elijo Lagoon since 7 Oct (AB) was still present on 27 Nov (CR). Six Black-and-white Warblers were known present this month, with single apparent wintering birds at the Bird and Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley since 23 Sep (M & PT) still present 13 Nov (LR), at Nestor Park in Nestor since 30 Sep (NC) still present 15 Nov (RTP), in Cottonwood Creek Park in Encinitas since 3 Oct (GCH) still present 22 Nov (GDeL), at San Elijo Lagoon since 4 Oct (NC) still present 29 Nov (CR), in

This Lucy's Warbler was photographed on the first day of its 5 to 6 November 2016 stay at Stagecoach Park in Carlsbad. *Photo by Tito Gonzalez.*

the Golden Hill section of Balboa Park since 6 Oct (MA) still present 8 Nov (PEL) and in Ocean Beach near Famosa Slough since 12 Oct (PEL) still present 6 Nov (SR) along with one in the residential area of Pt. Loma on 6 Nov (PEL). The only Tennessee Warbler this month was one at Seaport Village in downtown San Diego on 5 Nov (PEL). A Lucy's Warbler was well photographed at Stagecoach Park in La Costa 5-6 Nov (TG, AA). A well-marked male Northern Parula was at the Sea Colony Apartment complex near Famosa Slough 5-12 Nov (AA, RA). A most cooperative Bay-breasted Warbler at Harry Griffin Regional Park in La Mesa attracted many of the local birders 6-9 Nov (JPa, TR). A fast-moving Blackburnian Warbler was at the Bird and Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley 13 Nov (RN). A Chestnut-sided Warbler along Corte Del Abeto in Carlsbad 26-28 Nov (TG, RG) may be attempting to winter locally. Single male Black-throated Blue Warblers were at the Sea Colony Apartment complex near Famosa Slough 5 Nov (PEL) and at the Japanese Garden in Balboa Park on 25 Nov (SL). Six Palm Warblers were known present this month, with single birds in the southeastern part of Carlsbad on 2 Nov (*eBird*), at the now abandoned sod farm in the Tijuana River Valley 4 Nov (PEL), the nearby ball fields at the east end of Sunset Avenue on 4 Nov (PEL), the Community Gardens on Hollister Street on 11 Nov (PEL), in La Jolla's Villa La Jolla Park on 15 Nov (SES), and near the San Diego River mouth on 26 Nov (JMi). A Pine Warbler at Nestor Park entertained many of our local birders and bird photographers 11-13 Nov (PEL). The female Black-throated Green Warbler present in San Diego's Greenwood Cemetery for a 4th winter was still present 22 Nov (EH). The Painted Redstart that had returned to Shepherd Canyon in Tierrasanta on 18 Oct for the 2nd winter was still present on 26 Nov (JPa).

This apparent hatch-year female Bay-breasted Warbler feeding on lerps in the eucalyptus, photographed on the first day of its known 6 to 9 November 2016 stay at Harry Griffin Regional Park in La Mesa 6 November 2016. *Photo Scott Kerry.*

The Nelson's Sparrow forced from the cover of Kendall-Frost Marsh at Crown Point on Mission Bay by the super high tide on 17 Oct was still present during

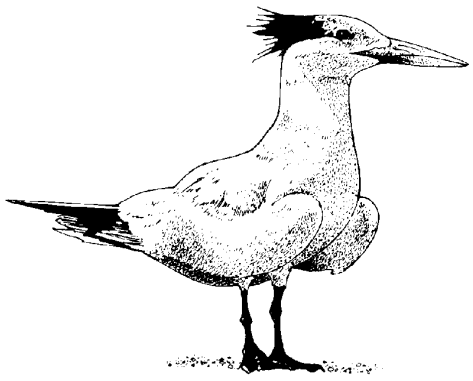
This male Pine Warbler, photographed on the first day of its 11 to 13 November 2016 stay at Nestor Park in Nestor, would frequently drop to the ground where it foraged for insects. *Photo by Nancy Christensen.*

the super high tides of 14-15 Nov (GN, NC), and another was found at the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge on 14 Nov (JT). Single Swamp Sparrows were at Crown Point on Mission Bay 15-17 Nov (NC) and at Santee Lakes in Santee 22-26 Nov (BM). Single White-throated Sparrows were at private residences in Clairemont 29 Oct-10 Nov (MM) and in Ocean Beach on 24 Nov (GJ). Much scarcer in San Diego County was a Harris's Sparrow near the San Luis Rey River mouth on 2 Nov (KW). The Hepatic Tanager that frequented the area around the Marston House in Balboa Park during the past 5 winters had returned on 4 Nov (TR) and was known present through 26 Nov (JC). At least 13 Summer Tanagers were reported along the coast, where expected in small numbers at this time of the year, with single birds in Carlsbad on 19 Nov (BR), Encinitas 25 Nov (SES) and Del Mar on 3 Nov (TG), with the rest between Presidio Park (2), Balboa Park (4), Bonita (1), and Nestor (3); a female in Jacumba on 22 Nov (EGK) and an adult male at the De Anza Country Club in Borrego Springs on 29 Nov (PA) were both surprises, being along the eastern edge of the County where unexpected in winter. The only Rose-breasted Grosbeak known was a young male in Jacumba on 6-7 Nov (EGK). Five Baltimore Orioles were known present, all along the coast, with a female found at the Seascape Apartments in Carlsbad on 25 Sep still present 20 Nov (TG), an adult male found in Nestor Park 13 Oct (RN) still present 28 Nov (NC), and a female found along the North Island fence in Coronado on 28 Oct still present on 1 Nov (PEL), along with single females at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas 7 Nov (PAG) and at Rohr Park in Bonita on 13 Nov (PEL).

Listed observers: Alex Abela, Paulette Ache, Christopher Adler, Ryan Andrews, Marc Arndt, Allen Bond, Cynthia Burnham, Julie Chamberlin, Nancy Christensen, Gail DeLalla, Peter A. Ginsburg, Tito Gonzalez, Rick Grove, Edward Hall, Gjon C. Hazard, Terry Hunefeld, Charles Jackson, Ginger Johnson, Eric G. Kallen, Jay Keller, Iris Kilpatrick, Paul E. Lehman, Scott Logan, Marcie Mason, Judy Matsuoka (JMa), Guy McCaskie, Jimmy McMorran, Jeffrey Miner (JMi), James R. Morris, Brennan Mulrooney, Richard Norgaard, Gary Nunn, Robert T. Patton, Jim Pawlicki (JPa), Jim Pea (JPe), Dave Povey, Becca Reeves, Casey Richart, Steve Ritt, Peter Roberts, Lisa Ruby, Tuck Russell, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Mel Senac (MSe), Christopher K. Smith, Susan E. Smith, Millie and Peter Thomas (M & PT), John Topp, Yvonne M. Trahan, Kenneth Weaver.

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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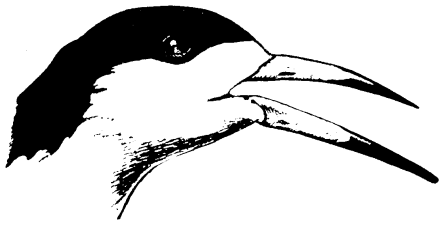
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