The SKIMMER

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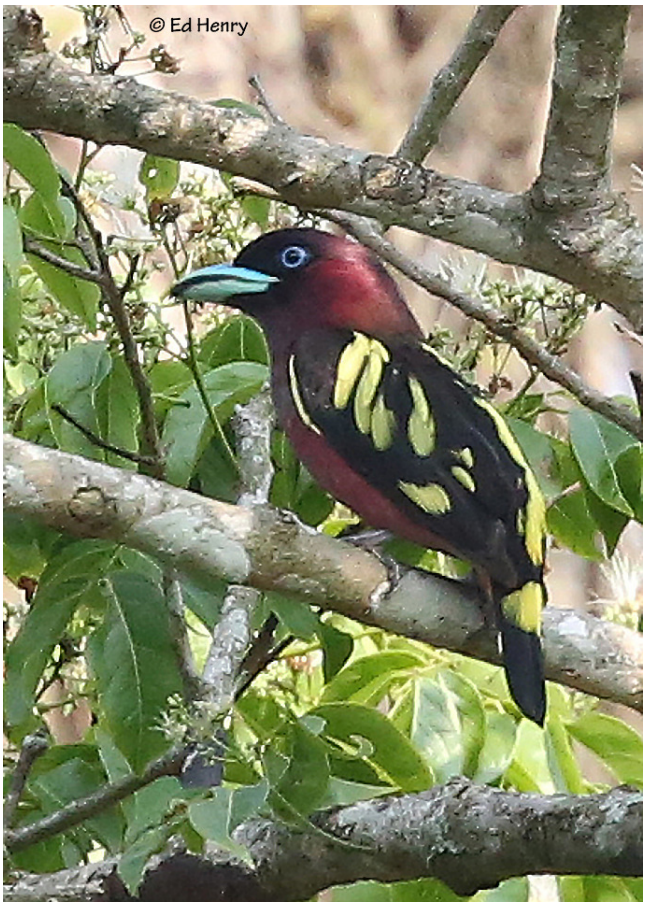
SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 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.

Our annual Business Meeting and election of officers for 2017-18. All of our current slate of officers are running for re-election; you can see their names on the last page of this newsletter. In addition, we encourage additional nominations from the floor.

Program: Ed Henry will discuss "Birds and Other Creatures of Central Thailand."



Banded Broadbill: Photo by Ed Henry

In April of 2016 Ed Henry photographed some of the diverse and colorful birds of Kaeng Krachen National Park and Pak Thale salt ponds, roughly 75 miles from Bangkok, Thailand. He will show us photos and comment on selected species. Ed is Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, San Diego State University.

Ed Henry took his undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering and Business Management from Kettering University, but a blossoming interest in folk music and society led him to graduate school at Michigan State University, where he earned the doctorate in Cultural Anthropology. In the village in northern India where he carried out his Ph.D. fieldwork on folk music he enjoyed seeing birds like the Green Bee-eater and Indian Roller, but he taught Cultural Anthropology at San Diego State University for 33 years before doing more serious bird watching and bird photography. Ed has published a book, long-playing record, and compact disc on the folk music of India. He is Past President of San Diego Audubon Society.

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, July 18, same time, same place. Ryan Andrews will speak on his experience at Camp Selva Verde in Costa Rica.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, MAY 2017

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

As of January 2017, the sequencing of species in these monthly bird observation reports will follow that listed in the Fifty-seventh Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds* (*The Auk*: Ornithological Advances 133:544-560).

The Cook's Petrel photographed at the 30 Mile Bank off San Diego on 21 May 2017 - Note the lack of black on the crown and the limited black on the under-wings. The extent of molt is evident on the upper-wings. *Photo by Jimmy McMorran.*

A **Cook's Petrel** along the eastern edge of the 30-Mile Bank some 25 miles west of Pt. Loma on 21 May (JM) provides the second record for San Diego County waters, and the only one documented by photos—one well described by experienced seabird observer Michael Force from a NOAA ship about 16 miles west of La Jolla on 13 June 1997 was the first (Unitt 2004). Following Onley and Scofield (2007), there are ten species of small fast-flying *Pterodroma* petrels referred to as "*Cookilaria*." Cook's and Mottled Petrels are the only two regularly present off California, normally over the deeper oceanic waters west of the continental shelf. Mottled Petrel is the largest of the *Cookilaria*, has more black on the under-wings than do Cook's, and has an obvious dark patch on the belly. The only other *Cookilaria* known in California waters is the similar looking Stejneger's Petrel, with only ten individuals recorded. Stejneger's Petrel differs from Cook's by having a black crown and nape. Of the remaining seven *Cookilaria*, De Filippi's Petrel is even more similar in appearance to Cook's than is Stejneger's, but is normally in fresh plumage by late winter, whereas the recent Cook's Petrel off San Diego was clearly molting, as expected at this time of the year, so De Filippi's Petrel is eliminated on the basis of the molt condition. The almost identical looking Pycroft's Petrel presents an even greater problem, but should be in fresh plumage by late winter, and is reported to

have an extremely small total population (del Hoyo et al. 1992), so is eliminated on the basis of molt and probability. Black-winged and Chatham Petrels both have more black on the under-wings than do Cook's, and the latter is not known to occur in the northeast Pacific. Bonin Petrel not only has more black on the under-wings, but also has much black on the head and nape. Gould's and Collared Petrels both have much black about the head and noticeably dark undersides to the primaries and secondaries, with neither known to occur north of the tropics.

The only White-winged Dove reported in the coastal lowlands this month was one in Santee on 5 May (SK). A male Calliope Hummingbird at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on 30 May (MSa) may have been exploring the idea of breeding locally—Unitt (2004) cites half a dozen potential breeding records, but nesting in San Diego County has yet to be documented. The Black Oystercatchers first reported at Pt. La Jolla in La Jolla on 23 January remained through 6 May, with three on that day (BLC). An adult male American Golden-Plover is a rare and irregular spring and fall migrant through San Diego County; as such, an adult male in the salt works ponds at south San Diego Bay 21-25 May (LS, GMcC), joined by one in first-summer plumage 22-27 May (PEL, KR) was unexpected. A Common Murre at Pt. La Jolla on 14 May (GN) was somewhat late, but individuals of this species have been found off San Diego in June and July, with at least one known to have summered locally (Unitt 2004). An immature Laughing Gull at the San Luis Rey River mouth in Oceanside on 5 May (LM) could have been the same bird present on south San Diego Bay in February and at the mouth of the San Diego River on 18 March. Two migrant Franklin's Gulls were reported this month, with an adult at Pt. La Jolla on 6 May (SW) and another adult on south San Diego Bay on 13 May (RTP). An adult Pacific Loon on Lake Cuyamaca 13-27 May (CR, TH) most likely reached this inland lake as a north-bound migrant from the Gulf of California.

The adult male American Golden-Plover in full breeding plumage at the south end of San Diego Bay when first found on 21 May 2017 – Note that the black on the under-parts extends backward to include the vent and undertail-coverts, and that the tips of the longest primaries extend well beyond the ends of the tertials. *Photo by Lea Squires.*

This photo, taken on 18 May 2017, of one of the pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers at the Roadrunner Club in Borrego Springs shows the bird with brighter yellow on the under-parts and a bigger bill than expected on the similar looking Ash-throated Flycatcher. *Photo by Mel Senac.*

The female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed on 4 May 2017 at Twin Trails Park in Rancho Penasquitos. *Photo by Christopher Adler.*

A Laysan Albatross, currently under care at Sea World in San Diego, was picked up by Animal Control well inland in an agricultural field at Vista on 13 April, suggesting that it may have flown overland from the Gulf of California rather than wandering inland from the coast—more than a dozen have been found in the southeastern part of California and adjoining southwestern Arizona, including three or four in the Anza-Borrego Desert. A female Magnificent Frigatebird circling over Buena Vista Lagoon on 28 May (JP) was not only much earlier in the year than previously listed by Unitt (2004), but also an adult rather than a more expected white-headed immature. A Merlin photographed at Border Field on 11 May (MSt) establishes the latest date for a wintering bird/spring migrant of this species in San Diego County—Unitt (2004) lists 26 April as the known latest date.

The Dusky-capped Flycatcher that spent the winter at the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas was last reported there on 1 May (SES). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers had returned to the known nesting location at the Roadrunner Club in Borrego Springs on 11 May (PA). The wintering Tropical Kingbird at Famosa Slough in Ocean Beach was present through the somewhat unexpected late date of 5 May (AP). The female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher present at Twin Trails Park in Rancho Penasquitos last summer had returned 3 May (EM) and is expected to again pair with a Western Kingbird and fledge hybrid young.

A singing White-eyed Vireo found along Silvergate Ave. in residential Pt. Loma 21 May (SES) was still present 31 May (MSa) and provides the 11th record for San Diego County, the most recent being one at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma 19 Jul-6 Oct 2012. A Red-eyed Vireo, now an extreme rarity in California, was photographed on the cam-

The Red-eyed Vireo on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University 23 May 2017 showing the white supercilium bordered above and below with black, olive -green on the upper-parts, and mostly white on the under-parts. *Photo by Nicole Desnoyers.*

pus of Point Loma Nazarene University on 23 May (ND). Unexpected was a Townsend's Solitaire on the immediate coast at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 20 May (DT). A somewhat late wintering/migrant Yellow-rumped Warbler was photographed at the San Dieguito River Park on 29 May (PCK), and an exceptionally late migrant MacGillivray's Warbler was photographed in La Mesa on 26 May (MSa)—Unitt (2004) lists a MacGillivray's Warbler on 28 May 2000 as the latest spring migrant ever in San Diego County. Other wood-warblers of note were a female American Redstart seen at the Lomas Santa Fe Golf Course in Solana Beach on 26 May (DT), and two, possibly three Northern Parulas, with a singing male along Silvergate Ave. in residential Pt. Loma on 23 May (BM) and 29-31 May (NC, MSa), and another in residential Sorrento Valley on 24 May (ML).

This photo of the White-eyed Vireo at the intersection of Pio Pico Street and Silvergate Avenue in residential Point Loma on 26 May 2017 well shows the gray head, yellow "spectacles" and the diagnostic white eyes. *Photo by Eric G. Kallen.*

A female Summer Tanager at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 23 May (BM) was a lost migrant, but an adult male along San Felipe Creek at Scissors Crossing on 22 May (JS) was at a known nesting location. At least six, probably seven, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, all males, were reported this month, with single birds along the coast near the upper end of Penasquitos Lagoon 5-6 May (TG), in residential Pt. Loma on 12 and 21 May (PAG, SES), on Mt. Soledad in La Jolla on 18 May (EP) and in residential Leucadia on 20 May (KA), somewhat inland in residential Escondido on 30 May (MHW), and one in the desert at a seed feeder in Vallecito on 14 May (BLS). The only Indigo Bunting reported was an adult male photographed near the upper end of Penasquitos Lagoon on 5 May (EGK). Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds adjacent to the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge on 22 May (PEL) were on the immediate coast where rare, but somewhat expected at this time of the year. A female Orchard Oriole at North Island Naval Air Station on 12 May (BF) was either a spring vagrant or a late lingering wintering bird. The only Baltimore Oriole reported was a female photographed in residential Pt. Loma 15-17 May. (EGK, SBM).

A singing male Northern Parula near the intersection of Pio Pico Street and Silvergate Avenue in residential Point Loma on 29 May 2017. *Photo by Eric G. Kallen.*

Listed observers: Paulette Ache, Kathy Aldern, Barbara L. Carlson, Nancy Christensen, Nicole Desnoyers, Brian Flick, Peter A. Ginsburg, Tito Gonzalez, Terry Hurst, Eric G. Kallen, P. C. Koger, Sandy Kuntz, Paul E. Lehman, Max Leibowitz, Eve Martin, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie, Jimmy McMorran, Leo Miller, Brennan Mulroney, Gary Nunn, Andrew Partin, Robert T. Patton, Jim Pawlicki, Ethan Piazza, Casey Richard, Kerry Ross, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Britta Lee Shain, Susan E. Smith, Lea Squires, Mark Stahl (MSt), John Stanek, David Trissel, Stan Walens, Mike H. Wittmer.

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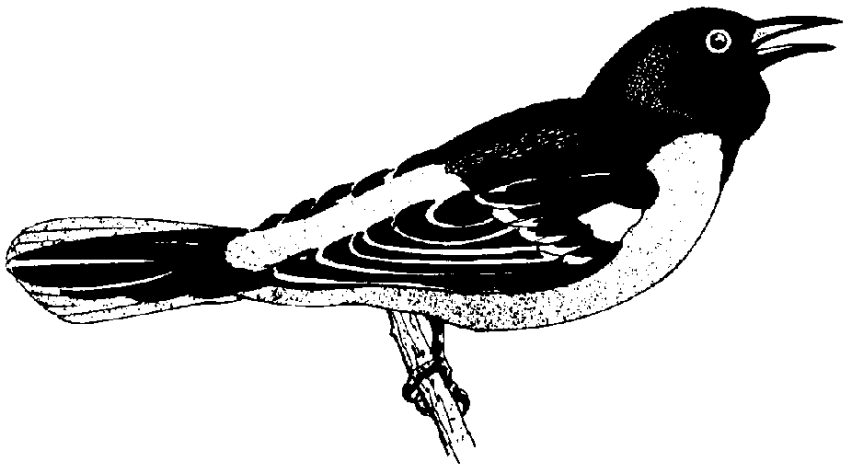

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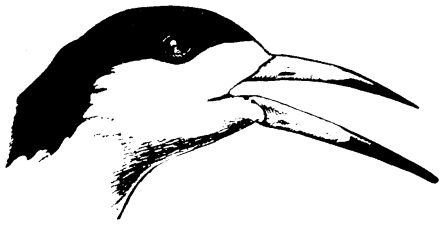
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