The SKIMMER

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SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, at 6:00 p.m., in the Hoffman Room of the San Diego Foundation Building, 2508 Historic Decatur Rd. 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.

Program

Brian Myers will discuss "Courtship, isolation, and a hybrid zone between Allen's (*Selasphorus sasin*) and Rufous (*Selasphorus rufus*) Hummingbirds."

Hybrid zones have received significant attention in biology, although few studies have investigated how behavioral traits vary across these regions of interaction. In a hybrid zone in southern Oregon and northern California between Allen's (Selasphorus sasin) and Rufous (Selasphorus rufus) Hummingbirds, we found that hybrids vary in morphology and behavior. We will describe the hybrid zone by characterizing variation in phenotype across the area of contact, emphasizing cline analysis and courtship behavior, where hybrids perform courtship displays that incorporate different elements of the displays of each parental species, and describe how to identify individuals based on morphology and behavior. Data suggest the center of the hybrid zone spans along the coast from Bandon, Oregon, to Port Orford, Oregon, and several miles inland. Along the coast, the contact zone extends north into the range of Rufous Hummingbird (as far north as Florence, Oregon), and south into the range of Allen's Hummingbird (as far south as Arcata, California). Few studies have incorporated analysis of the variation of behavior across an area of contact. By doing so, we add an additional, understudied layer of biology to the study of hybrid

interactions. Furthermore, given the importance of evolutionary biology and its role throughout all of the sciences, we will discuss why focusing on hybridization is important, and its role in the speciation process.

Biosketch: Brian is working on his PhD in Evolutionary Biology at San Diego State University and the University of California, Riverside. He received a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where he studied the effects of long-term drought and artificial water sources on migrant and resident coastal sage scrub bird populations. Currently, he is studying a newly discovered hybrid zone between Allen's and Rufous Hummingbird, performing a phylogeographic study throughout the range of Allen's Hummingbird, and is part of an ongoing NSF-funded project attempting to use recombination within the hybrid zone to determine how an innate courtship behavior evolves at the genetic level.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING: Tuesday, August 21, same time, same place. Program to be announced.

UPCOMING PELAGIC TRIP: The Buena Vista Audubon and Grande pelagic is Sunday, August 19th. Currently this trip is booked about two thirds full. The trip departs at 7 a.m. sharp and returns between 6:30 -7 p.m. Cost is $145 until July 24th. Reservation made at H & M Landing 619 222-1144 or on line at www.hmlanding.com . Details are on www.sandiegopelagics.com.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, JUNE 2018

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

Edited by Sara B. Mayers

Inca Doves, first reported in December 2013, are still present at the Roadrunner Club in Borrego Springs as evident by one there on 9 June (BLC).

Common Murres were reported at Point La Jolla in La Jolla through this month, with single birds seen flying south on 16 June (GN), 22 June (SES), 25 June (GN), 29 June (JTS) and four there on 30 June (GN) – the waters off San Diego County are the extreme southern limit of this alcid's winter range (Unitt 2004) and it is unexpected in summer. Three alternate-plumage Pigeon Guillemots were also reported at Point La Jolla, with one each on 9 June (GN), 16 June (GN) and 29 June (JTS) – Unitt (2004) considered this alcid a rare vagrant to San Diego County, but one or two have been reported at La Jolla during each recent summer.

This Townsend's Storm-Petrel, shown here with a Leach's Storm-Petrel about midway across the San Diego Trough off San Diego on 10 June, is clearly smaller, more compact and having shorter wings than the Leach's, as well as having a prominent white rump. *Photo by Mel Senac.*

An estimated 5000 Black-vented Shearwaters off Encinitas on 20 June (JMcM) suggests nesting failures to the south as numbers of this magnitude are not normally expected in San Diego County waters before September. A Townsend's Storm-Petrel was well photographed over the middle of the San Diego Trough on 10 June (GN). This storm

This sub-adult Masked Booby, about midway across the San Diego Trough off San Diego on 10 June, is old enough to have obtained enough of the greenish-yellow adult bill color to be identified to species. *Photo by Bruce Rideout.*

-petrel nests on Guadalupe Island off west Mexico in May and June. In recent years, they have been reported over the oceanic waters west of San Clemente Island and the Channel Islands in August and September during pelagic birding trips on the *Condor* and *Searcher*. Older reports include one bird taken between San Diego and San Clemente Island on 22 March 1904 and three more taken there in early September 1936, five taken 60 to 75 miles west-southwest of San Nicolas Island on 24 July 1941 and another taken 15 miles southwest of San Miguel Island on 20 August 1938 but none farther north (Grinnell and Miller 1944). As such, these Southern California offshore waters appear to be the northern limit of this storm-petrel's post-breeding pelagic range.

A sub-adult Masked Booby off Point La Jolla on 9 May (NJD), over the middle of the San Diego Trough on 10 June (GN) and 3 miles off Mission Bay on the same day (DJen) may have all been the same bird. An adult Nazca Booby was well photographed off Coronado on 10 June (JR), and a distant Masked/ Nazca Booby was seen from Point La Jolla on 30 June (GN).

This cooperative adult Nazca Booby, a short distance off the Silver Strand in Coronado on 10 June, shows not only the diagnostic pinkish-orange bill but also the mostly white central tail feathers. *Photo by Bruce Rideout.*

At least four Reddish Egrets were around San Diego this month, with an immature at the San Diego River mouth 23 May-30 June+ (ML, *eBird)*, an adult there on 23 June (JS), an immature on south San Diego Bay through 10 June (GMcC) and an adult there on 30 June (PEL) – this heron is now regularly found in small numbers in coastal San Diego and Orange Counties, with a few regularly moving north to coastal Ventura County, and irregularly to Santa Barbara and San Louis Obispo Counties. Four pairs of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were still attending nestlings at the Sports Park in Imperial Beach on 30 June (PEL) and based on the fact that at least two were in the area of the San Diego River mouth through June (*eBird*) at least one pair is likely nesting there. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons now nest as far north as the Point Mugu Naval Air Station in Ventura County and regularly disperse northward to Carpentaria in Santa Barbara County. As such this heron now appears well established as a permanent resident along the coast of Southern California.

An immature Bald Eagle at Sweetwater Reservoir on 27 May had been joined by an adult on 30 June

This striking male Magnolia Warbler in residential Point Loma on 2 June remained for only one day. *Photo by Gary Nunn.*

(PEL) – the number of Bald Eagles summering, and even nesting, in the coastal lowlands of Southern California has been slowly increasing in recent years.

The pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers at the traditional nest site at the Roadrunner Club in Borrego Springs was still present 24 June (*eBird)* and one was at the somewhat nearby Lower Willows on 5 June (RT). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Twin Trails Park in Rancho Penasquitos since 27 Apr was still present 30 June (*eBird*) but apparently not paired with a kingbird this year.

A White-throated Sparrow at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma 3 Jun (RN) was exceptionally late.

Two Lucy's Warblers at the Borrego Sink 17 June (RT) were the only ones reported at this traditional breeding site this year – are we going to lose this wood warbler as a San Diego County breeding bird? The handful of vagrant wood warblers included an Ovenbird at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma on 9 June (EA), a Black-and-white Warbler in residential Leucadia on 6 June (JMcM), a Kentucky Warbler photographed at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on 9 June (GN), a male Magnolia Warbler on Dupont Street in residential Point Loma 2-3 June (GN) and an unusually late Palm Warbler at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on 11 June (GN).

This Palm Warbler foraging on the ground in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma on the exceptionally late date of 11 June is of the expected nominate subspecies. *Photo by Gary Nunn.*

Single Summer Tanagers on 5th Street in Coronado on 1 June (MT), at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma on 2 June (RA) and 14 June (KA) and at the Bird and Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley on 3 June (Mark Stratton) were obvious spring vagrants well away from any known breeding locations. A male in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on 1 June (DJeh) was at an unexpected location, while two males at the Lower Willows in Anza-Borrego State Park on 5 June (RT) were at a known nesting location. A male Western Tanager at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on 25 June (JO) was either an exceptionally early fall migrant or totally lost. Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were along the coast at the Bird and Butterfly Garden/ Community Garden in the Tijuana River Valley 31 May-5 June (NC) and in residential Encinitas on 2 June (AM); another was in the Laguna Mountains at Dos Picos Campground 2-3 June (EA). A vagrant Indigo Bunting was in the area of Rosecroft Lane and Silvergate Avenue in residential Point Loma on 6 Jun (BLC) and territorial males are currently at Paso Picacho in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park with one having extensive white feathering around the vent possibly present since 10 May (EM) and the other first found on 19 June (CKS).

One male, photographed on 9 June 2018 by *Eric G. Kallen*, shows no abnormalities other than an extensive amount of white feathering around the vent, which could be explained by albinism if not by hybridization.

The other, photographed on 24 June 2018 by *Nancy Christensen*, is a typical alternate-plumage adult male.

Listed observers: Eitan Altman, Kathy Aldern, Ryan Andrews, Barbara L. Carlson, Nancy Christensen, Nicole J. Desnoyers, Dan Jehl (DJeh), Daniel Jensen (DJen), Paul E. Lehman, Max Leibowitz, Eve Martin, Andy Mauro, Guy McCaskie, Jimmy McMorran, Richard Norgaard, Gary Nunn, Jeff Oliver, Jack Rogers, Christopher K. Smith, Susan E. Smith, Jeremiah Stock, Justyn T. Stahl, Mark Stratton, Max Taylor, Robert Theriault.

Literature Cited:

Grinnell, J., and Miller, A. H. 1944. The Distribution of the Birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna 27.

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

Guy McCaskie

2 July 2018

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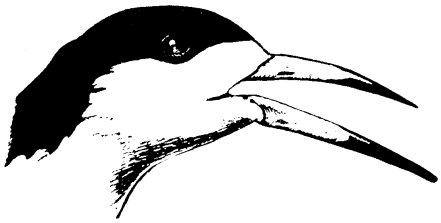
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