

The **SKIMMER**



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SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 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: “A tale of tails, barriers, and dispersal: From *Myioborus* redbreasts to avian diversity in the Neotropics,” by Jorge Pérez.

“I want to take you on a journey that started during my studies of *Myioborus* warblers. Their plumage patterns as well as their distribution, with several endemics to different regions, are fascinating and opened the door for further studies and many research collaborations. We will talk about tail patterns and the potential role of natural selection on shaping those patterns, the conservation of species with restricted distributions, geographic expansion and secondary contacts resulting in hybridization or potential species displacement, and the role of barriers in isolating species populations (focusing on the table mountains of the Guiana Highlands). As we talk about these warblers we will expand our results to include studies of other groups of birds, with the goal of discussing the potential implications of these findings to understanding the origin and distribution of our Neotropical avian diversity.”

From an early age, Jorge Pérez has been interested in the natural history of living things. His formal studies of birds started with graduate studies at the University of Missouri St. Louis, and his Ph.D. dissertation concerned the systematics and biogeography of *Myioborus* redbreasts. He has worked at the Universidad Central de Venezuela and as a Research Associate at the Phelps Ornithological Collection. He has been a Council Member of the American Ornithologists’ Union, President of the Neotropical Ornithological Society, and member of the South American Classification Committee of the American Ornithological Society.

Next month’s meeting: Tuesday, November 19, same time, same place. Bruce Rideout will conduct “Weird Sounds: The Semiannual SDFO Audio Quiz.”

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, SEPTEMBER 2019

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

The only White-winged Dove reported on the coast this month was one at Famosa Slough on 8 Sep (SH)—far fewer than expected. An adult male Broad-tailed Hummingbird at a private residence in Chula Vista on 17 Sep (EH) was probably the same bird present last winter.



One of three juvenile Baird's Sandpipers at Lake Henshaw on 7 September 2019. Note the pale fringes on all the feathers of the upper parts, giving the young of this species the diagnostic scaly appearance. *Photo by Mel Senac*

A juvenile American x Black Oystercatcher, identified as such by use of the criteria given by Jehl (1985), was photographed at the Children's Pool in La Jolla on 14 Sep (TK). The Pacific Golden-Plover present at the Tijuana River mouth since 1 Aug (RTP) was still there on 21 Sep (*eBird*) and is expected to remain through the winter. Along the coast, at least two Baird's Sandpipers were present within the closed area of the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife

Refuge through 4 Sep (RTP), and one was at the San Diego River mouth on 10 Sep (DJ), while three were well inland on Lake Henshaw on 7 Sep (NC). The only Pectoral Sandpiper was one at the Tijuana River mouth on 15 Sep (GCH). Only two Solitary Sandpipers were reported this month, one at the Dairy Mart Ponds in the Tijuana River Valley on 14 Sep (AG) and the other at a small pond in Alpine on 24 Sep (BM).

The continued presence of Craveri's Murrelets in San Diego County's offshore waters was confirmed by the presence of six near the 30-Mile Bank on 2 Sep (DP) and two there on 22 Sep (DP). A hatch-year Laughing Gull was well photographed at the Tijuana River mouth on 17 Sep (JSm). The highlight of the Buena Vista Audubon Society 22 Sep pelagic trip off San Diego was an adult Red-billed Tropicbird 13-14 n. mi. west of La Jolla (NB). A Northern Fulmar over the 9-Mile Bank that same day (DP) was believed to be a recent arrival from the north rather than a bird that had summered locally. An adult Nazca

Booby was well off San Diego over the 30-Mile Bank on 2 Sep (DP), and three more adults were at the entrance to San Diego Bay on 6 Sep (DP). A Red-footed Booby was picked up on the beach at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado on 14 Sep (*fide* PU).

At least one Reddish Egret was present around the Tijuana River mouth through 9 Sep (*eBird*), and another was on south San Diego Bay through 9 Sep

(*eBird*). In addition, single birds were at the San Diego River mouth 4-30 Sep (JPe, *eBird*), San Dieguito Lagoon on 16 Sep (MT) and at the Santa Margarita River mouth 14-20 Sep (PAG, *eBird*). Reddish Egrets are now found annually along the coast to as far north as Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo County but very rarely farther north. An immature Mississippi Kite was reported over Encinitas on 10 Sep (JMcM), and another was seen over University City on 14 Sep (PC). An immature Zone-tailed Hawk was photographed over Ft.



A migrant immature Zone-tailed Hawk circling over Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 10 September 2019. Photo by Alison Davies.

Rosecrans National Cemetery on Pt. Loma on 19 Sep (AD).

A Least Flycatcher was in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 28-30 Sep+ (GNu, *eBird*). At least



The Least Flycatcher present at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery since 28 September 2019. This photo from 30 September shows the short primary projection, the whitish wing bars and whitish edges on the secondaries and tertials on otherwise blackish wings, and the whitish under parts. Reported to be giving a sharp "whit" call rather than the "peek" call given by Hammond's Flycatchers. Photo by Sia McGown.

four Tropical Kingbirds were reported, with one at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 13 Sep (JPa), another there on 27 Sep (GNu), one at Naval Air Station North Island 22 Sep (BF) and another (or the same

bird) there 30 Sep (BF), and one near the San Diego River mouth on 28 Sep (CS). A well photographed Blue-headed Vireo was in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 28-29 Sep (AG, *eBird*). Three Yellow-green Vireos were well documented, with one at Lake O'Neill at Camp Pendleton 12-13 Sep (PAG, *eBird*), another at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 23 Sep (JA) and the third at the Bird & Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley 27-30 Sep+ (JPa, *eBird*). A somewhat late female/hatch-year Purple Martin was seen near Ramona along Rangeland Rd. on 28 Sep (JSt); Unitt (2004) reports only one record in October.



This Yellow-green Vireo, photographed on the second day of its 12-13 September 2019 stay at Lake O'Neill on Camp Pendleton, was one of three found in San Diego County in September. Note that the yellow on the sides of the breast extends upward onto the cheeks, the facial pattern is less prominent than that on the similar Red-eyed Vireo, and the upper parts are yellow-green vs olive-green as on a Red-eyed Vireo. Photo by Andrew Jackson.

Red-breasted Nuthatches first appeared in the coastal lowlands around the first of September and were being reported from the Orange County line south to the Tijuana River Valley by the end of the month, documenting a major movement of this species into the coastal lowlands of Southern California. Up to 13 Red Crossbills have been frequenting the area at the upper end of Agua Dulce Creek in the Laguna Mts. since 18 Aug (MT), and two were still present there on 22 Sep (*eBird*). Clay-colored Sparrows have been scarcer than expected with only four reported, including single birds at North Island on 3 Sep (BF), at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 23 Sep (TJ), at a private residence in Coronado on 26 Sep (EC) and at Wing Street Canyon in Loma Portal on 27 Sep (MH). An adult male Baltimore Oriole was near the east end of Lake Hodges on 2 Sep (PJ). A Scott's Oriole at Ft. Rosecrans National

Cemetery on 1 Sep (GNu) was on the immediate coast where rare.

A Northern Waterthrush at the Dairy Mart Ponds in the Tijuana River Valley 11-21 Sep (DJ, *eBird*) is probably the same bird here last winter, so likely to stay, and another was photographed at Pt. La Jolla in La Jolla on 18 Sep (JSm). Four Black-and-white Warblers were reported, including two in the mountains where unusual: one at William Heise County Park near Julian on 1 Sep (ND) and one at the upper end of Agua Dulce Creek on 9 Sep (BLC). The

other two were at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 24 Sep (JA) and at 28th and Beech Sts. in Balboa Park 28-30 Sep+ (LW, *eBird*), the latter believed to be the same bird present there last winter. The only Tennessee Warblers reported were one at Batiquitos Lagoon on 13 Sep (GNe), another at the upper end of Agua Dulce Creek on 14 Sep (AD) and a third at Ft.



This Virginia's Warbler was an unexpected find amongst migrant wood-warblers at Stonewall Mine in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on 15 September 2019. Photo by Nancy Christensen.

Rosecrans National Cemetery on 23 Sep (JA). Single Virginia's Warblers, much scarcer today than 30 years ago, were at Wing Street Canyon 11-13 Sep (AF, *eBird*) and in Cuyamaca State Park at Stonewall Mine on 15 Sep (NC). The male Hooded Warbler found at Wing Street Canyon 22 Aug (MH) remained through 11 Sep (*eBird*), and another male was in the Maple Street Canyon in San Diego 19-21 Sep (NF, *eBird*). Four American Redstarts were found, with single birds at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 12 Sep (AG) and 23 Sep (JA), at Beech and 28th Sts. in Balboa Park on 21 Sep (LW) and along Tecolote Canyon in San Diego on 28 Sep (KW). A brightly colored Magnolia Warbler was well described at a private residence in Encinitas on 28 Sep (MT). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was photographed at a private residence in Ocean Beach on 30 Sep+ (CP). A Blackpoll Warbler at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 21-28 Sep (MS) and another at Villa La Jolla Park in La Jolla on 23 Sep (BS) were the only two reported. A Grace's Warbler at Villa La Jolla Park 27-30 Sep+ (AA, *eBird*) is believed to be the same bird reported sporadically between 14 October and 5 April last winter. A Black-throated Green Warbler photographed at Stonewall Mine on 15 Sep (NC) was unexpected, since few vagrants are found in the mountains.

The Summer Tanager found at Villa La Jolla Park on 28 Aug (AA) was still present 4 Sep (*eBird*) and another was at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 24-25 Sep (MS, *eBird*). A Painted Bunting was photo-



This hatch-year Painted Bunting at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 1 September 2019 remained only long enough to be photographed before disappearing. Photo by Tito Gonzalez.

graphed at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 1 Sep (TG), and another died when it hit a window at a private residence in Sorrento Valley on 18 Sep (JC). A Dickcissel was present at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 21 Sep (GNu), and another was heard calling as it passed over a private residence in Encinitas on 22 Sep (JMCM).

Listed observers: Observers listed are limited to those finding, identifying and/or last reporting each species. Observers reporting additional sightings to *eBird* are not listed but acknowledged.

Alex Abela, John Allendorf, Nick Barber, Jocene Capaldo, Barbara L. Carlson, Paul Chad, Nancy Christensen, Elizabeth Copper, Alison Davies, Nicole Des-

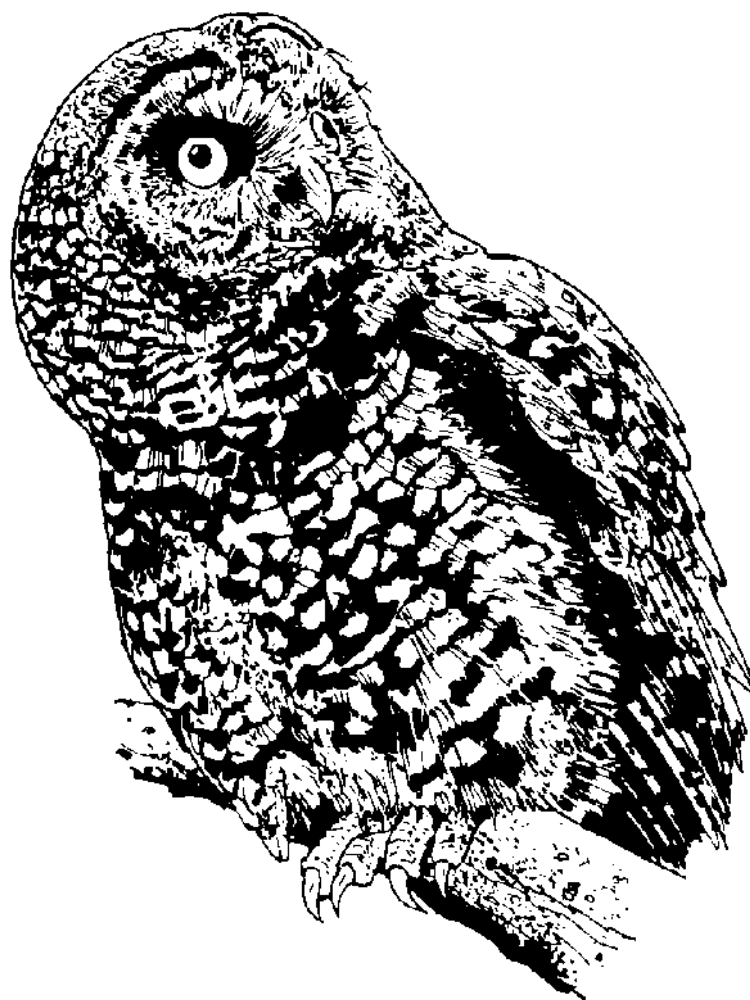
noyers, Anthony Fife, Brian Flick, Nathan French, Peter A. Ginsburg, Tito Gonzalez, Aaron Gyllenhaal, Michelle Haglund, Erin Hart, Gjon C. Hazard, Stanton Hunter, Paul Jeff, Dan Jehl, Tom Johnson, Tammy Kokjohn, Jimmy McMorran, Brennan Mulrooney, Gretchen Nell (GNe), Gary Nunn (GNu), Robert T. Patton, Jim Pawlicki (JPa), Jim Pea (JPe), Cindy Pencek, Dave Povey, Christiane Shannon, James Smith (JSm), Bridget Spencer, Jeremiah Stock (JSt), Mark Stratton, Manolo Turner, Philip Unitt, Kat Wendel and Lindsay Willrick.

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