

# *The* **SKIMMER**



*Volume 46, Number 7—July 2019*

## **SDFO NEWS**

### **Monthly Meeting**

Tuesday, July 16, 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:** John Martin will present “San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and its Role in Bird Conservation”. San Diego National Wildlife Refuge supports a substantial slice of this area’s distinctive biota, including a variety of bird species of conservation concern. Refuge biologist John Martin will discuss the conservation and management of birds and their habitats on this significant habitat area, right in San Diego’s backyard.

John Martin has served as biologist at San Diego National Wildlife Refuge since 2004. His work at the refuge has focused on monitoring, management, and habitat restoration projects for federally listed species, and species covered by San Diego’s Multiple Species Conservation Plan. Prior to working on the refuge, John worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Ecological Services office, primarily implementing the Endangered Species Act and associated conservation plans. His other bird conservation work includes a stint with the San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike recovery project, several seasons monitoring and banding migrant raptors with Hawkwatch International, and graduate work at the University of Arizona, where he formulated a habitat model of the Buff-breasted Flycatcher and birded SE Arizona to smithereens.

**Next month’s meeting:** Tuesday, August 13, 2019, same time, same place. Susan Farabaugh, Ph.D., Associate Director, Recovery Ecology, San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, will present “Of Aka and ‘Alalā—Conserving Endangered Corvids on Pacific Islands”.

### **Mexico Pelagic November 2020**

A pelagic trip in Mexican waters was recently announced and may be of interest to members. Ainley’s Storm Petrel and Townsend’s Shearwater are high on the list of anticipated birds on this ten day trip. The trip leaves San Diego on the Searcher and ends in Cabo San Lucas. Attached is the WildWings website with all the details. Tom Blackman was on the trips several years ago and will be on the 2020 trip. A great opportunity to get in the deep water off of Baja.

[www.wildwings.co.uk/app-holidays/mexico-pelagic-new](http://www.wildwings.co.uk/app-holidays/mexico-pelagic-new)

# SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, JUNE 2019

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

Edited by Sara B. Mayers

A Greater Scaup at Marina View Park on south San Diego Bay on 15 Jun (PEL) may be the first ever reported in June. However, two were on south San Diego Bay on 30 May 1963, and one there 15 Sep 2000 may have been present all summer based on the fact that the earliest fall migrants are not expected before November (Unitt 2004). A Horned Grebe, rare after the end of March, on south San Diego Bay 3-19 Jun (PEL, eBird) was likely attempting to summer locally.

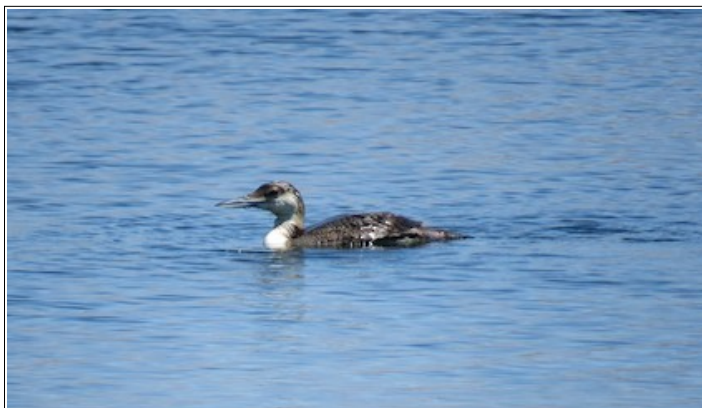


*The two Craveri's Murrelets off San Diego on 9 June 2019. The wing feathers on the closer bird were not fully grown, and it was believed to be a juvenile still unable to fly. Photo by Nancy Christensen.*

The Hudsonian Godwit at the San Diego River mouth and on the shore in Mission Beach 27 May (DHi) was last reliably seen on 2 Jun (eBird). A Least Sandpiper at the San Diego River mouth on 29 Jun (JB), a flock of 45 Western Sandpipers at Emory Cove on south San Diego Bay 22 Jun (PEL) and eighteen Wilson's Phalaropes at the South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge on 19 Jun (RTP) were the earliest of these three shorebirds to reach San Diego this fall.

One or two Common Loons are found in summer along the coast most years, but are exceptional inland at that time (Unitt 2004). As such, one on Sweetwater

A Common Murre well off shore at the 30-Mile Bank on 8 Jun (JMCM) may have been summering locally, but the presence of three seen from shore at Point La Jolla in La Jolla on 25 Jun (SW), three more there on 29 Jun (DJ) and one photographed a short distance off Mission Bay on 27 Jun (PAG) suggests a minor influx from the north – this species nests no closer to San Diego than coastal southern Monterey County (Roberson 2002). Two Craveri's Murrelets (a post-breeding visitor from the south) some 20 miles off San Diego on 9 Jun (PEL) were believed to be an adult with a flightless juvenile; they establish the earliest date this year. Two photographed off San Diego on 7 June 2014 establish the earliest date for California (NAB 68:553-554).



*This basic-plumaged Common Loon at the Club Circle Golf Course in Borrego Springs on 22 June 2019 appeared in good health. Photo by Robert Theriault.*

Reservoir on 15 Jun (PEL) was noteworthy, but another on a relatively small pond at the Club Circle Golf Course in Borrego Springs 22-29 Jun (RT,

eBird) provides the first record in summer for the Anza-Borrego Desert (Jorgensen and Theriault 2013).

A Black-footed Albatross over the San Diego Trench off San Diego on 9 Jun (TG) was one of the highlights of the Buena Vista Audubon Society's boat trip. An obvious increase in the number of Black-vented Shearwaters along the coast in late June, as indicated by an estimated 3000 visible from Point La Jolla in La Jolla on 27 Jun (SW) and 1000 off Mission Bay the same day (PAG), suggests breeding failures to the south. Numbers of this magnitude are not expected off San Diego until mid-September (Unitt 2004). Unprecedented numbers of Black Storm-Petrels continue to be visible from shore at Point La Jolla in La Jolla with an estimated 2500 there on 13 Jun (PEL).

A booby photographed from a fishing boat about one mile off the mouth of Las Flores Creek at Camp Pendleton on 28 Jun (SM) and another seen from shore in Imperial Beach on 29 Jun (MaS and JTS) were both too distant to tell if they were Masked or Nazca Boobies. Distinguishing immatures of these two species prior to their acquiring adult-like bill coloration is problematic, and to identify those that have acquired adult-like bill coloration, observers must be close enough to determine the color.



*This calling Tropical Kingbird was at San Onofre State Beach on the unexpected date of 19 June 2019. Photo by Brennan Mulrooney.*

A Swainson's Hawk photographed at Whelan Lake in Oceanside on 1 Jun (GA) was an exceptionally late migrant and close to the coast where rare.

A Tropical Kingbird at San Onofre State Beach on 19 Jun (BM and JMcM) was most unusual since there appear to be only three other reports of this species in California in June and July – one at Galileo Hill Park in eastern Kern County 31 May-1 Jun 2003 (NAB 57:403), one at the Santa Ynez River mouth on 10 Jul 1998 and the third at Winchester Canyon in Santa Barbara on 15 Jul 2015 (<http://www.sbcobirding.com/lehmanbosbc.html>). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Twin Trails Park in Rancho Penasquitos since 2 May (BR) was attending a nest in late May but did not appear to have a mate and has not been reported since 22 Jun (eBird). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in residential Point Loma on 1 Jun (AA) was the latest migrant reported this spring, but this species has been recorded in the coastal lowlands to as late as 15 June (Unitt 2004).

We were treated to two cooperative Red-eyed Vireos in early June with one singing at La Jolla Summit Park in La Jolla on 9 Jun (JD) and the other singing at Portofino Park in Tierrasanta on 12 Jun (PEL).

Two Red Crossbills, a sporadic visitor to San Diego County, were along Lookout Road in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park on 1 Jun (MiS).

A singing Cassin's Sparrow photographed on Camp Pendleton on 19 Jun (JG) was only the third to be found in San Diego County. However, more than 30 were reported in the Mojave National Preserve of eastern San Bernardino County in May of this year (fide AEK and Benson 2019); in addition one was photographed in the Greenwater Valley of Death Valley National Park on 14 May (JPG), up to three were singing near Cabazon in Riverside County 18 Apr-2 May (SR) and one was singing on San Clemente Island on 30 Apr (JTS). The last irruption of Cassin's Sparrows into southern California occurred in 1978.



A male Baltimore Oriole at the Bird & Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley on 7 Jun (PEL) was a late spring vagrant.

The first week of June saw the arrival of half-a-dozen “eastern” wood-warblers along the coast. By far the rarest was a stunning male Golden-winged Warbler in Presidio Park on 4 Jun (MB and JTS). This was only the fourth to be recorded in San Diego County. The previous three include one on the southeast side of Mount Soledad in La Jolla 6-12 Oct 1984, one along the western stretch of the Tijuana River on 15 Dec 1990 and one along Keys Creek near Lilac on 21 May .1991 (Unitt 2004). Also in the first week of June, a Black-and-white Warbler was photographed

Three Summer Tanagers were reported away from the known breeding location at Scissors Crossing on San Felipe Creek: a female at the Roadrunner Club in



*This female Prothonotary Warbler in residential Point Loma was photographed on the second day of its 1-3 June 2019 stay. Photo by Eric G. Kallen.*



*The male Golden-winged Warbler in San Diego's Presidio Park on 4 June 2019 drew a crowd, being the first “chasable” in 35 years. Photo by Marcie Mason.*

at Point Loma Nazarene University on Point Loma on 7 Jun (MH), a Prothonotary Warbler remained between Dupont and Warner Streets in residential Point Loma 1-3 Jun (AA, eBird), an American Redstart was found along Tecolote Canyon on 3 Jun (NF) and a singing male Magnolia Warbler was along Pio Pico Street in residential Point Loma on 7 Jun (SES). A singing male Northern Parula was near Doane Pond on Mount Palomar on 15 Jun (JS) and another near the Old Globe Theater in Balboa Park 24-26 Jun (TRS, eBird). A Townsend's Warbler at La Jolla Summit Park in La Jolla on 9 Jun (JD) was an exceptionally late spring migrant.

Borrego Springs on 1 Jun (KW), a young male at the University of California in La Jolla 6-10 Jun (ED) and a female nearby at La Jolla Summit Park 9-10 Jun (NF, eBird). Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported, with single males in Escondido on 1 Jun (DHa), in Leucadia on 2 Jun (JMcM) and along Tecolote Canyon on 16 Jun (NF). A Lazuli Bunting



*This highly patterned male Magnolia Warbler in residential Point Loma on 7 June 2019 remained for only one day. Photo by DAB DAB.*

was in residential Point Loma on the late date of 1 Jun (SBM); most have moved north or are on breeding territories by the third week of May, but strag-

glers have been recorded as late as 15 June (Unitt 2004). The male Indigo Bunting at Paso Pichaco Campground in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park since 27 Apr (EGK) was still present through June (eBird), and another adult male was along the Bernardo Bay trail at Lake Hodges on 20 Jun (LN).

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

Guy McCaskie

7 July 2019

Listed observers: Observers listed are limited to those finding, identifying and/or last reporting each species, these mostly reported on our local listserv SanDiegoRegionBirding@groups.io. Observers reporting additional sightings to eBird are not listed but acknowledged.

Alex Abela, Gavin Aquila, Matt Brady, John Bruin, Emily Davis, Jay Desgrosellier, Nathan French, J. Paul Galvin, Peter A. Ginsburg, Tito Gonzalez, John Green, Michelle Haglund, Denise Harter (DHa), Daniel Hite (DHi), Dan Jehl, Eric G. Kallen, Alexander E. Koonce, Paul E. Lehman, Shane Mansur, Sara B. Mayers, Jimmy McMorran, Brennan Mulrooney, Larry Nigro, Robert T. Patton, Steve Ritt, Bob Rodrigo, Matt Sadowski (MaS), Mike Sanders (MiS), Susan E. Smith, Jeff Spalding, Justyn T. Stahl, Trent R. Stanley, Robert Theriault, Stan Walens and Kathryn Wendel.

Acknowledgements: I thank Sara B. Mayers for providing useful comments on the draft of this report.

#### Literature Cited:

Benson, T. A. 2019. Back cover photo [caption]. *Western Birds* 50:2.

Jorgensen, P., and Theriault, R. 2013. *Birds of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*. California State Parks.

Roberson, D. 2002. *Monterey Birds*, second edition. Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society, Carmel, California.

## SAN DIEGO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

President	Nancy Christensen (760) 788-8180 nancy.r.christensen@gmail.com
Vice-president	
Secretary	Charlene Glacy (619) 851-1917 cglacy@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Conny Jamison (619) 269-3264 cmjamison@cox.net
Program Chair	John Bruin (505) 401-3022 johnrbruin@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Barbara Carlson (858) 268-1937 barbarac2003@yahoo.com
Publishing <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	John Walters (619) 267-1821 johnfwalters5552@gmail.com
Webmaster	Gary Nunn (650) 305-0029 garybnunn@gmail.com

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 [johnfwalters5552@gmail.com](mailto:johnfwalters5552@gmail.com)

## JOIN SDFO

Dues for Calendar year: \$25.00, including all renewals. Add \$10.00 for each additional member in same household. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SDFO** and mail or give check to Membership Chair: Barbara Carlson, 11192 Portobello Dr., San Diego 92124. For membership information, call Barbara at (858) 268-1937.

**Visit our website at**

**[www.sandiegofieldornithologists.org](http://www.sandiegofieldornithologists.org)**

*San Diego Field Ornithologists*  
c/o Barbara Carlson  
11192 Portobello Dr.

