The SKIMMER

Volume 49, Number 9—September 2022

SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting, using the Zoom app, which you can download beforehand. Members will receive an email invitation with directions to click on a link, which will open a window in the Zoom app, and you can join the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before, you will be asked to download the application for Zoom. You do NOT need to "sign up" for Zoom, just download the application. It is best to use a desktop or laptop computer, as their larger screen is preferable to a phone or notepad device.

Program: Josh Engel will present "Wildlife Wonders of the Pantanal."
Brazil's Pantanal is home to both an enormous diversity of birds and one of the densest concentrations of large mammals any where in the Americas. Although it is often referred to as the world's largest wetland, it is in reality a vast mosaic of wetlands, grassland, and lush forest. It is particularly famous for its large population of jaguars and its role in the conservation of Hyacinth Macaws, two of its iconic animals. As he gears up to lead his second tour to the region (starting this weekend!), Red Hill Birding's Josh Engel will talk about the birds, animals, and travel experience in the incredible Pantanal as well as touching on nearby habitats, like the dry forests of the *cerrado* and lush rain forests of the Atlantic Forest.

Josh is the founder of Red Hill Birding, a Chicago-based bird ing and wildlife tour company. He grew up birding in the suburbs of Chicago and knew from a young age that birding and travel would factor heavily in his future. After spending a semester studying abroad in Ecuador as an undergrad, he made it his goal to get back there after graduation. He soon found a job guiding in Ecuador for a large international birding tour company, before moving to South Africa where he spent nearly four years as a full time guide, leading trips throughout Southern Africa, Madagascar, South America, and beyond. He has led trips on four continents and conducted bird research around the world. Prior to starting Red Hill Birding, Josh was an ornithologist at The Field Museum in Chicago. He lives in Evanston with his wife and daughter, where he leads many trips local ly around the Chicago area and continues to spend several months a year leading tours farther afield.

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, October 18, same time, same place. Program to be determined.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY BIRD OBSERVATIONS, AUGUST 2022

Compiled by Paul E. Lehman

One of the rarest birds found during August 2022 was a **Red-faced Warbler** near mile marker 19 along Sunrise Highway in the Laguna Mountains on 12 Aug (V&RS). There are now several August records in our local mountains, most or all of which likely involve fall migrants. Two Painted Buntings in the same area also on 12 Aug (CKS) were exceptional for the mountains and because there waa more than a single individual. Another immature Painted Bunting turned up at a water dish in Hillcrest from 30 Aug-1 Sep (ME). There were also several continuing top-shelf rarities from previous month(s). The Mexican Duck at Lower Otay Lake since 29 Jul (MSa, JP) was last seen 8 Aug. Unprecedented in summer, the Prothonotary Warbler coming to a jelly feeder in residential Encinitas since 9 Jun was still present 1 Sep (NG). This likely establishes the first clearly over-summering "Protho" ever in California. The Red-eyed Vireo first seen on 12 Jul near the Bird & Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River Valley (KW) was rediscovered in early August (AM) and remained through at least 17 Aug. This establishes the first county record of a clearly over-summering individual. The molting adult male Scarlet Tanager found at Morley Field in Balboa Park on 24

This Red-faced Warbler along Sunrise Hwy. in the Laguna Mts. on 12 Aug was likely a casual fall migrant and represents one of several such August records in the local mountains. *Photo by Victor Stoll*

Immature Painted Buntings are very rare but almost annual visitors between mid-August and October. This bird was in Hillcrest from 30 Aug-1 Sep. *Photo by Michael Evans*

[Above] Present since 12 Jul, this Red-eyed Vireo remained through at least 17 Aug (here 14 Aug) and established the first county record of a clearly over-summering individual. *Photo by Lisa Ruby*

[Right] Establishing the first California record of a clearly over-summering individual, this Prothonotary Warbler continued to visit an Encinitas jelly feeder from 9 Jun through at least 1 Sep (here in late August). *Photo by Neal Glasgow*

Jul (JL) was last reported on 15 Aug. There are very few previous state records of this species during July and August. Single Neotropic Cormorants were at the Safari Park near Escondido from 8-13 Aug (A&TL) and in the Tijuana River Valley on 27 Aug (PEL). Present since September 2021, up to seven Harris's Hawks continued this month in Shelter Valley (NC) and up to five Harris's persisted at Jacumba (PEL).

One recurring theme this month was the early appearance of a number of fall migrants and vagrants. Leading the list was the Sage Thrasher at NAS North Island on 10-11 Aug (BF), a full month before this species is "expected." A Black-and-white Warbler in La Jolla on 23 Aug (NC) set a new early fall arrival date for the county. A rare Lucy's Warbler in Encinitas on 7 Aug (BSw) was slightly early, whereas one in La Jolla from 22-29 Aug (AA) was a more typical date. A very rare Virginia's Warbler off Los Huecos Rd. in the Laguna Mts. from 21-23 Aug (MSe, NC) was also slightly early. A migrant Chipping Sparrow was in Balboa Park on 3 Aug (PEL), and a Brewer's Sparrow in University City on 25 Aug (NF) established the earliest coastal arrival by a week. An early Green-winged Teal was at Sweetwater Reservoir on 12 Aug (PEL). The early-returning adult Zone-tailed Hawk in Poway since 20 Jul was still present in early September (DS). Up to two Red-breasted Nuthatches in Carlsbad from 23-30 Aug (JMy) and a single bird in La Jolla on 26 Aug (HI) were both presumably early fall mi-

This molting male Scarlet Tanager at Morley Field in Balboa Park is one of the very few ever to be found in the state during July and August. It continued from 24 Jul to 15 Aug (here 11 Aug). *Photo by Hanna Zhao*

Small numbers of Harris's Hawks continued at both Shelter Valley and Jacumba from September 2021 into August 2022. This individual was one of five at Jacumba on 25 Aug. *Photo by Barbara Wise*

Sage Thrashers are rare to very rare but annual fall migrants near the coast, mostly between mid-September and mid-November. This individual at NAS North Island on 10-11 Aug was exceptionally early. *Photo by Johnny Galt*

Rare and slightly early, this Lucy's Warbler was in Encinitas on 7 Aug, one of two found near the coast this month. *Photo by Barbara Swanson*

Also slightly early was this rare Virginia's Warbler off Los Huecos Rd. in the Laguna Mts. on 21 Aug. There are two or three previous fall records in the mountains. *Photo by Mel Senac*

grants, although it is possible that they summered somewhere locally.

The Booby-Palooza continued this month, with single immature Masked/Nazcas on a whale-watch trip off San Diego on 6 Aug (Privateer) and at the Nine-Mile Bank on 21 Aug (CAM); single Nazcas at La Jolla on 12 Aug and 15 Aug (TB) and at the Nine-Mile Bank on 21 Aug (PEL) and 31 Aug (JMc), plus two at "The Corner" on 28 Aug (NF); and single Red-footeds off Mission Bay on 14 Aug (RC), at the Nine-Mile Bank on 21 Aug (PEL) and 31 Aug (JMc), and at the San Diego Trough on 28 Aug (MSa). It is unknown if any of these records involved the same, lingering individual, or whether they were all of different birds.

This adult Zone-tailed Hawk in Poway since 20 Jul (here 5 Aug) was a very early returning wintering bird. *Photo by Dan Steussy*

Other pelagic highlights included a casual Guadalupe Murrelet, the second this year, in the San Diego Trough (19.5 mi west of Point Loma) on 28 Aug (NF), and single Cook's Petrels at The Corner and 30-Mile Bank on 13 Aug (BVAS) and 21 Aug (DP), respectively. Single Manx Shearwaters were at the eastern San Diego Trough and adjoining Nine-Mile Bank on 13 Aug (BW) and 21 Aug (PEL) and may or may not have involved the same individual seen there this summer also on 12 Jun and 16 Jul. Up to three Black-footed Albatrosses were between The Corner and western San Diego Trough on 13 Aug and 21 Aug (m.obs) and five there on 28 Aug (GN) were high counts for San Diego County waters. Up to three summering Northern Fulmars continued on 13 Aug and 21 Aug (m.obs). A Buller's Shearwater at the Nine-Mile Bank on 31 Aug (JMc) was right about on time. Storm-Petrels made news with higher-than-normal numbers of both Leach's (up to 40/day) and Townsend's (up to 12+/day) present on multiple dates, including a few as close to shore as the Nine-Mile Bank. Three Least Storm-Petrels at The Corner/30-Mile Bank on 13 Aug (BVAS) were close to a typical arrival date. Locally high counts of 70 Sabine's Gulls and 12 Arctic Terns were tallied offshore on 21 Aug (v.obs).

One of the many booby highlights during the month was this sub-adult Nazca at the Nine-Mile Bank on 21 Aug. *Photo by John Dumlao*

Shorebird highlights included the continuing hybrid American X Black Oystercatcher at La Jolla from 10 Jul-13 Aug (PEL) and up to three returning Pacific Golden-Plovers at the Tijuana R. mouth beginning 11 Aug (RTP). Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared on cue, with singles at Sweetwater Reservoir from 7-12 Aug (PEL) and at the Salt Works on 8 Aug (MSa), 24 Aug (PEL), and 31 Aug (MSa). Baird's Sandpiper

Post-fledging youngsters of several species may turn up at unexpected sites between June and August. One such bird was this Bell's Vireo in a residential yard in Rolando Park on 4 Aug. *Photo by Barbara Wise*

numbers were about average, with ten birds found (RTP, PEL, BC, MSa), whereas Solitary Sandpipers were in above-normal numbers, with eight or nine birds discovered (LR, ZP, BSt), headlined by *seven* birds together at the Dairy Mart Ponds on 31 Aug (DJ), a single-site record high. A juvenile Red Knot on South San Diego Bay on 12 Aug (PEL) was record early for that age-class by one day. A Ruddy Turnstone at Sweetwater Reservoir on 28 Aug (GV, PEL) was casual at that site; there are only two previous inland county records, both from Lake Hodges during the 1980s. A large number of juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers was highlighted by a record "inland" total at Sweetwater Reservoir peaking at 262 birds on 27 Aug (PEL); the previous high inland count before this year was 22.

Expected rarities and scarce migrants included a total of seven near-coastal White-winged Doves beginning on 6 Aug (v.obs), a Lesser Nighthawk in Del Mar on 7 Aug (JC), six Black Terns (MSa, CJ, JD, BW), a total of five Bank Swallows (JMa, MSa, PEL), a Northern Waterthrush in University City on 25 Aug (BSp), and single adult male Summer Tanagers at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery from 26 Aug-1 Sep (PEL) and inland at Dos Picos County Park on 27 Aug (TK). Up to two male Indigo Buntings continued in the Bird & Butterfly Garden area through 14 Aug (MW), the female continued through 14 Aug (BW), and a juvenile found 14-24 Aug (MSa) confirms another year with successful nesting at that site.

Very unusual inland, an adult Sabine's Gull was on a small pond in Fairbanks Ranch on 26 Aug (SB).

The casual-in-summer Hooded Merganser continued at Lake O'Neill on Camp Pendleton through 4 Aug (PAG), and the tame, summering Cackling Goose at Lake Murray remained throughout the month (m.obs). A near-adult coastal Bald Eagle summering at Sweetwater Reservoir remained through at least 2 Sep (PEL).

Every year, a few post-breeding adults and post-fledging juveniles of multiple species turn up between June and August at unexpected locations at least a few miles away from areas of regular occurrence. Examples of such short-distance dispersers in summer 2022 included Red-shouldered Hawk, Lark Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Spotted Towhee. This month, an adult Red-shouldered Hawk was along the Silver Strand on 3 Aug (PEL), a young Bell's Vireo turned up in a residential yard in Rolando Park on 4 Aug (BW), and Hutton's Vireo(s) was at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on 5 Aug and 29 Aug (PEL).

Miscellanea included a wandering Acorn Woodpecker at Lake Murray on 22 Aug (MSa) and two easterly White-breasted Nuthatches at Jacumba from 15-31 Aug+ (PEL).

Acknowledgments: Many thanks to Sara B. Mayers and Guy McCaskie for their careful review.

Cited observers: Observers listed are limited to those finding, identifying, and/or last reporting each species. Some sightings reported to *eBird* are included without specific attribution. Alex Abela, Theo Bockhorst, Sean Buchanan, Buena Vista Audubon Society sponsored pelagic trip, Rohit Chakravarty, Bob Chapman, Nancy Christensen, Joni Ciarletta, Jay Desgrosellier, Michael Evans, Brian Flick, Nathan French, Peter A. Ginsburg, Neal Glasgow, Hank Ingersoll, Charles Jackson, Dan Jehl, Tyler Krul, Jamie Lantzy, Paul E. Lehman, Aedyn & Trysten Loefke, Curtis A. Marantz, John Martin (JMa), Jimmy McMorran (JMc), Alex Merritt, Jane Mygatt (JMy), Gary Nunn, Robert T. Patton, Jim Pawlicki, Zak Pohlen, Dave Povey, Privateer whale-watching tours, Lisa Ruby, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Mel Senac (MSe), Bridget Spencer (BSp), C. K. Staurovsky, Dan Steussy, Brandon Stidum (BSt), Victor & Ruben Stoll, Barbara Swanson (BSw), Geoff Veith, Martha Wild, Barbara Wise, and Kale Worman.

This young Long-tailed Jaeger on the 13 Aug Buena Vista Audubon sponsored pelagic trip captures several important field characters: overall cold, gray plumage tones, only two white primary shafts visible on upperwing, heavily and contrastingly barred/mottled underwing linings, and a proportionately short bill and thick neck. *Photo by Nancy Christensen*

m.obs = many observers

v.obs = various observers

63rd SUPPLEMENT TO THE AOS CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO US

Each summer the American Ornithological Society releases a supplement to its authoritative *Check-list of North American Birds*, providing the last word on the proper names for our birds. Lately we have seen wholesale upheavals in what to call our local birds, either by their English or by their scientific names. Recently we have received the 63rd revision of the checklist, and to our surprise, our local San Diego County birds have survived virtually intact. In fact, nearly all the revisions are to Neotropical species (no surprise there) or to accidental species that turn up once a decade on the Aleutian Islands or other out-of-the-way places.

About the only change of even peripheral interest to local birders is the split of the Chihuahuan Meadowlark (*Sturnella lilianae*) from the Eastern Meadowlark (*S. magna*). Most field guides include this form as "Lilian's Meadowlark;" it occurs in southeastern Arizona and adjacent areas south into Mexico. It has more white in the outer tail feathers and a different song from Eastern Meadowlark. Something to look for on your next trip to Arizona.

A couple of minor changes to scientific names: Violet-crowned Hummingbird gets moved from the genus *Amazilia* to the new genus *Ramosomyia* as *R. violiceps*, and Broad-billed Hummingbird has a couple of tropical races split off as new species; they haven't been reported from the U.S. Also, the sequence of generic names of the wrens (Family Troglodytidae) has been rearranged to better accord with the latest DNA evidence.

And that's about it.

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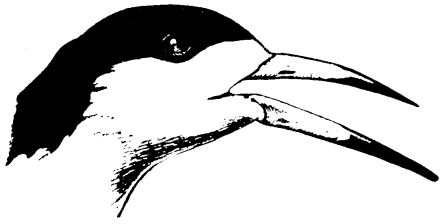

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