

The **SKIMMER**



Volume 32, Number 9—September 05

SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m., at the Tecolote Nature Center, at the east end of Tecolote Road, off I-5.

Program: Jeffrey Lincer: "The Use of Raptors to Monitor the Multi-Species Conservation Program." Jeff will describe three-plus years of research on the raptors at 45 study sites throughout the MSCP: what species were documented, and how we can use these environmental indicators to determine how effective the MSCP is.

Jeff holds a doctorate in Ecology/Toxicology from Cornell University (1972), where his classic research addressed the effects of DDT and PCBs on the reproduction of American Kestrels. He is an Adjunct Scientist with the San Diego Museum of Natural History and has focused his scientific career on raptors, but his credentials are too long to list here.

Next month's meeting: Tuesday, October 18, same time, same place. Robert Pitman will present a slide program entitled "Clipperton Island: Pig Sty, Rat Hole, and Booby Prize." Details in the October *Skimmer*. In the mean time, we will leave you wondering.

FROM 10,001 TITILLATING TIDBITS OF AVIAN TRIVIA

by Frank S. Todd

8639. Which birds are said to contract their pupils into the shape of a square?

3977. Which large, long-legged African bird nests alongside nesting crocodiles?

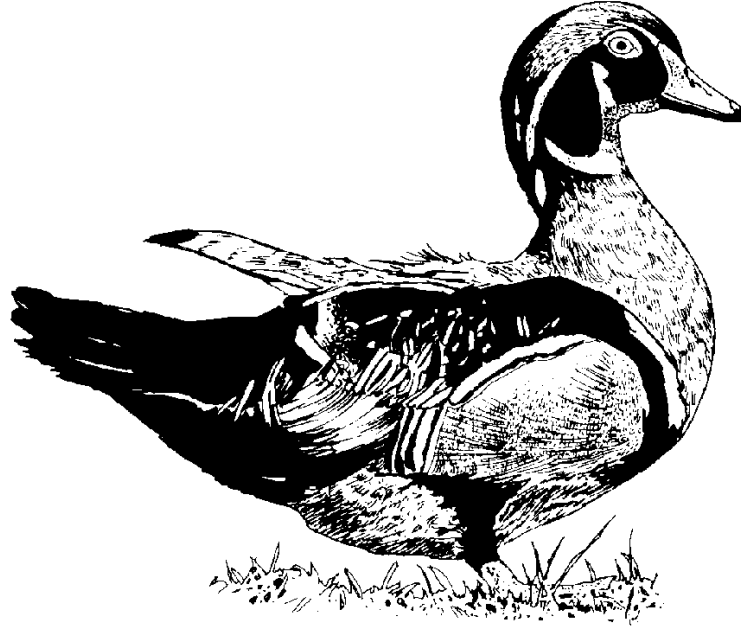
8198. Does the lower mandible of a skimmer chick commence to lengthen and exceed the length of the upper mandible within the first week of hatching?

1990. Which northern bird was called a "wamp," and which bird was known as "wamp's cousin?"

3885. Which penguin nests in rainforests?

7318. Which is the only green sparrow-like bird of North America?

[Answers on page 5.]



SAN DIEGO RARE BIRD ALERT REPORT, AUGUST 2005

Compiled by Mike Evans

COMMON NAME	NO	PLUM	OBS DATE	LOCATION	REPORTER
Reddish Egret	1	Ad	8/16/05	Santa Margarita R. mouth, Camp Pendleton	Foster, B.
Reddish Egret	1	Juv	8/17/05	Silver Strand, Delta Beach	Sadowski, M.
Reddish Egret	1	Imm	8/19-21,23/05	San Diego Bay, J St. Marina mudflats	Sadowski, M., several other birders
Reddish Egret	1	Juv	8/20,21/05	San Diego R. floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Florand, R., Roberts, J.
Reddish Egret	2	Ad+Imm	8/21/05	Santa Margarita R. mouth, Camp Pendleton	Parker, D.
Little Blue Heron	1	1st yr	8/2/05	Famosa Slough	Altman, E.
Little Blue Heron	2		8/21/05	San Diego Bay, S Bay NWR (salt works) from N end of 7th St.	Aguillard, D.
Little Blue Heron	2-5	4Ad, 1Imm	8/21,23/05	San Diego R floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	McCaskie, G., Altman, E.
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	(Subad)	8/3,18,21/05	Tijuana Slough NWR, McCoy trail from visitor's center	Billings, M., Stowe, M. B., Cooper, T.
White-faced Ibis	1	Imm	8/4/05	Silver Strand, Delta Beach mud flats	Sadowski, M.
American Wigeon	1	M	8/8/05	San Elijo Lagoon, central basin: SE	Patton, R. T.
*White-cheeked Pintail	1	M	8/2/05	Famosa Slough	Altman, E.
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Juv	8/10/05	Tijuana R. Valley, S of Sunset Ave., W of Saturn Blvd	Matson, M.
Solitary Sandpiper	1		8/18/05	Tijuana R Valley Regional Park, channel W of Hollister St.	Sadowski, M.
Solitary Sandpiper	2		8/18,/05	Tijuana R Valley, channel between border fence & sod farm at Dairy Mart Rd.	Sadowski, M.
Solitary Sandpiper	3-7		8/19-21/05	Tijuana R., S of Am-Sod farm, Dairy Mart Rd.	Myers, T., Carlson, B., McCaskie, G.
Solitary Sandpiper	1		8/21/05	San Diego R. floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Roberts, J.
Solitary Sandpiper	1		8/21/05	Santa Margarita R. mouth, Camp Pendleton	Parker, D.
Red Knot	2	Ad+Juv	8/22/05	San Diego R. floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Blackman, T.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	1	Juv	8/31/05	San Diego Bay-S Bay NWR (salt works), central area (restricted access)	Patton, R. T.
Baird's Sandpiper	1	Juv	8/4/05	Silver Strand, Delta Beach mud flats	Sadowski, M.

Baird's Sandpiper	1	Juv	8/10,30/05	San Elijo Lagoon, N from trail at N end of Rios Ave., N of Duncan's bench	Matson, M., Ginsburg, P.
Baird's Sandpiper	1	Juv	8/15,17/05	Silver Strand, ocean side of Naval Amphib. Base	Sadowski, M.
Baird's Sandpiper	1-6		8/18,20,21,23/05	Silver Strand, ca 3/4 mi N of jetty N of Imperial Beach pier	Parker, D., several other birders
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	Ad	8/3,7-12/05	San Elijo Lagoon, N from trail at N end of Rios Ave.	McCaskie, G., several other birders
Red-necked Phalarope	1	Ad	8/4/05	San Elijo Lagoon, pond N of the N end of Rios Ave.	Hunefeld, T.
Pacific Golden-Plover	1	Alt (most)	8/12/05	San Elijo Lagoon, N of spit, in center of lagoon	Ginsburg, P.
Pacific Golden-Plover	1	Ad	8/26/05	North Island/Coronado NAS, Zuniga Beach (restricted)	Sadowski, M.
Black Oystercatcher	1		8/4/05	La Jolla Cove, E of Point La Jolla, on Prospect St.	Altman, E.
Black Oystercatcher	2		8/23/05	Cabrillo NM, from "main" tidepool parking lot	Altman, E.
Ash-throated Flycatcher	2		8/19/05	Tijuana Estuary NWR, McCoy trail from visitor's center	Claypool, M.
Elegant Tern	1500		8/19/05	San Diego R. floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Jorgensen, P.
Elegant Tern	3000		8/23/05	Mission Bay, Mariner's Point	Blackman, T.
Common Tern	1500		8/17/05	Silver Strand, Delta Beach	Sadowski, M.
Common Tern	820		8/19/05	San Diego R floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Jorgensen, P.
Common Tern	1000		8/23/05	Mission Bay, Mariner's Point	Blackman, T.
Common Tern	42		8/30/05	San Elijo Lagoon	Patton, R. T.
Common Tern	28		8/31/05	San Diego Bay, S Bay NWR (salt works), central area (restricted access)	Patton, R. T.
Forster's Tern	1		8/19/05	San Diego R floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Jorgensen, P.
Black Tern	1	Ad/Bas	8/22/05	San Diego R floodway, near Robb Field, Ocean Beach	Blackman, T.
Black Tern	1		8/28/05	San Elijo Lagoon	Ginsburg, P.
White-winged Dove	1		8/2/05	Cabrillo NM, Myoporum grove, dripping faucet	Stanley, T. R.
White-winged Dove	1		8/8/05	San Elijo Lagoon, E of RR, near old treatment plant	Patton, R. T.
White-winged Dove	1		8/21/05	Tijuana R., S of Am-Sod farm, Dairy Mart Rd.	Bauman, D.
Hammond's Flycatcher	1		8/17/05	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W side, Sec. V	Plunkett, T.
Gray Flycatcher	1		8/21/05	IMP: Cattle Call Park, Brawley	Miller, R.
Warbling Vireo	1		8/17/05	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W side, Sec. U	Plunkett, T.
*Black-throated Magpie-Jay	8		8/21/05	Tijuana R Valley, Hollister St. bridge	Aguillard, D.
Townsend's Solitaire	1	Juv	8/13/05	William Heise County Park, Cedar Trail, down slope from picnic area 2 and cabins	Walens, S.
*Nutmeg Mannikin	3		8/18/05	Tierra Santa feeder	Thomas, P.

Savannah Sparrow (Large-billed)	1		8/16/05	Silver Strand, former Naval Radio Receiving Facility, ca. 1 mi N of Imperial Beach jetty	Parker, D.
Savannah Sparrow (Large-billed)	1		8/17/05	Coronado, NAS North Island	Norton, L.
Savannah Sparrow (Large-billed)	8		8/31/05	San Diego Bay, S Bay NWR (salt works), central area (restricted access)	Patton, R. T.
Lark Sparrow	1000+	Juv?	8/17/05	Silver Strand, S of Delta Beach	Sadowski, M.
Lucy's Warbler	1		8/7/05	Santee Lakes, NW corner of Lake 1 (rec area)	Mulrooney, B.
Lucy's Warbler	1	F-1st Fall	8/18/05	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W side, Sec. V	Ginsburg, P.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1		8/17/05	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W side, Sec. V	Plunkett, T.
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	F	8/10/05	Point Loma residential area	Mayers, S. B.
Red-faced Warbler	1		8/6-14/05	William Heise County Park, Cedar Trail	Hernandez, P., several other birders
Scott's Oriole	1	1st yr	8/21/05	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W side, Sec. V	McCaskie, G.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1-3	M/1st	8/21,24/05	Lindo Lake Park, Lakeside	Raimond, J., Marsh, S.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1	F	8/24/05	San Diego Bay, Shelter Island: betw oriental gong & picnic table	Bauman, D.

ANSWERS TO AVIAN TRIVIA

(from page 2)

8639. Some of the penguins, especially the King Penguin.

3977. The Water Thick-knee (Dikkop). The birds are not molested by the reptiles, and may serve as sentinels, giving early warning of approaching danger. The birds benefit because the crocodiles function as effective predator deterrents.

8198. No, the lower mandible does not start to grow longer than the upper until the young are almost full-grown and ready to fly.

1990. *Wamp* is an American Indian name

meaning white and was applied to the Common Eider. The King Eider was known as *wamp's cousin*.

3885. The New Zealand Fiordland Crested Penguin nests in dense virgin rainforests along the southwest coast of the South Island.

7318. Females and juveniles of the Painted Bunting.