

The **SKIMMER**



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SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

July 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at the Tecolote Nature Center, at the east end of Tecolote Road, off I-5.

Program: San Diego's Peter Ginsburg will discuss "'Columbia."

SDFO's Tecolote Canyon Bird Walks As part of the arrangement for holding our meetings at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center for a very small fee, SDFO leads a bird walk in the canyon on the second Saturday of each month (except July and August). The people who attend the walks range from longtime birders to new people who are thrilled to see a hummingbird through a scope.

Don Adams led the SDFO bird walks for several years. We thank Don and the recent volunteers: Tim Plunkett, BJ Stacey, Lesley Marples, John Walters, and Hank Ingersoll. We need volunteers from September onward. The walks are from 8AM until roughly 10AM. If you'd like to lead a walk, please contact Sara Mayers.

Photo by BJ Stacey



San Diego County Bird Observations June 2011

Compiled by Guy McCaskie

A Brown Booby seen off the Tijuana River mouth 5 Jun (DDiT) probably originated at the nearby Los Coronado Islands. The presence of at least one American Bittern at San Elijo Lagoon 1-29 Jun (SB, GLR) and up to three at Dairy Mart Pond in the Tijuana River valley 12-30 Jun (MS, JK) strongly suggests nesting at these two locations - there remains only one confirmed record for nesting in San Diego County (Unitt 2004). Three Reddish Egrets were known present, with two on south San Diego Bay 8-30 Jun (GMcC, MS, JK) and the third at the San Diego River mouth 30 Jun (JP) - this species has now expanded its area of regular occurrence northward from northern Baja California to include San Diego and Orange Counties. Numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons continue to increase, with a pair attending a nest containing young in Imperial Beach (GMcC, JP) and another pair attending a nest containing young at Seaworld in San Diego (JP), along with two additional adults in Imperial Beach (SBM, GMcC) through June, the sub-adult in Del Mar 6 May-5 Jun (PEL, SB) and an adult at San Elijo Lagoon 22 Jun (JK).

A Black Vulture reported in Kearny Mesa 7 Jun (BJS) was unfortunately never relocated so not verified by others. The Harris's Hawk found in Borrego Springs 11 Apr was still present 30 Jun (PJ), a pair remained near Jacumba through at least 8 Jun (ML) and a second pair in the McCain Valley was still present 22 Jun (SR). Three Swainson's Hawks near Lake Henshaw 19 Jun (SB) were believed to be summering locally - this is the same general area

where up to 25 were present 17-25 Jun 2000 (Unitt 2004).

An American Oystercatcher was seen flying past Pt. La Jolla 17 Jun (BM). Noteworthy shorebirds believed summering locally include a basic-plumage Wandering Tattler in La Jolla 14 Jun (MM), a Black Turnstone at the Tijuana River mouth 18 Jun (JK) and two Surfbirds at Emory Cove in south San Diego Bay 18-25 Jun (PEL, GMcC). The first of the southbound adult Western Sandpipers were on south San Diego Bay 25 Jun (JK).

A Laughing Gull was reported flying past Pt. La Jolla 30 Jun (SW). An adult Sooty Tern at the Tijuana River mouth 23 Jun (MS) was the first in San Diego County since a pair attempted nesting at south San Diego Bay in 1997 (Unitt 2004). Two second-year Common Terns were in south San Diego Bay 23 Jun (MS). A Common Murre at Pt. La Jolla 12 Jun (SW) is one of a very few recorded in San Diego County in summer. Most interesting were up to three Pigeon Guillemots (3 together 13 Jun - EGK) at Pt. La Jolla 11-14 Jun (JR, SW) - San Diego County is south of this species' normal range.

A Willow Flycatcher, no doubt *Empidonax traillii brewsteri*, in Imperial Beach 18 Jun (PEL) was a late spring migrant, and at least three territorial males on the San Luis Rey River downstream from Lake Henshaw 15 Jun (JW) were of the endangered subspecies *extimus*. A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was in Jacumba through at least 12 Jun (EGK) and another

pair was at the Admiral Baker Golf Course in Mission Valley through at least 6 Jun (JK). Brown-crested Flycatchers have been known to breed in Borrego Springs since 2000, but one near Warner Springs 15 Jun (PJ) provides another potential nesting location.

A male Hooded Warbler at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma 4 Jun (SR) was a late spring vagrant. A male Summer Tanager near Warner Springs 15 Jun (PJ) was in suitable breeding habitat, but a first-summer male in Presidio Park in San Diego 19 Jun (PU) was lost. The territorial Lincoln's Sparrow at the upper end of Agua Dulce Creek in the Laguna Mountains was still present 11 Jun (GLR). The continued presence of Dark-eyed Juncos at the Bird and Butterfly Garden in the Tijuana River valley through at least 22 Jun (GMcC, BJS) suggests nesting. A first-summer Orchard Oriole was banded on Point Loma 23 Jun (AH), and an adult

male Baltimore Oriole was seen in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery 5 Jun (GN).

Listed observers: Steve Brad, Dean DiTommaso, Alexandria Houston, Paul Jorgensen, Eric G. Kallen, Jay Keller, Mark Lee, Paul E. Lehman, Marcie Mason, Sara B. Mayers, Guy McCaskie, Brennan Mulrooney, Gary Nunn, Jim Pea, Steve Ritt, Jim Roberts, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Matt Sadowski, BJ Stacey, Philip Unitt, Stan Walens, Jim Wilson.

Literature Cited

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

Guy McCaskie
6 July 2011

Photo by BJ Stacey



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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 john-walters@cox.net

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