The SKIMMER

Volume 26, Number 6—June 1999

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meeting:

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 p.m., at Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the east end of Tecolote Road, off I-5.

Election of officers: The Nominating Committee has produced the following slate of officers for your consideration:

President: Pete Ginsburg
Vice-president: Stan Walens
Secretary: Betty Siegel
Treasurer: Don Adams
Membership Chair: Mary Beth Stowe

If these names look disgustingly familiar, throw your own hat in the ring. Great opportunities for Graft & Corruption. Use the plush SDFO corporate jet! Come out, campaign for your favorite candidates, vote early and often. If anyone can still move, we may also have a program.

Next month's program: Thursday, July 15, same time, same place. Program to be announced.

South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge Is Here!

Two events will mark the birth of San Diego's newest wildlife refuge. A dedication ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 17, at 2:00 p.m., at the north end of 13th Street in Imperial Beach. Also, a Celebration of the Refuge will be held at the Chula Vista Nature Center on Thursday, June 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Attendance is free to both events, but if you want to attend the celebration, please RSVP by calling (619) 235-0821 by June 18.

MYSTERY BIRD LIST QUIZ

We have something a little different this month. One of our members sent the following quiz to *The Skimmer* back in March, and your efficient editor promply lost it somewhere on his hard disk. I couldn't even remember who had sent it in, so I couldn't ask for another copy. I finally stumbled on it last week, so better late than never... The author will be anonymous for now (some of you would be able to figure out the location if you knew who he is—yes, it's a *he*). So break out the field guides and the range maps (and a crystal ball, if you have one), and see what you come up with. All those Northern Gannets: it's not a local list, that's for sure!

Dear fellow SDFO'ers,

A few months ago I went on Spring Break, and in the course of about 5 total hours on March 9th and 10th I came up with the following bird list. The question is: where was I? Here are a few hints. I was in the United States. All birds were found within a mile or so of each other. Though I've birded there many times, I consider this a fairly impressive list. Please be as exact as you can on the location, and explain your answer. You get bonus points for figuring out who I am.

Send your written analysis by June 30 to John Walters via snail-mail at 5552 Horse Ridge Way, Bonita, CA 91902 or e-mail at *lizandjohn@earthlink.net*. He'll pass them on to me. Look for the answer in next month's *Skimmer*.

Here's the bird list:

1 Common Loon
80+ Northern Gannet
12 American White Pelican
80 Brown Pelican
25 Double-crested Cormorant
40 Great Blue Heron
40 Great Egret
3 Snowy Egret
1 Little Blue Heron
3 Tricolored Heron
1 Green-backed Heron
2 Black-crowned Night-heron
6 White Ibis
2 Glossy Ibis
1 Roseate Spoonbill
8 Wood Stork
50 Red-breasted Merganser
15 Turkey Vulture
4 Osprey
1 Bald Eagle
1 Northern Harrier
2 Red-tailed Hawk
2 American Kestrel
3 Clapper Rail
6 Black-bellied Plover
3 Wilson's Plover
1 Semipalmated Plover
6 Killdeer
3 American Oystercatcher
8 Willet
1 Spotted Sandpiper
6 Ruddy Turnstone
8 Sanderling
30 Dunlin
2 dowitcher sp.
1 Parasitic Jaeger
75 Laughing Gull
6 Bonaparte's Gull

More Mystery Bird List

125 Ring-billed Gull
40 Herring Gull
3 Great Black-backed Gull
25 Royal Tern
1 Sandwich Tern
100 Forster's Tern
150 Black Skimmer
15 Eurasian Collared-dove
25 Mourning Dove
1 Common Ground-dove
4 Belted Kingfisher
1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
30 Tree Swallow
5 Blue Jay
30 Fish Crow
1 Carolina Wren
8 Northern Mockingbird
6 European Starling
3 Yellow-rumped Warbler
4 Northern Cardinal
3 Savannah Sparrow
1 Seaside Sparrow
20 Red-winged Blackbird
35 Boat-tailed Grackle
30 Brown-headed Cowbird
6 House Sparrow

Mountain Plover to be Listed as a "Threatened" Species

[Ed. Note: Our Skimmer *isn't the only one around.* Bird Watcher's Digest *also publishes a newsletter called* The Skimmer. *The following article is from their April 1999 issue, courtesy of Jim Coatsworth.]*

As regular readers of the *Skimmer* know, the population of the Mountain Plover has been declining. Recent studies have focused both on winter and summer habitat requirements and on trying to determine how many birds remain. The situation has gotten sufficiently bad that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has proposed to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The population is thought to have declined by about 50 percent since 1966, and only 8,000-10,000 birds are thought to remain. The primary cause of the decline is thought to be habitat loss. Despite the bird's name, it is not a denizen of the mountains, but breeds and winters on grassland. The breeding range is in the Great Plains, but most of the population winters in central and southern California.

SAN DIEGO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

President	Stan Walens	450-0258
Vice-president	Pete Ginsburg	(760)942-7259
Secretary	Betty Siegel	278-1415
Treasurer	Don Adams	565-6426
Membership Chair	Mary Beth Stowe	279-5636
Skimmer Publishing	John Walters	267-1821
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	Jim Smith	279-3664

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 lizandjohn@earthlink.net

JOIN SDFO

Dues for Calendar year: $10.00, including all renewals. Add $5.00 for each additional member in same household. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SDFO** and mail or give check to membership chair: Mary Beth Stowe 5465 Repecho Dr. J-201, San Diego, CA 92124

For membership information, call Mary Beth at 279-5636.

Rare Bird Hotline
479-3400