The SKIMMER

Volume 27, Number 12—December 2000

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m., at Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the east end of Tecolote Road, off I-5.

Program: Annual year-end HOLIDAY PARTY! It's our big potluck feast, so bring your favorite dish to share. The Social Committee (meaning Ann and Shauna) will be bring ing a spiral-cut ham, rolls & mustard, and beverages (coffee & soft drinks). Plates, cups and utensils will also be provided.

Only a few of you signed up at our last meeting. We need more FOOD! So far, we have seven folks bringing appetizers and five folks bringing side dishes. And only Ken Fink signed up for dessert. He's bringing 2 pies as well as providing the program for the evening : "Birding in Montana."

It doesn't matter what you bring, just as long as you're carrying something to share when you walk through the door! We need to make sure that everyone participating in the Rancho Santa Fe Christmas Bird Count the next morning goes home well-fed!

See you on the 21st!

[This message sponsored by the SDFO Social Committee: Ann Klovstad, Chair.]

Next month's meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2001, same time, same place (but less food). Phil Unitt will provide the ultimate guide to dowitchers.

Add to Your E-mail Directory

Robert Theriault is reachable by e-mail at **roberttheriault@juno.com**. Contact him if you're interested in doing the Borrego Springs Christmas Bird Count. For dates and contacts for the other area CBCs, see last month's *Skimmer*.

FROM THE BWD NEWSWIRE (http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

The Revenge of the Turkeys!

According to a story in the *Los Angeles Times*, wild turkeys in the Rancho San Antonio Preserve in Santa Clara County, California, have been on a rampage aimed at visitors this summer. The birds have been reported to be charging hikers, chasing cars, and blocking trails. Rangers at the park say the aggressive behavior is related to the breeding season, with males showing off for females. Visitors were warned to stay at least 30 feet from the birds and told that making loud noises, such as clapping their hands, would keep the birds at bay. The story also quoted wildlife experts as counseling against wearing bright colors and carrying shiny objects. There is, as one contemplates the traditional American Thanksgiving feast, a certain poetic justice in the thought of people being terrorized by turkeys. The news item appeared in *Audubon Imprint*, the newsletter of the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society (PO Box 35, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272). Compiled by Rick Blom.

Another Endangered Spotted Owl?

Many people would be surprised to learn that there are Spotted Owls that are not protected. Of the three subspecies, two, the Northern and the Mexican, are listed as Endangered but the same designation has not been applied to the California Spotted Owl. That may change now that a group of environmental organizations has filed a petition to list the California birds. They cite t least four studies showing the population to be declining at a rate of up to 10 percent a year. The California Spotted Owl occurs in the Sierra Nevada and other mountains in southern California. The news of the petition comes from *Bird Calls*, the newsletter of the American Bird Conservancy (PO Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198 or **www.abcbirds.org** on the Internet).

Spoonbilled Sandpiper Going Extinct?

Surveys on the Siberian breeding grounds of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper, *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*, in the summer of 2000 suggest that it may be headed quickly for extinction. Previous estimations put the world breeding population at 2,000 - 2,800 breeding pairs, but researchers found that there are no longer birds at four of the previously known breeding locations. This, coupled with reports of declines in other areas, has led to the conclusion that there may be as few at 300-500 breeding pairs left and some researchers consider that a generous estimate. The cause of the decline is unknown, as is almost everything else about the species, but there is no indication that the problem is on the breeding grounds. Spoon-billed sandpipers breed in Siberia and winter in the Australasian region and scientists hope to pinpoint reasons for the drop on the wintering grounds or at migratory stopovers, although they do not hold out much hope, especially considering the low numbers and lack of knowledge about the bird. At the very least it should probably be considered Endangered or Critically Endangered rather than Vulnerable, its current designation.

Thick-billed Parrot Protection

An agreement has been reached to protect one of the last unlogged areas of the Sierra Madre Occidental in northwestern Mexico. The 4,000 acres of forest, which had been scheduled for logging in several years, is a stronghold for the endangered thick-billed parrot. The agreement was a cooperative effort of public and private groups, government agencies, and local citizens. It provides a 15-year moratorium on logging at the site and rent payments that equal 50 percent of the value of the timber.

COMMON NAME	NO	PLUM	OBS DATE	LOCATION	REPORTER
Common Loon	1		11/15/00	San Diego River, opp. Robb field	Sams, Jim
American White Pelican	1		11/9/00	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon	Blue, David
American White Pelican	62		11/12/00	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay	Wloch, Mary
American White Pelican	76		11/14/00	Lake Hodges, NE part of lake	Hall, Ed
American White Pelican	5		11/14/00	San Diego Bay, Silverstrand, 2nd-S-most pond of salt works	Stands, Todd
American White Pelican	15		11/15/00	Lake Hodges, flying over	Wilson, Mike
American White Pelican	70		11/17/00	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay	Hall, Ed
American White Pelican	10		11/18/00	Buena Vista Lagoon, E-I-5	Coker, Jeff
American White Pelican	45		11/18/00	Lake Hodges, trail from Senior's Center to lake	Wallace, Ed
American White Pelican	50		11/19/00	Lake Hodges	Aguillard, D.
American White Pelican	1		11/21/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Johannson, Stefan
American White Pelican	1		11/21/00	San Diego Bay, south	Johannson, Stefan
American White Pelican	2		11/21/00	Tijuana R. mouth	Johannson, Stefan
American White Pelican	1		11/23/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Evans, M.
American White Pelican	2		11/24/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Billings, Mark
American White Pelican	80		11/24/00	Lake Henshaw, E-shore, N-Monkey Hill, from boat ramp	Edwards, C.
American White Pelican	25		11/24/00	Wild Animal Park, above	Hertzfeldt, Charles
American White Pelican	1		11/24/00	Wild Animal Park, above	Hertzfeldt, Charles
American White Pelican	80		11/26/00	Lake Henshaw	Billings, Mark
American White Pelican	2		11/29/00	Dairy Mart Pond	Plunket, Tim
American White Pelican	1		11/29/00	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon	Blue, David
Brown Pelican	1		11/17/00	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay	Hall, Ed
Redish Egret	1		11/15/00	Tijuana Estuary, end of McCoy trail	Burton, Ken
Tricolored Heron	1		11/15/00	Tijuana Estuary, from end of 5th St.	Burton, Ken
Tricolored Heron	1		11/18/00	??	Ikegaya, Yaz
Little Blue Heron	2		11/5/00	San Diego River, opp. Sea World Park	Vaught, Tom
Little Blue Heron	3		11/7/00	Famosa Slough	Mathos, Mike
Little Blue Heron	1		11/21/00	Tijuana Estuary, end of McCoy Trail	Johannson, Stefan
Little Blue Heron	1		11/22/00	San Diego River FC Channel	Hertzfeldt, Charles
Little Blue Heron	1	adult	11/26/00	Tijuana Estuary, McCoy Trail	Edwards, C.
Little Blue Heron	1		11/29/00	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon	Blue, David
White-faced Ibis	25		11/15/00	San Pasqual Vly, near Wild Animal Park	Wilson, Mike
White-faced Ibis	1	Imm	11/19/00	Lake Hodges	Aguillard, D.
White-fronted Goose	1		11/17/00	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay	Hall, Ed
White-fronted Goose	1		11/18/00	Lake Hodges, trail from Senior's Center to lake	Wallace, Ed
White-fronted Goose	14		11/24/00	Lake Henshaw, E-shore, N-Monkey Hill, from boat ramp	Edwards, C.
Snow Goose	9		11/18/00	Lake Hodges	Walens, Stan
Ross' Goose	1		11/17/00	Lake Hodges, Bernardo Bay	Hall, Ed
Ross' Goose	1		11/18/00	Lake Hodges, trail from Senior's Center to lake	Wallace, Ed
Canada Goose	500		11/14/00	Lake Hodges, NE part of lake	Hall, Ed

SAN DIEGO RARE BIRD ALERT REPORTS, NOV. 2000
Compiled by Mike Evans

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COMMON NAME	NO	PLUM	OBS DATE	LOCATION	REPORTER
Eurasian Wigeon	1	M	11/4/00	Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, betw RR & PCH	Blue, David
Eurasian Wigeon	1		11/8/00	San Diego R. FC, S-side	Billings, Mark
Eurasian Wigeon	1	M	11/22/00	San Diego River FC Channel	Hertzfeldt, Charles
*Baikal Teal	1	M	11/5/00	Batiquitos Lagoon, N-shore, opp. Golf course	Vaught, Tom
Hooded Merganser	1	M	11/11/00	Famosa Slough, at first bench	Peugh, Barbara
Hooded Merganser	4	Juv/F	11/19/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Evans, M.
Hooded Merganser	4	Juv/F	11/23/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Evans, M.
Hooded Merganser	2	M+F	11/28/00	Famosa Slough, N-end, next to West Point Loma Blvd.	Johnson, Ginger
Hooded Merganser	2	F/juv?	11/29/00	Dairy Mart Pond, extreme SW	Plunket, Tim
Bald Eagle	2	juv	11/26/00	Lake Henshaw	Billings, Mark
Harris' Hawk	1		11/11/00	Borrego Springs, Broken Arrow Rd.	Theriault, Bob
Harris' Hawk	2		11/17/00	Borrego Valley, Santa Saba Rd.	Jorgensen, Paul
Zone-tailed Hawk	1		11/15/00	Wild Animal Park, soaring w/5 TUVU	Wilson, Mike
Zone-tailed Hawk	1		11/19/00	San Diego Wild Animal Park	Aguillard, D.
Ferruginous Hawk	1		11/21/00	Santa Ysabel, SR 78, 1/2 mi W-junction w/SR 79	Hertzfeldt, Charles
Ferruginous Hawk	1	Juv	11/25/00	Santee: N-San Diego R., E-Cuyamaca Rd., over ballfields	Alter, Marian
Ferruginous Hawk	1		11/26/00	Mesa Grande Rd., betw MP 9-9.5	Wallace, Ed
Ferruginous Hawk	1		11/26/00	Mesa Grande Rd., MP 1	Wallace, Ed
Peregrine Falcon	1	Juv/F	11/21/00	Border Field State Park	Johannson, Stefan
Dunlin	2		11/14/00	Lake Hodges, NE part of lake	Hall, Ed
Stilt Sandpiper	1		11/5/00	Lake Hodges, E-end, S-shore, near path	Wallace, Ed
Mew Gull		adult	11/15/00	Cabrillo N. M., ocean cliff side, middle parking lot	Plunket, Tim
Western Gull	1	ad	11/15/00	Cabrillo N. M., ocean cliff side, middle parking lot	Plunket, Tim
Bonaparte's Gull	3	1st winter	11/15/00	Cabrillo N. M., ocean cliff side, middle parking lot	Plunket, Tim
Mourning Dove	400		11/14/00	Anza Borrego Desert SP, SR 79 at S-2	Jorgensen, Paul
Common Ground Dove	3		11/19/00	Bandy Canyon Rd @ SR 78	Aguillard, D.
Short-eared Owl	1		11/4/00	Silverstrand, Delta Beach, N-Fiddler's Cove	Parker, Dennis
Lewis' Woodpecker	1		11/12/00	RIV, Santa Rosa Ecol. Reserve. 1/2 down Coyote Tr., toward adobe	Vaught, Tom
Lewis' Woodpecker	2		11/15/00	Lake Cuyamaca area, trail head at Milk Ranch Rd.	Aklufi, Daniel
Red-naped Sapsucker	1		11/7/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, S-Bennington Monument (in palm trees)	Mathos, Mike
Red-naped Sapsucker	1		11/19/00	Borrego Springs, Roadrunner Club, hole 8	Jorgensen, Paul
Red-naped Sapsucker	2		11/21/00	Santa Ysabel Mission, on SR 79	Hertzfeldt, Charles
Vermilion Flycatcher	1		11/24/00	Lindo Lake Park, NE corner	Osbourn, O.
Vermilion Flycatcher	1	M	11/25/00	Lindo Lake Park, NE corner	Dorman, Tom

COMMON NAME	NO	PLUM	OBS DATE	LOCATION	REPORTER
Vermilion Flycatcher	1	juv	11/26/00	Tijuana R. Vly, on Saturn, S-Leon St., in over grown tomato field	Hertzfeldt, Charles
Cassin's Vireo	1		11/23/00	Dairy Mart Pond, adj to I-5	Aguillard, D.
Plumbeous Vireo	1		11/19/00	Borrego Springs, Roadrunner Club, hole 8	Jorgensen, Paul
Varied Thrush	1		11/1/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, near Bennington Mon.	Osbourn, O.
Mountain Bluebird	100+		11/18/00	Old San Pasqual Road (E-end), just E- Wild Animal Park, Escondido	Walens, Stan
Townsend's Solitaire	1		11/13/00	Cabrillo N. M., Myoporum grove	Adams, D.
Sage Thrasher?	1		11/29/00	Pinyon Mt. Rd., Anza Borrego DSP	Jorgensen, Paul
White-breasted Nuthatch	1		11/12/00	RIV, Santa Rosa Ecol. Reserve	Vaught, Tom
White-breasted Nuthatch	1		11/25/00	Old Mission Dam, short cut trail	Edwards, C.
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2		11/5/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-Bennington Monument, work area	Billings, Mark
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	±	11/10/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-side, near residence	Parker, Dennis
Pine Siskin	8		11/8/00	Mira Mesa, 8981 Libra Drive	Cazin, Bob
Pine Siskin	1		11/10/00	Guajome Regional Park	Hazard, Gjon
Pine Siskin	1	±	11/13/00	Carlsbad residential area	Ramswick, Florence
Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)	1		11/5/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-Bennington Monument, work area	Billings, Mark
Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	1		11/5/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-Bennington Monument, work area	Billings, Mark
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-collared)	1		11/5/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-Bennington Monument, work area	Billings, Mark
Dark-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	1		11/10/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W-side, near Grave Regist. Bldg	Parker, Dennis
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-collared)	1		11/10/00	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W-side, near Grave Regist. Bldg	Parker, Dennis
Savannah Sparrow (Large-billed)	1		11/26/00	Tijuana Estuary, McCoy Trail	Edwards, C.
Black-throated Gray Warbler	1		11/10/00	Guajome Regional Park	Hazard, Gjon
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	M	11/27/00	National City (Doug Aguillard's yard)	Aguillard, D.
Black-and-white Warbler	1	M/1stYr	11/6/00	Pt. Loma Nazarene Univ., Bunny Jones' yard	Johnson, Ginger
Black-and-white Warbler	1		11/29/00	Dairy Mart Pond	Plunket, Tim
Wilson's Warbler	1		11/10/00	Buena Vista Lagoon, S corner, Maxton Brown Park	Hazard, Gjon
*White-collared Seedeater	3	M	11/23/00	Dairy Mart Pond (NW corner)	Aguillard, D.
*Northern Cardinal	1		11/21/00	Dairy Mart Pond (W-most)	Johannson, Stefan
Scott's Oriole	1	M	11/5/00	Smuggler's Gulch, Tijuana R. Vly.	Billings, Mark
Scott's Oriole	1		11/23/00	Tijuana R. Vly, Smuggler's Gulch	Aguillard, D.

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[NUT-BIRD]