The SKIMMER

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SDFO NEWS

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 16, at 7:00 p.m., at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the east end of Tecolote Road, off I-5. Again, if parking is a problem because of softball nearby, the start of the meeting will be delayed until the others leave.

Program: Chris Tratnyek will narrate a "Subantarctic Adventure," sharing with us her recent trip to the subantarctic islands south of New Zealand and Australia. A three-week voyage on a Russian research vessel took over 40 birders to these tiny protected islands. The islands are populated by a multitude of pelagic birds, penguins, and seals.

Next month's program: Thursday, June 20, same time, same place. Our annual election of officers. Additional program to be announced.

Officer Candidates Still Needed

We're still looking for volunteers willing to serve the club in an official capacity as a candidate in our June election. Many of our present officers have been in one position or another for many years now; we could use some fresh viewpoints and energy. If you'd like to help out contact Herb Young or other members of the Nominating Committee.

FROM THE BWD NEWSWIRE

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/pages/newswire

Compiled by Rick Blom

I Told You Never to Call Me Here!

Over the past year or two there have been a few stories about birds that have learned to imitate the ringing beeps of cell phones. The latest example comes from Australia, where several groups of birds are mimics. The incident happened in a national park near Brisbane while a group of bird watchers were watching a Satin Bowerbird as it was vocalizing. As part of its repertoire the bird threw in a cell phone ring, and the majority of the watchers immediately dug into pockets and bags to see if the call was for them. The note originally appeared in *Discover* and was summarized in *More From Loess,* the newsletter of the Loess Hills Audubon Society.

You Light Up My Life

Parrots are the only birds that are known to have feathers that fluoresce, that is they absorb ultraviolet light and emit it at a different wavelength. The feathers with this capacity are limited to those that are used in courtship displays. Tests revealed that among Budgerigars, males and females preferred mates that had high fluorescence. The birds appeared, however, to ignore fluorescence when choosing companions of the same sex. The results of the study were published in *Science.*

Real Predation/Virtual Evolution?

Recent research at the University of Nebraska has provided some support for the theory that predation pressure may be in part responsible for the significant variability seen in the appearance of some insects. The researchers, Alan Bond and Alan Kamil, used real Blue Jays and "virtual" moths in their project. They periodically presented the captive jays with computer generated images of moths in situations in which their markings made them hard to see. If a jay recognized or "approached" one of the moths it was considered to be the victim of predation. After each "generation" of moths had been either "predated" or "survived," a computer genomic program created a new generation of moths from the survivors. Over a hundred "generations" the moths became both more cryptically colored and more variable.

The researchers speculate that the increasing variability may result directly from the pressure of predation, even when the variation does not increase the cryptic value of the moth's appearance. The reason is that the jays apparently developed a search image for moths of a certain appearance and were less successful at finding moths that were patterned differently. The reason for that may be that it is too complicated for the jays to have multiple search images, because that would reduce hunting efficiency. While it is impossible to account for every variable encountered by moths and jays in the real world, the research provides support for a theory that has been around, but virtually untested, for slightly more than 100 years. The study was published in the journal *Nature.*

SAN DIEGO RARE BIRD ALERT REPORT, APRIL 2002

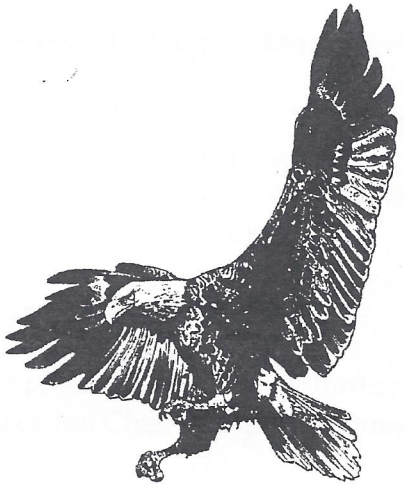
Compiled by Mike Evans

For additional reports, see the full listing at
http://homepage.mac.com/aves/SanDiego.html

COMMON NAME	NO	PLUM	Date	LOCATION	REPORTER
Masked Booby	1		4/7/02	Pacific Ocean, near Los Coronados Islands	Smith, Gary
Brown Booby	1	Ad	4/7/02	Pacific Ocean, near Los Coronados Islands	Smith, Gary
Reddish Egret	1	Juv?	4/2/02	San Diego River Floodway, near Robb Field park	Billings, Mark
Reddish Egret	1	2nd Yr?	4/13/02	San Diego River Floodway, opposite Sea World	Eisner, Al
Reddish Egret	1		4/14/02	Santa Margarita River mouth, Camp Pendleton	Foster, Brian
Reddish Egret	1		4/28/02	Famosa Slough, W of Point Loma Blvd.	Mulrooney, B.
Ross's Goose	1		4/9/02	Santee Lakes, Santee	Hastings, M.
Swainson's Hawk	3		4/4/02	Carlsbad, Palomar Airport Rd.	Martin, John A.
Swainson's Hawk	1		4/6/02	Carlsbad, SE corner Palomar Airport Rd. & El Camino Real	Martin, John A.
Swainson's Hawk	3		4/10/02	Carlsbad, SE corner Palomar Airport Rd. & El Camino Real	Martin, John A.
Swainson's Hawk	10		4/15/02	Carlsbad, SE corner Palomar Airport Rd. & El Camino Real	Fox, Edward
Swainson's Hawk	1		4/21/02	Warner Valley, S of Warner Hot Springs	Hazard, G.
Zone-tailed Hawk	1		4/12/02	Spring Valley private yard (M. Hastings), toward Dictionary Hill	Hastings, M.
Solitary Sandpiper	1		4/14/02	Borrego Valley, waste water ponds	Eisner, Al
Black Oystercatcher	1		4/7/02	Pacific Ocean, near Los Coronados Islands	Smith, Gary
Black Oystercatcher	1		4/13/02	Imperial Beach, N along ocean, @ Camp Surf, flying	Stands, Todd
American Oystercatcher?	1		4/13/02	Imperial Beach, N along ocean, @ Camp Surf, flying	Stands, Todd
*Rose-ringed Parakeet?	1		4/21/02	Ocean Beach, Sunset Cliffs & Voltaire vicinity	Martin, John A.

Calliope Hummingbird	1	F	4/2,6,8/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side, below caretaker's residence	Worley, J.. McCaskie, G.
Calliope Hummingbird	1		4/8,10/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E-side, near Committal Center	Worley, J., Ginsburg, P.
Calliope Hummingbird	4	2M, 2F	4/10/02	Point Loma Nazarene University	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/13,14/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., E trail betw. kindergarten & parking structure	Worley, J., Smith, S.
Calliope Hummingbird	2	M	4/14/02	Ft Rosecrans NC, E side, near Committal Center, Sec. D	Smith, Sue
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/15/02	Cabrillo NM, Myoporum grove, dripping faucet	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	4	2M, 2F	4/15/02	Ft Rosecrans NC, E side	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	2	M+F	4/15/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., E trail betw. kindergarten & parking structure	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/16/02	Carlsbad, coastal back yard	Ramswick, Blanche
Calliope Hummingbird	2	M+F	4/18/02	Ft Rosecrans NC, E side, near Committal Center, Sec D	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/18/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., E trail betw. kindergarten & parking structure	Ginsburg, P.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/18/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., near gardener's shed	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	F	4/19/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side, below caretaker's residence	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M-preAlt	4/19/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side, near Committal Center	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/19/02	Tamarisk Grove, Anza–Borrego Desert State Park	Theriault, R.
Calliope Hummingbird	1		4/20/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E -side, southern area	Trissel, Rich
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M-preAlt	4/20/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., E trail betw. kindergarten & parking structure	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	2	M+M preAlt	4/20/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ., near gardener's shed	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	F	4/21/02	Borrego Valley, waste water ponds	Hazard, G.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/21/02	Cabrillo National Monument, near Visitor's Center	Smith, Sue
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/21/02	Point Loma Nazarene University, near entrance?	Billings, Mark
Calliope Hummingbird	2	M-subad	4/24/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, committal center	Worley, Joe
Calliope Hummingbird	3	2subM, 1AdF	4/24/02	Robb Field, near San Diego River Floodway	Worley, Joe
Calliope Hummingbird	1		4/30/02	Ft Rosecrans NC	Worley, J.
Calliope Hummingbird	1	M	4/30/02	Hillcrest private back yard	Evans, Michael

Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1	Alt	4/21/02	Greenwood Memorial Cemetery	Lubin, Mike, Grantham, Gary
*Green Jay	1		4/18/02	Cabrillo NM, near Visitor's Center	Ginsburg, P.
Varied Thrush	1	M	4/3/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, W of Graves Reg. Building	Worley, J.
Curve-billed Thrasher	1		4/29/02	Otay Mesa, 8075 Siempre Viva Rd.	Unitt, Philip
*Black Bulbul	1		4/23/02	Cabrillo National Monument	Conway, Virginia
White-throated Sparrow	2		4/2,14,17,19-21,30/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side	Worley, J., Several other birders
Lucy's Warbler	1		4/22/02	Borrego Valley, Borrego Sink, from N end Yaqui Pass Rd.	Hastings, M.
Northern Parula	1	M	4/14/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side, near Committal Center, Sec. D	Furseth, Dave
Grace's Warbler	1	F	4/21/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, pine in W loop, then to E	Smith, Sue
Pine Warbler	1	M	4/4/02	Point Loma Nazarene Univ. area, E edge of campus, halfway betw Loma-land Dr. & Dupont St.	Johnson, Ginger
Palm Warbler	1	Alt	4/21/02	Greenwood Memorial Cemetery, E side, further N, along road	Lubin, Mike
Black-and-white Warbler	1	F	4/29/02	San Elijo Lagoon, trail, E, N end of Rios Ave.	Patton, R. T.
Summer Tanager	1	M molting	4/10/02	Hillcrest private back yard	Evans, Michael
Baltimore Oriole	1	M	4/8,9/02	Pt. Loma Nazarene University, behind kindergarten, in eucalyptus	Madia, Connie, Worley, J.
Orchard Oriole	1		4/7/02	Ft. Rosecrans NC, E side, near Committal Center	Worley, J.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1		4/14,21/02	Borrego Valley, waste water ponds	Eisner, Al, Hazard, G.
Tricolored Blackbird	13		4/26/02	Anza Borrego DSP, Coyote Canyon	Jorgensen, P.



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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 (858) 279-5636.

Rare Bird Hotline
(619) 688-2473
[NUT-BIRD]

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