

# torreyana

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Sunny Rankin, Editor

NEXT DOCENT MEETING - Saturday morning, August 20, 9:00 A.M.

Dr. J.K. Victoria will present Bird Adaptations. This program should be of great interest to Docents. Dr. Victoria comes to us from the San Diego Natural History Museum where some of our Docents have recently taken her course, Basic Birding.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### Editor's Notes



California is burning - No one need tell a Californian that the fire season has been raging all year long and that it is no laughing matter. Just read a newspaper or tune in your habit channel. As of this writing, well over 182,800 acres have been blackened in Northern California.

Ranger Leroy Ross is very concerned about smoking in the Reserve. Rangers cannot be everywhere at once. Generally speaking, as Docents, our job is not one of visitor confrontation. But would you allow a visitor to proceed with smoking even though you felt your authority might be challenged? In effect we are extensions of the ranger staff--we are aiding them with our numbers spread throughout the Reserve. We can be the eyes, ears, and lips that could save our vulnerable Torreys! Do Speak Up!

Welcome to new associate Docent Keith Radford. Keith was introduced to Docent work at T.P. by Docent Sue Mills. Keith is a biology teacher at Mesa College. Glad to have you, Keith.

Colina Roll writes that she is now working in Sequoia National Park and though unable to contribute at T.P. is liking her new work in that beautiful area.

Museum attendance goes on the Interpretative Program Record in the last column. Circle total attendance in the last column. The old binder has been eliminated.

Hand Counter Needed - who will find one for purchase?

Correction - Mat's large triptych which was donated to the City of San Diego measures 90" x 40" not 4' x 15" and is entitled "Then Shall the Trees Sing Out"--not sign out as Torreyana erroneously indicated in June issue. Sorry about that, Mat--good typists are hard to find. Fortunately, Mat has a sense of humor--he says that he hopes the trees in the Reserve would never "sign out."

Speaking of Mr. MATsumoto, Mat tells us that he has been and will continue to be sketching trees of the Guy Fleming Trail. Some of these will become drawings for a one-man show at Earth Song Book Shop in Del Mar this coming December. He also hopes to publish a series of new cards of some of these drawings in the fall. If you run across Mat on the G.F. Trail, be sure to introduce yourself.

Sales Manager - Rowdy James is to be commended for work well done!

Jeff Bright - Congratulations are in order for Jell (former Docent) who now enjoys the title State Park Technician--two more years and he will be a full-fledged Ranger.

Fall Slide Exhibit - Start taking photos for an exhibit this fall. There will be room for all, professional and amateur alike. Reserve subject, of course!!

Films - Marc Cimolino says our film committee has collapsed. If you are unhappy about some of our films, only voicing your opinion can help to change the situation.

#### FROM PRESIDENT BARBER'S FILE

Associates, your check-off lists are your passport into the world of docentry and your car pass into the Reserve. There are several reasons for issuing these for a limited period of time. Most of them will expire at the end of August.

We need you as Docents and we hope that you can finish the lists this month. If you need more time, please drop us a note this month indicating how much more time you need. Check the Docent mail box for your approved extension. Some of you we haven't seen since March and we need an indication from all associates of their continued interest.

We are told that the check-off list is easy, except for the 20 minute walk. Please note that the Docent can choose the route and the time and the group can be small. Read Torrey Trail Topics for the feelings of elation recorded by Docents on their first walk.

Don't forget check-in procedure:

1. Check for mail
2. Check off name on schedule
3. Read bulletin board
4. Wear your badge

#### Book Notes

Those of you who enjoyed Jonathan Livingston Seagull will want to read Illusions also by Richard Bach. You may find a copy on the Docent discount shelf. It's a thought-provoking book.

While on the subject of animal stories, someone should mention Watership Down, a great yarn about rabbits and how to succeed through pure, blind luck. There's hope for all of us.

For those who like more factual reading, Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia is in 13 big, beautifully illustrated volumes. See your public library; Escondido, for example, has them.

How're we doing?

Our dependability percentage for July was 89 percent. We filled 73 of 82 time slots. There were two unassigned slots and seven no-shows. Our goal is 95 percent. Looking positively, 73 positions filled is probably our best performance ever.

Poetry

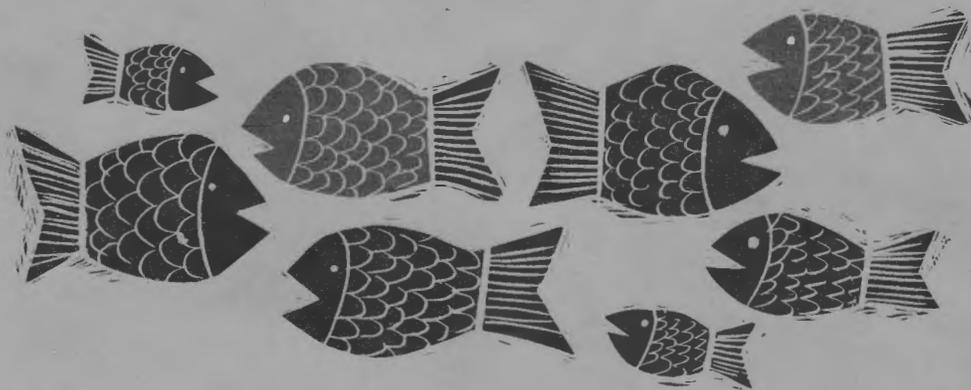
What is life if, full of care,  
we have no time to stand and stare? ...who knows the next verse?

Congratulations to Sunny Rankin who has been promoted to Senior Editor at twice the pay. (Gene, what will my tax man think!!! ed.)

Youth Conservation Corps - Synopsis - Ranger Anderson

The 1977 summer YCC program at Torrey Pines State Reserve comes to an end on Friday, August 19. The 48 15 to 18-year-olds will have then completed invaluable environmentally related work projects. These projects include construction of five more gabion dams in the extension using about 200 tons of rock, making a new quarter-mile trail through the newly acquired parcel adjoining the DAR Trail, improving the badly eroded emergency road at the end of Mar Scenic Drive, constructing and installing five benches in scenic areas of the Reserve, constructing and installing numbered posts for the teacher-guided Margaret Fleming Teaching Trail, removal of non-native vegetation, constructing benches at the San Elijo campfire center and installing numerous erosion control devices on Reserve trails.

In addition to the fine work completed, the crew members have the opportunity to earn some money during the summer and to become more aware of their environment through this program.



Consider the Feather

To the best of our knowledge, the feather evolved from the reptile's scale some time during the Jurassic period, 155 million years ago, though we still do not know how. All birds have feathers, but no other kind of animal has them.

There are five kinds of feather--vaned, down, semiplume, filoplume, and powder down. Vaned feathers shape and protect the bird and provide for flight. Down feathers provide insulation. Only certain birds, such as herons, have powder down feathers that disintegrate into a talc-like powder when the birds preen themselves, and help waterproof the other feathers.

A typical vaned feather, like the wing feather of a goose, has a central shaft and two webs of flat, stiff barbs. Each barb is hooked to the one next to it by barbules. A single barb on a goose feather may have 500 barbules on each side of each barb, more than a million barbules or "hooks" on each feather. If a feather is distorted in flight or accidentally has its vane torn open, the bird can relock (zipper fashion) the barbules by drawing the feathers through its beak.

Weight for weight, the feather is stronger than any man-made substitute. As insulation, the down feathers are so effective that birds can live in parts of the Antarctic too cold for any other animal to endure. Light as they are, feathers do have appreciable weight. The vaned feathers alone of a bald eagle weigh twice as much as the bird's entire skeleton.



Ode to a fallen hummingbird

Have you ever had a hummer

What a bummer!

I couldn't have felt glummer!

hit your wind  
ow?

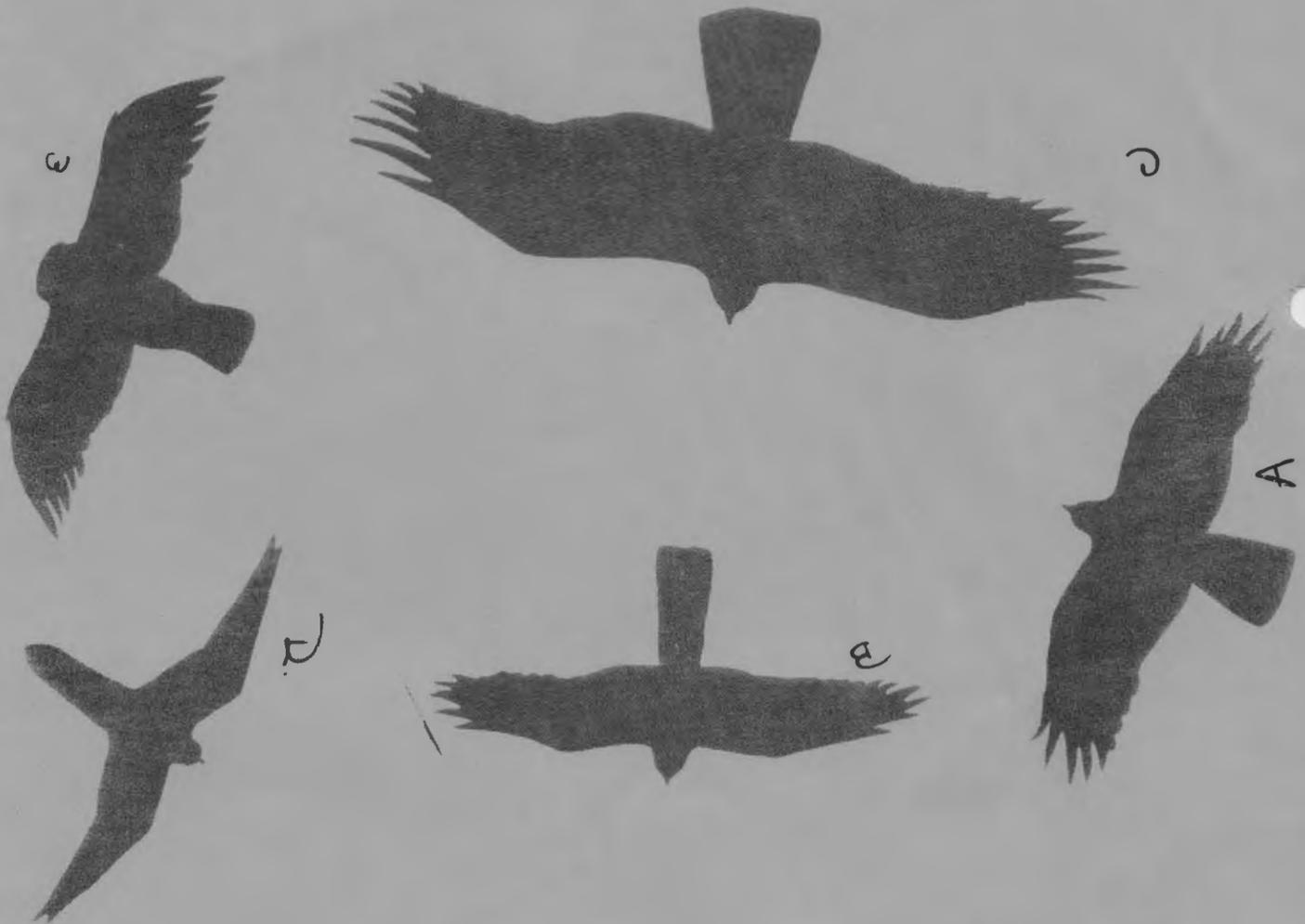
Poor hummer--couldn't have been dumber

--or number



Ms. Emily D. Rankinson (1977)

- A. BUTEOS - Ferruginous Hawk, red-tailed hawk. Characteristics: large and broad-winged, with rounded tails; soars in continual circles.
  - B. HARRIERS - Marsh hawk. Characteristics: slender, with long, pointed tail, and wings; often flies close to the ground to hunt for food.
  - C. EAGLES - Golden eagle. Characteristics: large (up to 14 pounds) with broad, rounded wings; a solitary hunter that soars in high circles.
  - D. FALCONS - Prairie falcon, kestrel. Characteristics: streamlined with long, pointed wings and tail; extremely fast fliers; rarely soar.
  - E. OWLS - great-horned owl, barn owl, burrowing owl, screech owl, short-eared owl, long-eared owl. Characteristics: nocturnal, large-headed predators with fluttery, moth-like flight.
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Can you identify the birds of prey groups below? Look carefully at tail shape, wings, body size--bet you get 100 percent.