



TORREYANA

Published for members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #71, Feb., 1982

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: February 20th, 9:00 A.M., Visitor Center

Following an extended business meeting, slides of whales from the recent whale trip to Coronado Islands will be shown. Everyone who was there is requested to bring best slides for "Show and Share". Bird pictures taken by Bill Brothers on his visit to Scammon's Lagoon will also be shown.

At the annual meeting on Saturday, February 20th, the general election of officers for the Torrey Pines Docent Society for 1982 will occur. The nominating committee, formed in January, is asking for your recommendations for Docents to serve on the Executive Board. Anyone who was not reached by phone and who wishes to serve on the board, please contact Isabel Buechler, who is Chairperson of the nominating committee. Phone: 222-7016.

At the coming election, offices to be filled are as follows: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees must provide their consent either by writing or by being present to accept verbally a nomination at the annual election meeting. Please remember that only full voting members are qualified to vote and to hold office. This means members who have paid their dues for 1982 and completed all prescribed training requirements for full membership, according to the by-laws of T.P.D.S.

The following information describes the duties of the Executive Board: President- Presides over monthly meetings and special Board meetings. Vice-President- Conducts meetings in absence of President, assists President by coordinating monthly meetings and training program for new members. Secretary- Records minutes of monthly meetings and Board meetings and keeps a record on file, keeps on file a record of applications for membership and a current membership list. Treasurer- Keeps a current record of the organization's finances (dues, donations, expenditures, monthly bank statement) and upon authorization from the Exec. Board may sign checks to meet the expenses of the Society. Gives monthly report.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE



VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

ELECTION NEWS (continued from page 1)

Please help us keep the Docent Society alive and interesting for everyone. Won't you please share in the work? That means giving your full support- doing monthly duty, serving on the Board, or assisting in other capacities. Presently serving on the Board are: President- Judy Schulman, Vice President- Bill Brothers, Secretary- Julie Marine, Treasurer- Mary Miller, Torreyana Editor- Millicent Horger, Sales-Coordinator- Rowdy James, Duty Coordinator and Librarian- Ruth Hand. The position of Executive Secretary is held by the Ranger in charge of Docent Activities- Bob Wohl.

We hope to see a large turn-out of Docents at the Feb. Meeting.

- Submitted by Julie Marine



News & Notes

STATE MONIES AVAILABLE SOON!

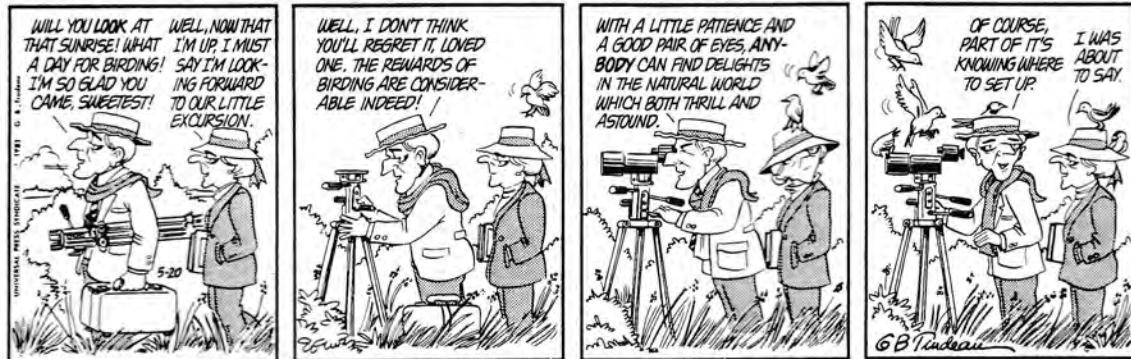
Let's rekindle interest in the Visitor Center improvements. Money is definitely coming in from the state for the renovation project. It's time for all committees to get busy! Everyone's help is needed! Check with Bill Brothers if you have not already signed up.

DUES NOW OVERDUE!

This will be your final reminder to pay your dues. Same bargain as last year: Regular membership- \$3.00, Supporting membership- \$10.00. The new membership list will appear in the next issue of *Torreyana*. Contact the editor if you should object to having your name, address and phone number in print.

GOOD NEWS!

Thanks to all of the Docents who signed the petition, the handsome wooden sign designating the Guy Fleming Trail will be re-instated. It pays to protest for a good cause!



PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON BIRD WALK

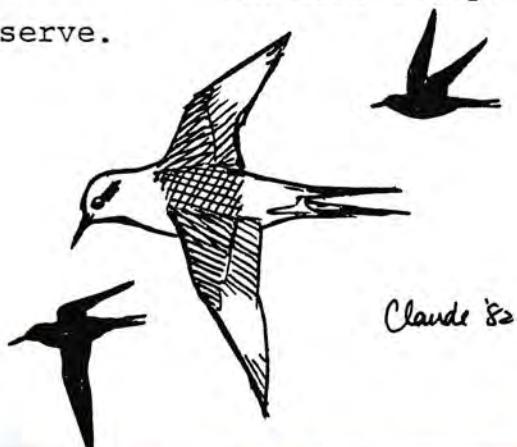
On Saturday, January 16, a group of about fifteen people went out to observe and enjoy the birds they encountered on Peñasquitos Lagoon and the ocean beach. Claude Edwards, an experienced Ornithologist and birder in the San Diego area, was the leader, and he gave a group of the Torrey Pine docents an enthusiastic guided tour of the birds they saw.

The sun shone brightly through hazy skies while a light breeze blew in from the north, and as many as fifty-five species were seen or heard by Claude as he pointed out and discussed the various kinds of ducks, hawks, gulls, and other birds.

Among the more memorable was an adult Red-shouldered Hawk that sat regally atop a TV antenna, providing all with good looks at its rusty shoulders, brownish head, and distinctive checkered black and white wings. Other interesting birds included several Forster's Terns that gracefully flew back and forth over the lagoon, occasionally hovering and then dropping into the water, in hopes of surfacing with a minnow-snack! A few Great Blue Herons were well-seen, they were large enough to be seen even from a distance. They stood tall and waited patiently for a passing fish to thrust its pointed bill at.

Down along the beach there were several dead seabirds that were washed up by the waves. Claude pointed out features such as webbed feet, tubed nostrils, white wing-patches, and how their bodies were adapted to the life they led over the ocean or along the shore. A small group of Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers were fun to watch as they tried to hide in the sand, camouflaged by their subtle plumage of soft browns.

Everyone seemed to have such a good time, and we all wished we could retain more of what Mr. Edwards had told us. It is good to get a little bit of information on which to add with more study, of not only birds, but all facets of the Reserve.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S
GRANDDAUGHTER (on board
the "Cat Special", 1-23-'82)
By Kelley Shaw - Age 9 yrs.

2 males and one
female whales mate
3 whales
seals a hole school
dolphins
playing, three
gray whales
mating
one male is
holding her up
and the other male
is mating
with her. and
one herman
gull there. gray
whales 3

they have
mating for
a half an
hour you
only see it
once in a life
time. there at
it again. they went
down but there
still out there.
there up again.

by Kelley

Judy's Gentle

Congglomerations of Thought

Well, this month's "Judy's Gentle Congglomerations of Thought" is more like "Judy's Not-So-Gentle Congglomerations of Letters". In other words, this month's message is a game commonly known as a word search. I have, hopefully, well hidden 12 plant names. But that's O.K. Often as docents we have to search for the whereabouts of a plant that we are interested in finding. Think of this as an exercise in sharpening your awareness skills.

C	Q	W	B	U	C	K	W	H	E	A	T	Y	U	I
A	S	D	F	T	U	J	M	S	U	M	A	C	M	N
C	Z	X	I	N	O	D	E	W	U	H	N	G	P	O
T	Y	F	R	T	J	Y	D	R	W	R	T	G	U	H
U	U	R	E	C	V	B	O	Q	A	Z	W	R	I	O
S	S	X	F	N	B	G	R	N	T	G	H	E	V	S
P	L	O	K	M	N	N	J	I	U	H	B	A	Z	P
Y	G	T	O	R	R	E	Y	P	I	N	E	S	D	I
P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	L	O	F	D	I	E	A	C
C	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	P	J	K	L	W	M	E
E	H	A	S	S	D	F	G	P	H	J	K	O	L	B
N	O	O	W	E	A	C	R	Y	N	E	D	O	S	U
F	N	Y	L	A	S	G	A	W	S	E	D	D	F	S
Z	S	X	D	L	N	Z	E	C	F	V	G	B	H	H
S	E	A	X	D	A	H	L	I	A	R	Y	I	P	F

HOOOO WAS THAT BIRD? by

Hank Nicol

I was leading a group of senior citizens along the path from Razor Point to Yucca Point. While I was waiting for stragglers, a few of the faster people went on ahead. When I caught up they were talking about an owl. I looked down into the ravine, and, sure enough, there was an owl. It was an odd looking bird. It was a big one, but it wasn't a great horned owl. It had very long ears and looked like an owl in profile, but head on? It didn't have the flat face I associate with owls. If I had to give it a name, I would call it a "hatchet faced owl". I thought of a great horned owl that had been run over by a truck. I watched it for quite awhile with and without binoculars. I never saw a blink or a twitch. Neither did anyone else.

The owl was only about 25 feet away. I wanted to go over and see the tag that said, "Made in Hong Kong". I more than half thought that somebody was pulling the old plastic owl gag. I tossed a pebble; missed by a foot. I tossed another. Now I was really convinced that we were looking at an ersatz bird. I threw a bigger rock. It hit the branch right under the owl. It was no fake. As it flew away I could see that it had a tremendous wing span. Its wings were almost as long as those of a great horned owl even though the bird looked much smaller when it had been sitting.

When I got back to the office I looked in the bird books. It couldn't have been anything other than a long-eared owl, but none of the pictures in any of the books looked as narrow in the face. Peterson was closest. One of the books said that long-eared owls make cat like sounds as well as a low, moaning hooooo. Interesting. I didn't hear either hoots or meows, but then it was just past high noon. Another book said that a long-eared owl will "freeze" near a tree trunk. There were no trees anywhere about, but the bird surely was frizz until the dumb Naturalist chucked a rock at it.



Hooo ?

Hank

Book Report

by Stanley Geller



THE OVERLOADED ARK by Gerald M. Durrell

The Overloaded Ark is a true story about two men who, totally unfamiliar with life in the wild, are sent on a three month journey into the heart of Africa. The purpose of their assignment is to capture wild animals and have them delivered via ship to England.

Mr. Durrell finds two able-bodied natives, Elias and Andraia, who guide him through the untamed wilderness. The natives teach him the art of tracking and capturing "wild beef". To his disappointment, Durrell finds out just how difficult it is to keep wild animals alive in captivity. One such rare beast, Ogilby's Duiker (antelope found only in Africa), refuses to be fed, despite the combined efforts of the men. She slowly grows weak and dies.

While on the journey, Durrell and company are attacked by a winding column of Driver Ants. The men quickly build a ring of fire which surrounds the animal compound and keeps the killer ants away.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this adventure filled book. It is written in descriptive language and gives the reader a close look at life in the rain forests of "Darkest Africa".

LOVEJOY'S DIM VIEW OF BIRD WATCHING

From The Judas Pair, mystery novel by Jonathan Gash

I was frankly disappointed with the bird sanctuaries, not that I knew what to expect. Quite a few cars were around when I drove up to Cley. A few folks, Rommelized by great binoculars and businesslike weatherproof hats, stood all forlorn in attitudes of endeavor staring toward acres of desolate muddy stuff where nothing was happening. Occasionally they murmured to each other and peered eastward. Perhaps they placed bets among themselves to make it interesting. As well as being disappointed I was puzzled. I've nothing against birds, feathered or not, but once you've seen one sparrow you've seen the lot, haven't you? Occasionally, one particular one might become sort of family just by sheer persistence, like some around the cottage. That's different. Unless you know them specifically it's a waste of time, like people. I asked one bloke what they were all looking at.

"Oyster catchers," he said. I stared about, but there wasn't a boat in sight.

"Oh," I replied, and honestly that was it.

There were no stalls, cafes, not even a fish-and-chip shop. As a resort it was a dead duck, if you'll pardon the expression. I talked the Armstrong into life and we creaked away on ye olde greate mysterie trail. I had more birds in my garden than they had on all that mud. I was frozen stiff.

Poetry Corner

TORREY-Land

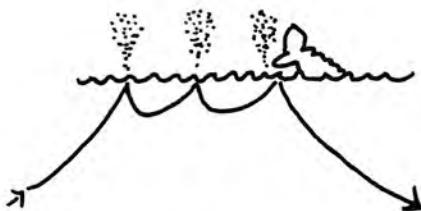
Spring has sprung in Torrey-land
and this is how I know,
'cause all the birds sing loud and clear
most everywhere I go.
They sing their varied melodies
from every bush and briar,
and if they cannot find a perch
they'll sit atop a wire!

How wonderful this time of year
when blossoms bloom and flourish,
the herbs and grass how green they grow
for deer and squirrels to nourish.
The rains they come and winds do blow
the trees to sway in rhythm,
their heavy limbs and branches grow
on upwards towards the heavens.

The ocean waves crash 'round you
in roaring torrents strong,
to wash and shift the beaches there
throughout the season long.
Come sunny days or cloudy
they march forever shoreward,
and out beyond the crashing surf
great whales move slowly homeward.

A masterpiece is what we hold
of Nature's bounty and might,
to meet afresh each passing day
of all within our sight.
And on to other seasons
which make another year,
we work with smiling faces
in our Torrey-land so dear!

- By Claude Edwards



3 blows at half minute intervals, then
deep dive for three to five minutes

TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
 PRESIDENT- Judy Schulman
 Deadline for Torreyana copy
 the 25th of each month.
 Send contributions to:
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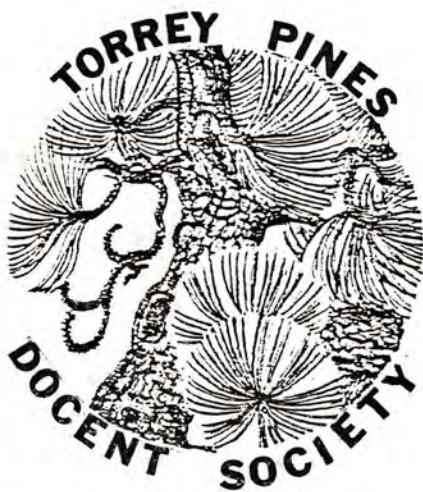
Whale Trip P.S.

The mating behavior of the gray whales, only a few yards from the boat, he has witnessed only twice in his 15 years experience as narrator on the whale watching boats, said Bob Wisner of the Cetacean Society! Wern't we fortunate to be on this particular trip? An unforgettable, beautiful day.

Among the many mammals and birds Bob pointed out were: kittiwake gulls, oyster catchers, surf scooters (skunk heads), fulmar, pelicans, cormorants, elephant seals with calves (on the islands' rocky shores), sea lions and seals. And a huge school of dolphins on every side, no matter which way you looked, leaping and swimming under the boat.

m.H.

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 Carlsbad, Ca. 92008



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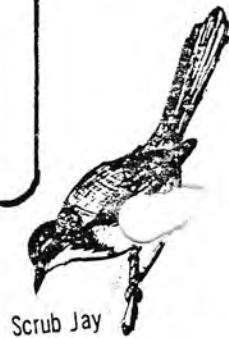
File Copy
 Keep in Library

Big George!

Virgil Partch



"If you've seen one bird watcher, you've seen 'em all."



Scrub Jay