

TORREYANA

Published for Members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, #103, Jan., 1987 4

NEXT DOCENT MEETING: January 21st (Saturday) 9:00 A.M.

Bring your binoculars and bird books to the North Beach parking lot for our January meeting. Here we shall discuss and identify shore and marsh birds and ducks. Readup on terns, gulls, coots, herons, egrets, willets, plovers, cormorants, kingfishers, and marsh hawks.

There will be a Board meeting following the regular meeting.



Our whale watching trip will depart January 15 at 8:00 a.m. SHARP from fisherman's landing, 2838 Garrison Street, aboard the Bold Contender. Bring appropriate clothing for all types of weather. The galley will be open or bring a sack lunch. Remember cameras, binoculars, and plenty of film. The boat will return around 4:00 p.m. There are still spaces available.

Directions: Take Rosecrans out towards Point Loma and turn left onto Garrison Street (5 blocks southwest of Nimitz Blvd.).

Please send checks, payable to Torrey Pines Docent Society, at \$25.00 per person to Bill Brothers, 6587 Eldridge St. San Diego, CA 92120 286-7085

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES!! (due in January!)
Send your check to Rowdy James, P.O. Box 509, Del Mar, 92014, if you wish to remain on our mailing list.

Regular dues: \$3.00, Supporting Membership: \$10



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SANTA (JULIE) THANKS 27 HELPFUL ELVES

"My sincere thanks go to 27 people who helped in some special way with the Christmas party. The staff really worked hard on Friday sweeping and cleaning inside and out, and toting the picnic tables up for us. Thanks to Steve Woods, Hank Nicol and Yvette DeView. Docents who helped set up the tables were Janet Humphreys, Ruth Hand, Rowdy and Jo James. Clean-up crew included June Warburton, Janet, Judy Schulman, Ruth and Yvette. The piñatas were donated by Ruth and by Judy and Charles Morrow.

A grand total of 60 folks came to the party- children, staff(all of the current members and some who used to work here), docents, friends and families. Thanks to all who brought special food items, to Judy and Tom Carlstrom for the music, and to Judy Schulman for the calendar-book mark favors."

Julie

JULIE MARINE'S MEXICAN CHOCOLATE (ROM-PO-PÉ)

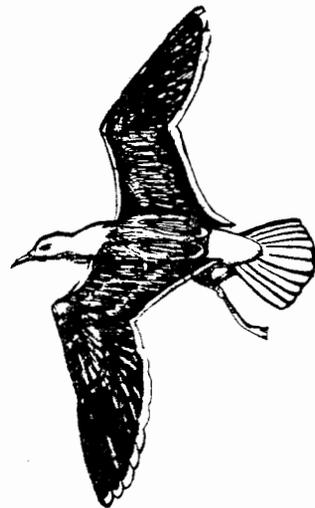
1 gallon regular milk
1 quart egg-nog
5 eggs, whip separately (large bowl)
2 tsp. vanilla
3 to 4 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg + pinch salt
8 Tbs. sugar
15 rounded Tbs. cocoa
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cloves

Simmer milk & egg-nog, cool slightly & skim. Whip half sugar with egg whites & half sugar with yolks. Add choc. & spices to milk. Take a cup at a time of hot milk & add slowly to egg yolks while beating, or use low speed on mixer. Do the same to the whites. Now add another cup to each. Continue back and forth, then put in a container. Keep warm. Add more chocolate if needed. (Can use Mexican chocolate.)
Recipe makes 25-30 cups.



Quiz

Identify all of the birds pictured in this issue of the Torreyana.



FOURTEEN SEEDS.....SEE HOW THEY GROW by HANK NICOL

There's a small grove of Santa Rosa Island type Torrey pines growing on the grounds of the La Jolla Cancer Research place across the road from the golf course. Apparently it was planted by Guy Fleming as an experiment. The experiment prospered. The trees are now various sizes of full grown. They are a bit crowded and are surrounded closely by mainland type Torrey pines.

Dr. Bob Haller of U. C. Santa Barbara is a scholar with a deep interest in Torrey pines. He called me about a plan the cancer research people have to extend one of their buildings. They are going to attempt to move some of these trees. Torrey pines have a root system which is, shall we say, "extensive"? I'm sure that they can transplant these trees. I'm not very sure that any of them will survive. Anyway, Dr. Haller's call spurred me to go over and snitch some seeds from the island type pines.

One morning Intern Jim Bittner and I went over with a minimal tool kit. We had a short painter's ladder, one pair of pruning shears and a pair of loppers. We spotted one cone within reach. I climbed up on the ladder and snipped it off. It was beautiful, but it had only one seed in it. We saw some cones higher up. Jim is young and strong. I suggested that he climb up and get them. He suggested a warm place where I could go. We found a few more which were just out of reach. I went back to the truck and got my old reliable tool, the dog catching noose. If I can catch sea lions, pelicans and rattlesnakes, pine cones should be easy. They are. Altogether we collected five cones from the trees and found three on the ground. I started prying the cones apart with a screwdriver. Jim is tough. He used his bare hands. We tossed out all the seeds with obvious defects and ended up with a large handful. I found an aluminum can. I haggled the top off with my pocket knife. I filled the can with water for the real test. Most of the seeds were floaters, hollow. Jim found one more seed caught in his coat. That saved us the curse of having 13 seeds. I stratified the 14 seeds and put them in the refrigerator to break their dormancy. We shall see.....

Dr. Haller believes that the Santa Rosa Island Torrey pines should be classified as a separate subspecies. On appearance alone he has a good case. The cones of the island trees are shorter and rounder. They aren't as round as balls, but some of them are as round as coconuts. The bark is in big plates, and the trees are shorter and have much denser foliage. They are better shade trees than the mainland pines. Horticulturalists who know the difference much prefer the island trees for landscaping.

Dr. Haller had mentioned that, on the several trips he had made to Santa Rosa Island, he had noticed that the Torrey pines seemed very prolific. There were clusters of cones in the trees and piles of cones on the ground. This was not the way of the island type trees growing on the mainland surrounded by local pines. One of the reasons I wanted the seeds was to try to grow a natural cross. What would a hybrid Torrey pine look like? There was a very good chance that pollen from the mainland pines had gotten to the conelets of the island trees. Yet here was a scarcity of cones that made me think, in my unscientific way, that Dr. Haller is right. Maybe the two types of trees are so different that they can't, or won't, cross pollinate. Maybe the genetic tests that show only a two percent

FOURTEEN SEEDS.....SEE HOW THEY GROW (continued)

variation between the two populations don't begin to tell the story. Maybe I will go back to my distant and unpronounceable home and think about it.

Hank



by Judy Schulman

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE! Now, did we have a Christmas party or did we have a Christmas party? For those of you who did not attend, you'd better put it on your calendar for next year. It's a docent event that you don't want to miss. Our party was such a success due to the efforts of many people. I would like to thank Julie Marine for being in charge of coordinating Lodge decoration and food preparation AND especially for making all those delicious tamales.

CONGRATULATIONS to Isabel Buechler on becoming "Docent-of-the-Year". The plaque is awarded on the basis of the number of duties served and extracurricular service to the organization, among which were her work on the wildflower maps, help with the Torreyana and hostess duties.

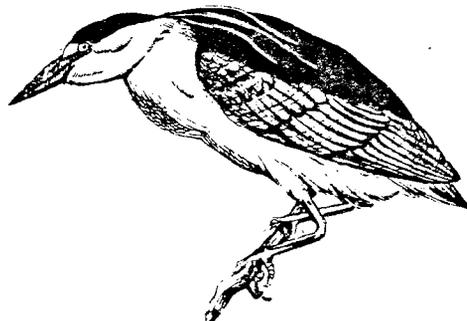
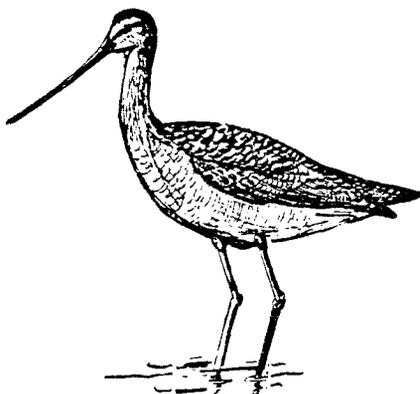
Several certificates of recognition were handed out. The docents who received these were: Carolyn Anderson (Creativity-Museum Displays), Judy Carlstrom (Most Enthusiasm), Ruth Cheney (for being Chairwoman of the Board-- Bulletin, that is), Glenn Dunham (Most Helpful), Rowdy James (Sales Management), Mary Miller (Financial Consulting) and June Warburton (Creativity- Art and Writing).

Certificates of recognition were also given to docents with the most hours of duty served. These recipients were Isabel Buechler, Judy Carlstrom, Ruth Cheney, Glenn Dunham, Julie Marine, Elizabeth Nicoloff and June Warburton.

Finally, my thanks to the other members of the Board of Directors for the lovely poinsettias and, especially, for the sentiment conveyed with them.

Happy Holidays,

Judy



ANIMAL TALK

Spotted Sandpiper (Actitis Macularia)

It's such fun to walk on the beach and watch the little Sandpipers as they run along the shoreline on stilted legs, searching for insects and crustaceans. With their agility and pointed bills, these birds have no problem catching their food. Insects compromise the bulk of their diets, but they also eat worms, grubs, small minnows and the fry of various fish like trout.

Thought of as a bird of the seacoast, the Sandpiper's breeding range is actually quite diversified. He is found in areas ranging from sea level, to 14,000 feet. The Spotted Sandpiper usually breeds inland along fresh water, and winters along Southern coasts.

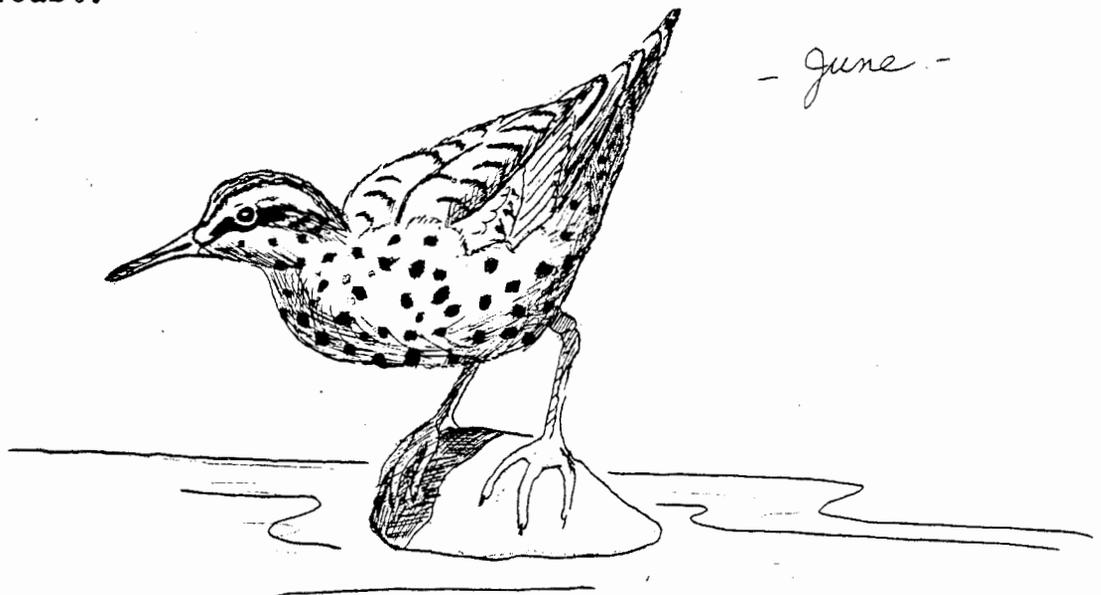
Life for the young Sandpiper begins when four eggs are laid in a crude nest on a high sandy knoll near fresh water. The light colored eggs are blotched to form a natural protective camouflage.

The shell walls are so thin and porous, that they allow evaporation from within, and replace it with oxygen. Despite the fragility of the shells, they are rarely damaged by the mother and father as they brood the chicks, as the Sandpipers are delicate, light-footed birds.

The incubation period is longer than that of other eggs their size, because the chicks are far more developed than most birds after hatching. Immediately after hatching, the baby Sandpipers can see, walk, and even feed themselves. They even have, right from the beginning, the comical and characteristic "teetering" walk of their parents. Within ten to twelve days, the young chicks can even fly for short distances and in a month they are entirely on their own.

One of their major enemies is the Pidgeon Hawk, and to elude him, the Sandpiper resorts to diving or walking along a lake bottom. Their feet have a webbed membrane attached between the outer and middle toes, making them adept on land or water.

The Spotted Sandpiper derives his name from his nuptial plumage, as he is the only one of the Sandpipers with a spotted breast.



News & Notes

The Native Plant Garden Dedication will take place on Saturday, January 14, at San Elijo State Beach, next to the park office. There will be a speaker from the California Native Plant Society.

Sam Hinton's Benefit Concert for the San Dieguito Natural History Association is scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Time Cafe in Leucadia. Purchase tickets (\$4.00 each) through John Magee or Yvette DeView before January 20th.

Barbara Moore will be doing some nature walks in January for the Stratford Center in Del Mar. 481-6771

Jan. 5 and 12: Twilight walks at Torrey Pines Extension and San Elijo Lagoon. 3:30- 5:00 \$15.00

Jan. 21: Native Uses of Plants and Animals at San Elijo Lagoon 9:00- 11:00, \$12.00

Barbara's classes at San Dieguito Adult High School begin a new quarter the week of Jan. 30. They are as follows:

Tues. 8:00-9:30 } "The Natural History and Recognition of the
10:00-11:30 } Common Birds of the San Dieguito Area"

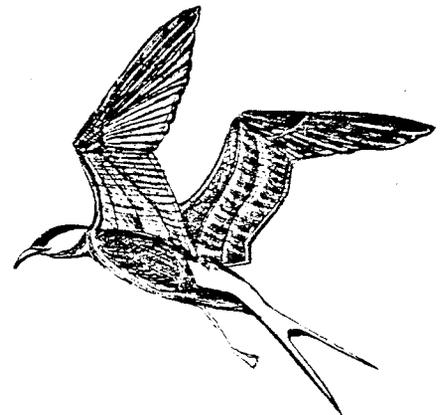
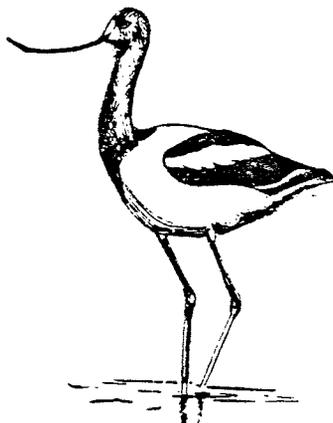
Wed. 9:30-11:30 "The Natural History of Plants and Animals"

Wed. 1:30-3:30 "Marine Habitats" (Tidepools, Wetlands & Beaches)

Thurs. 9:30-11:30 "Nature Walks for Pre-Schoolers and Their Parents" (Grandparents often substitute.)

Thurs. 6:30-9:30 "Explore the Seas" - An Oceanography class with 3 weekend fieldtrips included. R'm 27, San Dieguito H.S. (no fee)

The daytime classes are all in the field with the first meeting at Glen Park in Cardiff. All classes are \$5.00 for the quarter (9 weeks) or \$4.50 if the student is 59+. "We do walk 2-4 miles. I think many of your docents would enjoy the classes, as well as my students who have similar interests", says Barbara. For more information call Barbara at 755-7133.



TORREY PINES DOCENT SOCIETY
PRESIDENT- Judy Schulman
Deadline for Torreyana copy
the 25th of each month.
Send contributions to:
Millicent Horger, EDITOR
13130 Carousel Lane
Del Mar, CA. 92014
Phone: 481-9554
ASSOC. ED.- Isabel Buechler

ANSWERS TO QUIZ: (left to right)

Page 1- Double-crested Cormorant,
Bufflehead, American Coot, Snowy
Egret

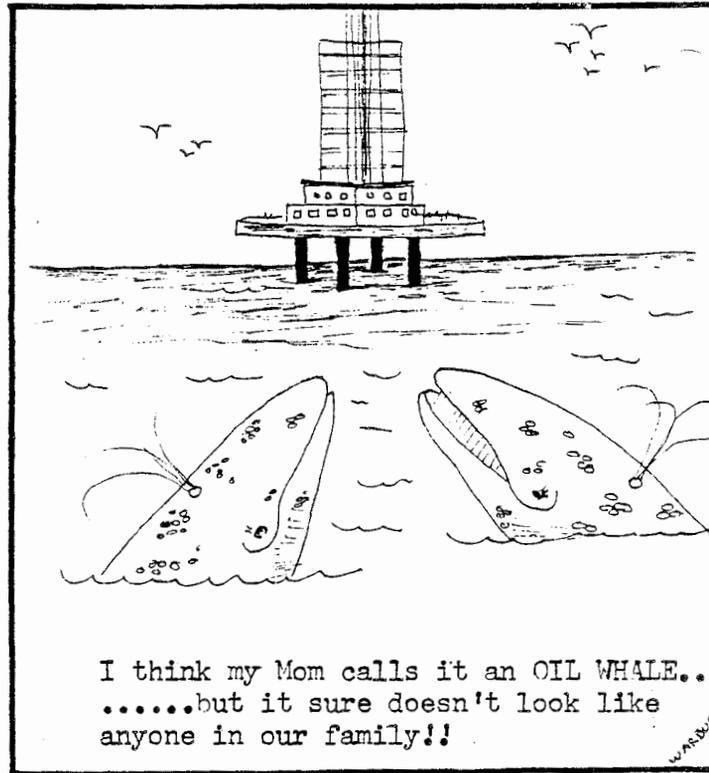
Page 3- Belted Kingfisher, Western Gull

Page 5- Marbled Godwit, Black-crowned
Night Heron

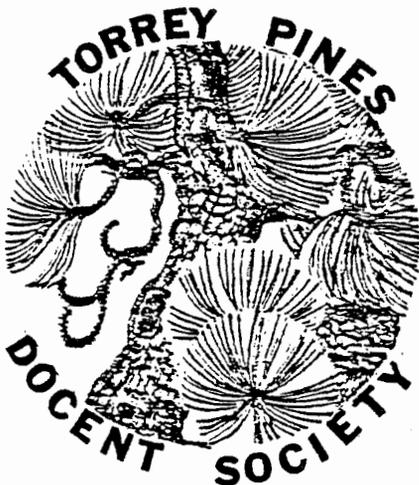
Page 6- Spotted Sandpiper

Page 7- Brown Pelican, American
Avocet, Forster's Tern

How many did you get right?



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