



TORREYANA

Published for Members of the
Torrey Pines Docent Society
and the Torrey Pines Association

No. 140

March 1987

Next Docent Society Meeting

SATURDAY MARCH 21, 9:00 A.M. AT THE VISITOR CENTER

A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE TABLE! The meeting will be conducted in two parts--the first in small groups and the second joining to share the ideas developed. The goal of the small groups will be (1) to discuss ways of exchanging information relating to plant life and the trails, plus a source to turn to if we have questions in that regard; (2) to bring forth any suggestions the members may have regarding to Museum or projects for the docents to undertake; (3) to explore the feasibility of permanent adoption of the 11:30 a.m. walks we have been conducting on a trial basis; and (4) any ideas or activities you may think of to enhance our docent services.

The regular meeting will be followed by a Board meeting. Your Board will be meeting periodically during the year to adopt those suggestions that our schedule and by-laws permit.



Common Bushtit

1987 DOCENT TRAINING PROGRAM SET by Parker Foster, Vice President

The training program for prospective docents and other interested individuals will begin on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lodge. The training will run for six consecutive Saturdays, concluding on May 2. Easter will fall in the middle of the program this year, but the Board made the decision to run the training straight through without taking a break. We may need to make special parking arrangements on the Saturday preceding Easter as the Reserve will undoubtedly be crowded that weekend.

Grace Martin and I have developed a training program based on last year's format with the addition of one or two new ideas. One of these will be to encourage present Docents to be more active in assisting trainees to complete their final requirements. Grace will talk about this at the March meeting. Remember, try to encourage some of your friends to take the training, as we have found this to be a good source of new people in the past. Present Docents are, of course, welcome to attend any of the training sessions.

Secretary's Notes by Marc Gittelsohn

With more than 45 docents, associates, staff, and guests present, President Janet Humphreys called the Annual Meeting of the Torrey Pines Docent Society to order at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, 1987, in the Lodge.

Judy Schulman, our representative to the League of California State Park Non-Profit Organizations and editor of its newsletter, distributed copies of the latest issue of that periodical. Judy said LCSPNO is an important umbrella organization that serves as a network for groups like our Society where mutual problems can be addressed. She also mentioned a significant four-day conference to be jointly sponsored by LCSPNO and the California State Park Rangers Association to be held in Ventura on March 12-15. Called "Pulling Together," this meeting will focus on such matters as park interpretation and fund raising.

Speaking for the 1987 Nominating Committee, Marc Gittelsohn placed the slate of candidates for new elective offices before the house. There were no further nominations from the floor; accordingly, the following were elected unanimously and enthusiastically:

President	Grace Martin
Vice President	Parker Foster
Secretary	Joan Jollett
Treasurer	Elizabeth Nicoloff
Duty Coordinator	Maurie Brown
<u>Torreyana</u> Editor	Isabel Buechler

Janet thanked the members for their cooperation during the year past and for the privilege of serving as President. She reviewed the many accomplishments of the year which she found characterized by strong team support. Janet gave each 1986 board member a certificate of appreciation; a special word of thanks was extended to Grace Martin, Vice President and Program Chair, for her outstanding work.

Ranger Bob Wohl reported on several recent events in the Reserve. A prescribed and controlled burn was carried out on several acres near the Broken Hills Trail on February 17-18. The objectives were to reduce live fuel and to help revive this area for new plant species. Lodge renovation was moving ahead but would probably not be complete before summer. Work on the Lodge interior would begin shortly. Improvements on the major trails were underway and would continue throughout the year.

Grace Martin announced that the 1987 training sessions would begin early this year on March 28 and continue for six consecutive Saturdays to conclude on May 2. She also said the March 21 monthly meeting would be a brainstorming session in which members would break into small groups to develop ideas for improving the Society and our contribution to the Reserve.

The meeting concluded with a round of applause for Janet Humphreys for her fine and devoted work as President in 1986.

Refreshments, served on the patio and arranged by Jeanne Dunham, Social Chair, were provided by Bob and Marge Amann, Isabel Buechler, Marc Gittelsohn, Jo Kiernan, and Judy Schulman. Some 40 docents then joined Ranger Bob Wohl on one of his intensive, informative, and entertaining Reserve jaunts.

News and Notes

PRESIDENT'S NOTES by Grace Martin

Thank you for the confidence shown in me by asking me to lead the organization during the coming year. I shall certainly do my best to make a successful year for our Society.

I am particularly looking forward to the March meeting, which will be a discussion session to get your suggestions, ideas, and comments toward improving our organization in its efforts to serve the public and in cooperating with the membership to make their duties as convenient and enjoyable as possible. Suggestions, comments, and complaints will all be welcome and given consideration as we move along.

A request for book reviews at the monthly meeting has already been presented, but for the time being, with training overlapping regular meetings, it would be difficult to include them and terminate the meetings in a timely manner. Therefore, I have asked Isabel Buechler, the Editor, to resume book reviews in the Torreyana. If you have read a book that you found pertinent and interesting, please submit a review and it will be printed. If anyone feels he/she would like to take on this task on a regular basis, please talk to Isabel.

NOTICE TO DOCENTS

**** If you have not paid your 1987 dues ****

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST TORREYANA

THE TIJUANA RIVER NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESERVE by Marc Gittelsohn

(Notes from the Docent Society meeting of October 1986)



Pat Flanagan, educational coordinator for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve, reported that the Tijuana Reserve covers about 2500 acres of wetland in the extreme southwest corner of the United States between Imperial Beach and the Mexican border. It consists of sand dunes, mudflats and sloughs, marsh, uplands, and riverbed. It is host to many biotic communities, over 340 bird species (both nesting and visitors), and is crucial in the food chain that affects a broad spectrum of fauna. A number of endangered species dwell in the Reserve, among them the California Least Tern and Belding's Savannah Sparrow.

Pat's excellent carousel of slides deepened our understanding of this complex habitat--particularly its plant and animal interaction. Pat also discussed future plans for the Reserve which include a handsome visitor center, more trails, and information kiosks. Its support organization, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA), is active, has a publication program, and has future plans for a docent group. The Reserve is located on city, county, state, and privately owned land. Its organization is intricate and involves state, local and national agencies, but it operates under the direction of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

CORRECTION: Please note that the issue number of the last Torreyana should be 139 (instead of 138 as printed). Also, the date should be January/February 1987 since there was no Torreyana in January 1987. These corrections have been made on the file copy in the Docent Library.

Notes from the Naturalist by Hank Nicol

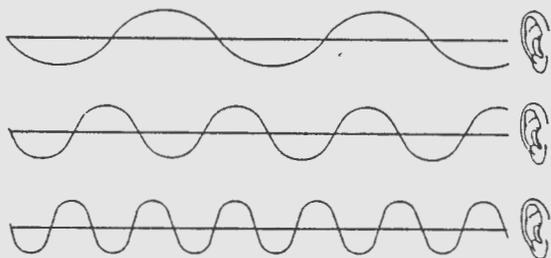
TRYING TO SEE THE LIGHT (PART 2)

Most of the light pouring out of the sun is blocked off by Earth's atmosphere. The photons are scattered. Some are absorbed and re-emitted. The action of some of them changes ordinary oxygen, O_2 , into O_3 . This "ozone" helps protect our tender hides from most harmful rays. The atmosphere has a couple of "windows." One allows visible light plus a little ultraviolet and some infra red through. The other lets radio waves in (and out). That's why Earth-bound astronomers can explore space with both optical and radio telescopes. Gamma-ray and X-ray astronomy must be done from beyond the atmosphere. Even optical astronomers are better off without our atmosphere in the way. A very nice space telescope is all ready to go. Unfortunately, the space shuttle is not.

What happens when light hits a mirror? Does a photon ricochet, or is it absorbed and another one re-emitted? The answer seems to be either of the above. There is something about "Compton scattering" which I don't really understand. I think it has something to do with the wavelength of a photon getting longer when it hits an electron. Anything dull and black absorbs photons. You'd think a black object would eventually fill up. Then it wouldn't be dull or black anymore. Come to think of it, I guess a black object could absorb an infinite amount of stuff with zero mass. But then maybe dark cloth is bleached by the sun because it is getting full of photons.

I still hadn't reasoned out waves, rays, and/or particles. I asked a physicist of my acquaintance, "How can a particle act like a wave? Can I visualize the track of a photon as being the shape of a garage door spring?" "No!" I thought about it for a couple of weeks. "Could a photon be chuffing along making a track like a string of sausages?" "Well, maybe." He was very polite. He didn't want to call me an idiot. Not to my face, anyway. I thought about it some more. I recalled that Bertrand Russell said that the universe is made of events. If he were right, a photon would be made of events too. Would a photon be a string of events appearing, disappearing, and reappearing along a track at 186,282 miles per second? Would the timing of the "pulses" fool us into thinking we were seeing waves? Would Hank Nicol please go back to Bakersfield?

Hank



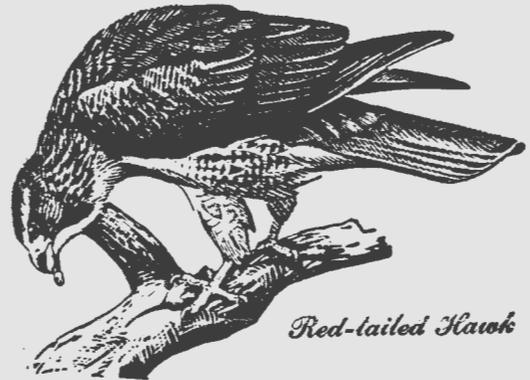
Waves of increasing (from top to bottom) frequency. The greater the frequency, the shorter the wavelength.

BIRD-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB by Jim Bittner

Santa was good to me back in December. A new pair of Leitz binoculars to a birdwatcher is like a Ferrari to the automobile buff. So out I went, like someone with a new lease on life, to "see" birds like never before. I felt like a child again! Colors were brighter, details jumped out at me. This article should not be taken as an advertisement. I'll just say birding has taken on a renewed excitement for me (as hard as that may be to believe).

But to the subject at hand--hawks. I've avoided my favorite subject until now, because once I get started--well, I'll resist the temptation to write a ten-page mini-thesis. Here at Torrey Pines, one can expect to see red-tailed, red-shouldered, Cooper's, and sharp-shinned hawks. Season plays a factor: the Cooper's hawk is seen in winter, the sharp-shinned in winter and casually in summer, the red-tailed and red-shouldered year-round. I'm going to concentrate on my old friend the red-tailed hawk (Buteo jamaicensis).

Red-tails are found throughout San Diego County and are the most widely distributed "buteo" (high-soaring hawk with rounded wings) in North America. Most adults show a "belly band" across their whitish tummy, a dark bar on the leading wing edge, reddish uppertail and paler red undertail. The head is always dark. The scream of the red-tail can be heard over great distances: a harsh descending "keeeer." It gets your attention!



Red-tailed Hawk

According to Phil Unitt, the number of red-tailed hawks breeding in San Diego County has changed little since the early 1900s. While some habitat has been eliminated by urbanization, agricultural clearing has opened new areas for nesting. At Torrey Pines, a regular nest has been maintained in the Flintkote Road area, near the infamous sewage pump station. High up in a large Torrey, the nest is well constructed of sticks and twigs, lined with fresh green foliage. Both the male and female refurbish the nest, but only the female incubates the 2-3 eggs, for about 30 days.

Building high in a tall tree, as red-tails do, provides an unobstructed view of their surroundings. This helps in the search for food for their fledglings. Adults may hunt by soaring high, by hovering along mountain ridge updrafts, or with a quick dive from a perch. Phenomenal "binocular vision" eyesight enables the red-tail to spot a mouse at great distance. Other prey include rats, squirrels, gophers, rabbits, skunks, small birds, snakes, frogs--even earthworms!

Some facts: wild red-tails can live to be 17 years old, while captive birds have reached 29. Level flight attains 40 mph, while an aerial dive approaches 120 mph. With a wingspan of almost 5 feet, the male red-tail weighs 2½ pounds, and the larger female 3½ pounds.

Many of you will recall my story about the red-tailed hawk that hovered just above me on the Parry Grove Trail. The piercing dark eyes of that bird spoke more eloquently than any political speechmaker or Shakespearean actor. Holding its position so effortlessly in that stormy wind, this was an animal at ease in its element. I was awed...and quite jealous. As I once read:

If you could fly like the birds
You would know why they sing.

Poetry Corner

AT TORREY PINES STATE PARK (for David Ignatow)

by Jerome Mazzaro

The weather here is raw
after the long rain, but the pines, the pines,
spotting both sides of these thin paths
dwarf my dull morning pain
with other flora, classified and tagged
for weekend naturalists.

Divorced from the court fights,
by lore as rich as taught the Papagos
in drought to mash saguaro and
to eat its pulpy fruit,
make butter of the seed and of the juice
a wine, they stand intense.

Their gnarled and twisted limbs,
stately, enduring in this coastal air,
so resemble your own truths, I
sense you here. Though trees, you
write, have not had much to say to your work,
the happiness is pure.



Along our Bloomin' Trails

Alert docents have reported more than 40 plants already in bloom along Reserve trails (see list below). Many are appearing on the Guy Fleming Trail much earlier than indicated on the Wildflower Map. With recent rains, look for blooms not usually seen until June. (A few listed are leftovers from last season.)

White to Pink

Stock
Milkmaids
Ceanothus
Forget-me-not
Wild cucumber
Spice bush
Lemonadeberry
Ground pink
California buckwheat
Shooting star
Miner's lettuce
Pearly everlasting
Ice plant
Morning glory

Ferns

Maidenhair
CA. polypody
Silverback

Yellowish

Sea dahlia
Bladder pod
Deerweed
Groundsel
Ca. poppy
Encelia
Bush poppy
Rock rose
Wallflower
Prickly pear
Golden yarrow
Tree tobacco
Violet
Biscuit root
Golden bush

Blue or Purplish

Black sage
Sand verbena
Nightshade
Wild snapdragon
Filaree
Lupine
Blue Eyed grass
Sea fig
Larkspur
Sand aster
Wand chickory
Phacelia

Reddish or Orange

Indian paint brush
Four o'clock
Bush monkey flower
Mexican pink



Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation
P.O. Box 866 Cardiff, CA 92007

LOS PEÑASQUITOS LAGOON FOUNDATION REPORT by Jessie LaGrange

The treasurer's report at the February 11, 1987, meeting showed an account balance of \$18,600. Payment of \$1800 had been sent to Robert's Earth Moving for two days of machine work in the lagoon.

A detailed summary of lagoon opening efforts dating from November 15, 1985, through February 5, 1987, was presented by Lee LaGrange. He requested that an evaluation meeting be scheduled with the Technical Advisory Committee before the next meeting, if possible. Machine work has been scheduled for February 23 through 27. The lagoon closed to the ocean tides on February 5 following high surf conditions.

The dedication ceremony of former SDG&E land has been rescheduled for March 20 at 2:30 p.m. at a location opposite the "Surrender Hill" area, west of Sorrento Valley Road.

A vegetation report was presented by Jordan Covin in consultation with Joy Zedler. He has suggested expansion of the plant monitoring program.

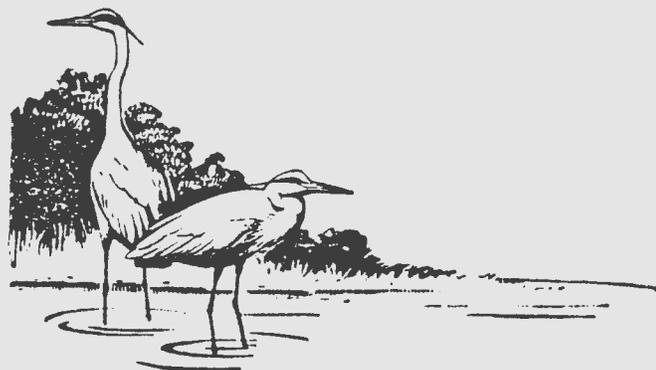
The San Diego City Manager's Department has provided a status report on the improvements and modifications to sewage pump plant No. 64.

Compliance dates are being met according to the information offered. Mr. Peters, of the State Water Quality Control Board, spoke about the need for increased monitoring of sewage spills. Bill Tippets and others spoke of the need for chemical as well as biological testing of the lagoon.

Shawna Anderson introduced herself as a new San Diego County observer and "lagoon issues" information source for County administrators. She will keep a record of ongoing events as they occur in all the lagoons.

The next meeting of the Lagoon Foundation will be:

March 11, 1987, 7:00 p.m.
Great American Bank Meeting Room
Big Bear Shopping Center, Via de la Valle
Del Mar



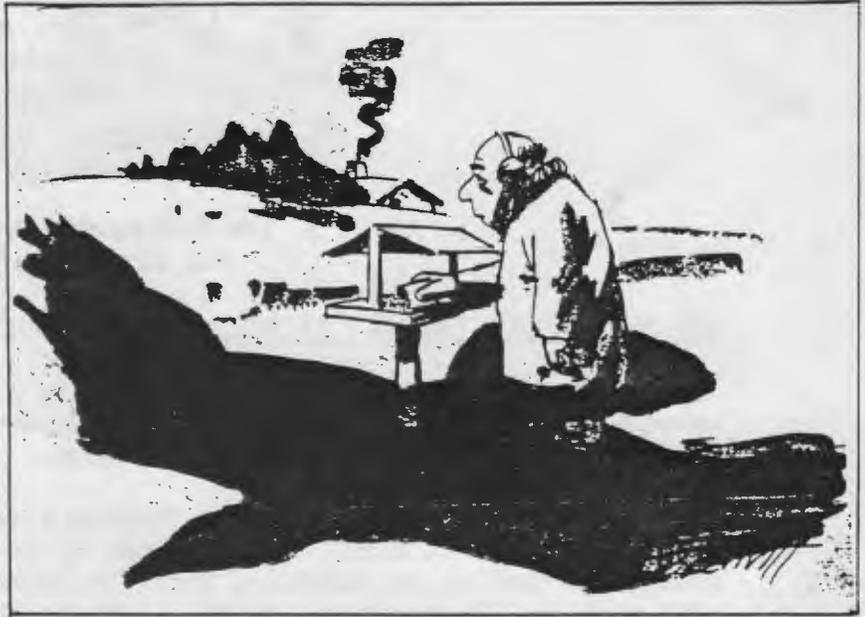
Torrey Pines Docent Society

President: Grace Martin

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is the 25th of each month.
Send contributions to the
editor:

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Asst. Editor: Marion Dixon



ROSTER UPDATE

NEW ASSOCIATE DOCENTS:

Max Aldred
Patrick Farrar
Lynn Jeppson
Scott E. Miller

TPDS MEMBERS WELCOME YOU!

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FOR

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