



TORREYANA

*A monthly newsletter for
Torrey Pines State Reserve*

No. 219

June, 1994

Next Docent Society Meeting

Saturday, June 18, 9:00 A. M. former Scripps Institution of Oceanography Dive Master Jim Stuart will speak at the June 18 meeting on local marine life and the ecological changes that have taken place in local waters in recent decades. Stuart was an early member of the Bottomscratchers diving club and one of several La Jollans who pioneered the sport diving industry on the west coast. He has witnessed firsthand the decreasing numbers of the huge near-shore fishes that once weighed hundreds of pounds, but have now largely disappeared after years of spear fishing have taken their toll. Some interesting accounts of the diving exploits of Stuart and other local notables can be found in Carlos Eyles' book, "Last of the Blue Water Hunters."

Congratulations Karen Griebe docent of the month.

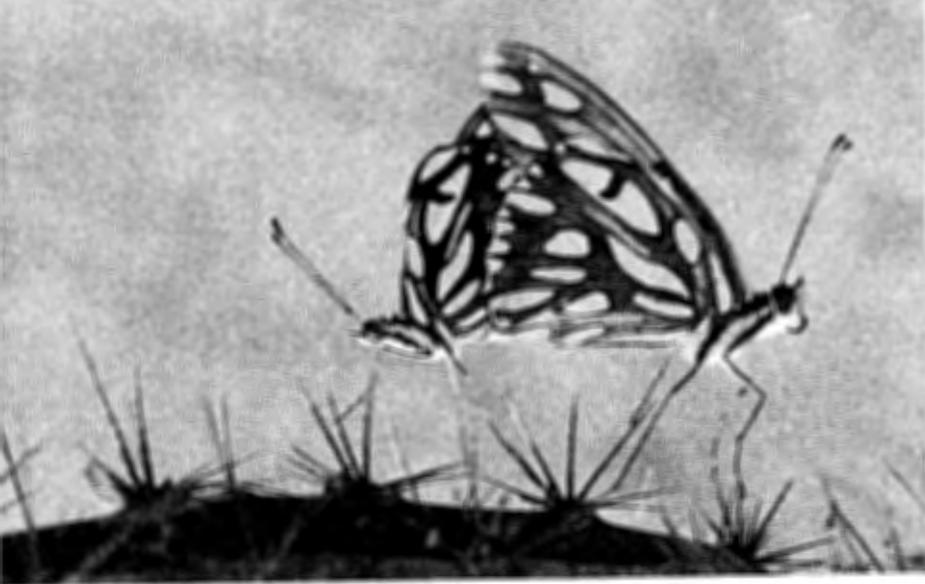
Due to the efforts of Helen Oswalt, Clair Brey, Eva Armi, Vida Freubis, and Docent Trainee Molly McConnell, the Whitaker Garden has increasingly less non-native grass and more room for flowers and native grasses. Their work will have a lasting effect that we can appreciate for a long time!

Beach walk anybody! Wes Farmer will lead a walk along Torrey Pines State Reserve Beach. Meet at the south entrance parking lot Monday, 27 June at 6:30 A. M. /we will look for what the tide may have for us to discover plus a short stop at flat rock and continue past the fault and to the earth slide area and back again. Ebb tide will be near the time we reach flat rock. Binoculars for bird watchers, who knows what we will discover.

"A woman (unknown) phoned in to report that during her regular car commute at 5 A. M. early mornings, she had a BOBCAT run out in front of her headlights. "I didn't know you still had animals like that in your park. What are you going to do now, shoot it?" I tried to reassure her of two things: (a) that we don't shoot any animals; (b) that a Bobcat is not threatening and doesn't attack humans."

"On April 2, 4, and 5, there were Bobcat sightings at Broken Hill, Beach Trail and Guy Fleming Trail."

REFRESHMENT DONATIONS NEEDED for June 18, meeting! Thanks from Jane and Bob.



CATERPILLARS

They are there the whole time.

I go to the garden for basil,
sink my knees into the soil,
bend, breathe the horsy scent.
The basil is tender as earlobes and smells like marigolds.
I spot a tiny slug on one leaf,
scratch it off like a wet scab without finching.

Later my mother shouts from the garden,
“Come out! Quick!”
My father drops his book; we all run out in our socks.
Ten caterpillars lounge on the parsley—
sultans in green silk pajamas—
plush as lips, the same apple green
as the leaves, but ringed with cat-black stripes.
Their velvet bodies are sinisterly still.
My mother grazes one with a twig: it curls up an end.
I see its puckered underside,
feet like the nibs of rose thorns.
It sticks out a feeler scarlet as salmon roe:
a lime-oil smell with a tang of rot fills the flower bed.
We stare, caught.
When the air clears, the spell breaks—
my father’s eyes are watering.

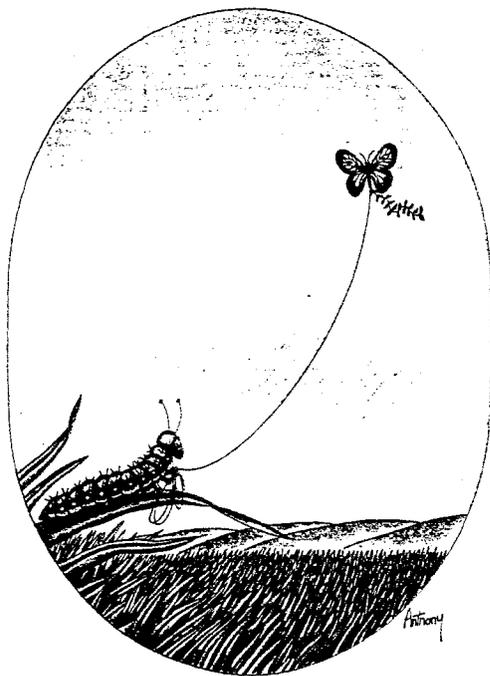
Inside, I rinse lettuce, peel cucumber.
I think of eyestalks on crabs,
how lobsters are spiders,
the daddy longlegs on my head at the picnic,
the cicada stuck to my foot like a Band-Aid,
water bugs big as dates
that scrambled under the toilets at college,
the grasshopper in my father’s salad.
I thumb off the garlic’s snakeskin,
hold it to the window:
pearly paper veined like eyelids.
I run the tooth-smooth clove across my lip,
put it in the press and squeeze.

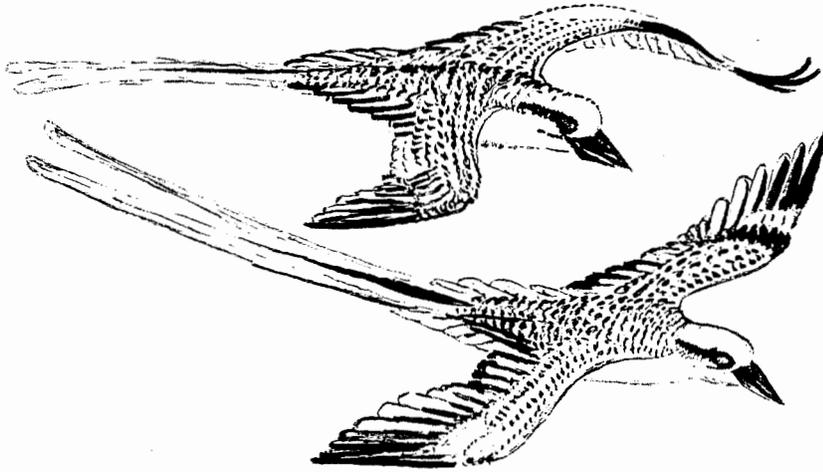
—EMILY RECHNITZ

Speaker John Brown, an entomologist, was a delight to have in our company May 21. Not only was he full of information, he delivered it in a humorous style. His topic was butterflies, and he started his talk with information on the insects in general. An approximately 30 million species exist. The diversity of insect life is greatly underestimated. The figure could be closer to 50 million.

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ANTHONY TABER





A very rare and exciting sighting at T.P.S.R. by Joan C. Nimick

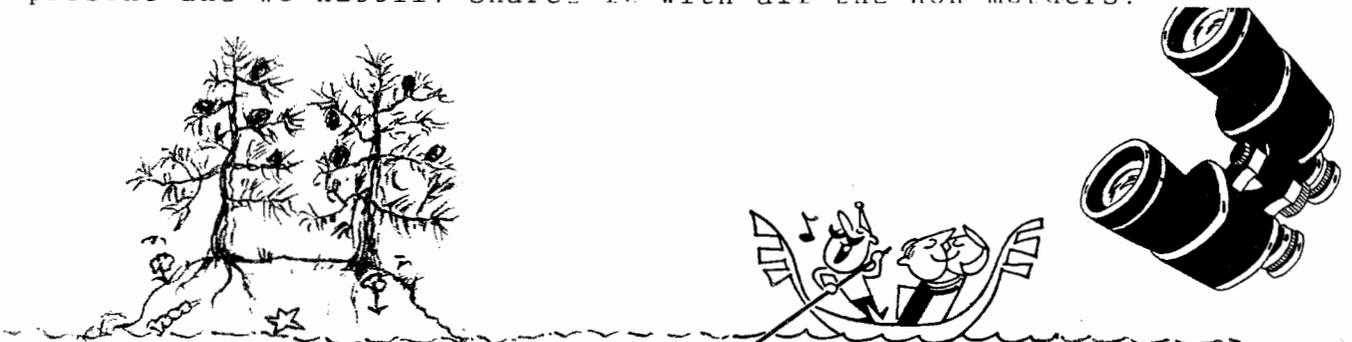
On Sunday, May 8, about thirty people from the Audubon Society were on a birding/flower walk on the Guy Fleming trail, led by Charles Herzfeld and Joan Nimick.

The flowers were lovely and the birding had been pretty good too-along the trail we'd seen Rufous Crowned Sparrows, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Warbling Vireo, Ashthroated Flycatcher, Osprey, Red Shouldered Hawk, and Bushtits. At the southwest overlook we were seeing Whimbrels, Godwits, Sanderlings and were just exclaiming about six Wandering Tattlers on the beach when almost above our heads flew a large, white bird with black wing tips, bright red bill and a beautiful long tail.

Those who recognized it could hardly believe their eyes! It was a Red-billed Tropicbird, Phaethon aethereus, and not only one, but two! This is a tropical species which is usually found in the Caribbean, Galapagos or off the coast of Hawaii amongst other places. As far as we know this is the first time this bird has ever been seen off La Jolla.

Fishermen occasionally see them for miles or more out at sea. There had been storms at sea the previous days and these two were probably blown in closer to shore than they normally would be. It was extremely serendipitous that it was a birding group that saw them.

They were sighted four days later by Stan Walens, who bird-watches at La Jolla Cove almost daily. (In the twelve years he's been doing it he had never seen one before!). For all the mothers in the group it was a really nice Mother's Day present and we happily shared it with all the non-mothers!



Welcome to the tropical island of Torrey Pines State Reserve!

EXOTIC REMOVAL REPORT

by Dave Economou

Mike Wells, our ecologist, requested I write a history of my exotic removal efforts for his records. I have submitted this history here for general interest. I've been assisted in my "weeding" by many park aides both present and past, other docents, particularly Kathy and Jan, as well as sporadic volunteer and prisoner groups, and personal friends.

I began my Hottentot and Sea Fig removal efforts in 1988 at the ranger residence driveway entrance area. From there, I worked my way up the High Point Trail. Then the area south, between High Point and the Lodge was completed; also cleared areas around the Lodge and its parking lot. Some limited removal was also done in the restroom parking lot and beach trail areas as well, with much additional removal there of Russian Thistle, commonly known as tumbleweed.

From there, thick old patches of fig on the immediate east side of the road from the Lodge and Parry Grove trailhead were removed. Then the Whitaker Garden lookout and drinking fountain areas were cleared, as well as the Parry Grove stairway and immediate lower area. Also removed were virtually all the Russian Thistle from the northwest trail area there.

At this time, I left Parry Grove, due to a planned control burn there, which will hopefully soon occur. This burn may kill remaining fig.

I've always had, since my earliest excursions to the park in the 60's, a special affection for the exquisite, wonderful, delicately beautiful Guy Fleming spring wildflower display. But I'd not been on the trail for over a year due to time spent working on other park areas. On a lark, I walked the trail and was shocked by the widespread growth of Russian Thistle, and reminded of the massive and continuing fig growth which covered areas adjacent to, and to the exclusion of, our native wildflowers' rightful place.

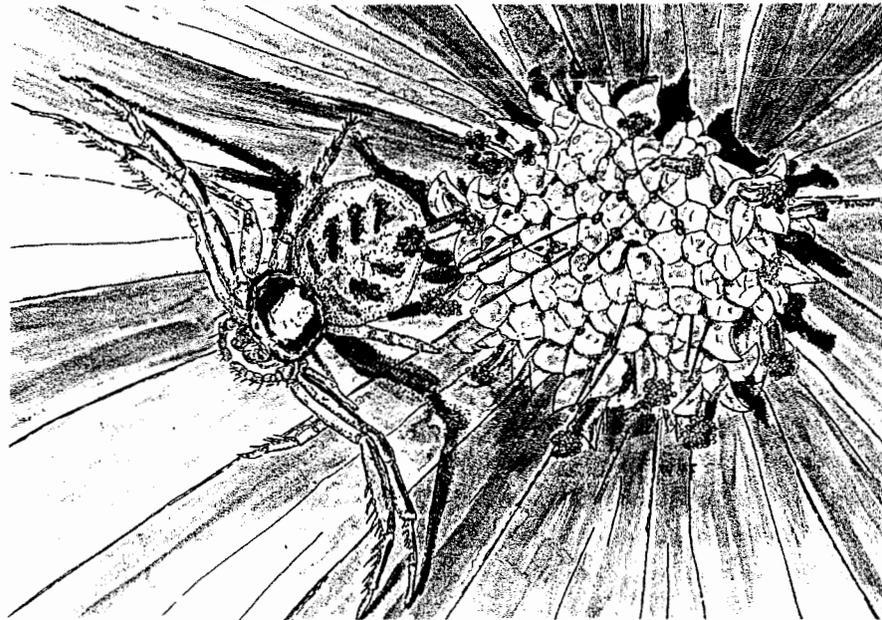
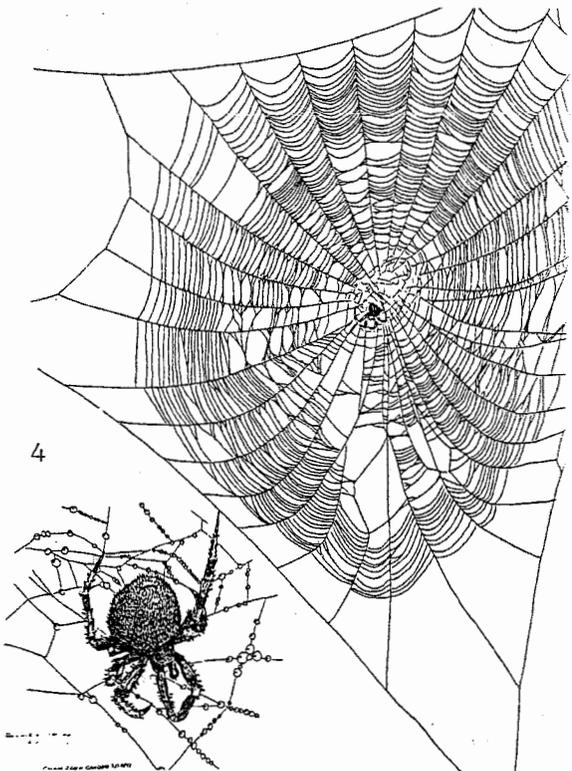
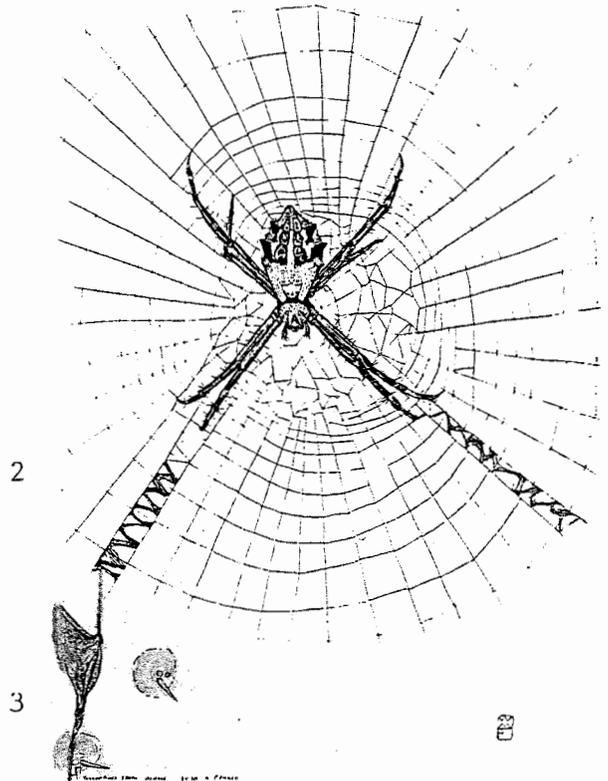
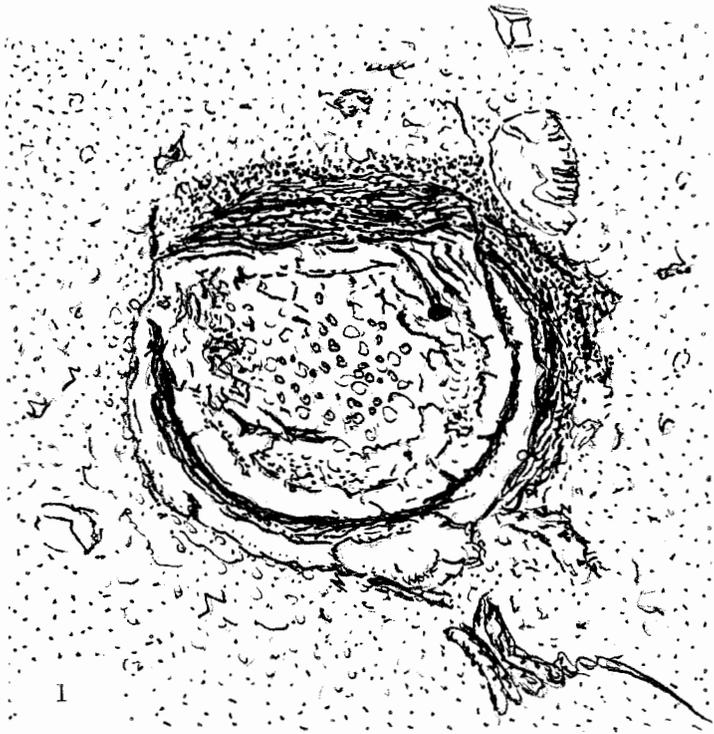
So, due to my fervor for restoring the wildflowers (some of which are endangered), I've focused on Guy Fleming trail these last 2 years, working there almost daily for about an hour after work. Living close to the park across the valley, it's only a short bike ride, which also serves as my daily needed physical work-out.

In these last 2 years, Russian Thistle has been virtually eliminated. European stock has been significantly removed as well, remaining primarily on cliffsides where it's dangerous to venture.

As for fig, much has been removed from all areas of the trail. But due to massive amounts and our limited manpower (I've often felt like I'm working on an iceberg with an icepick), I felt frustrated by the slow progress.

I had discussed spraying herbicide with the rangers to speed up progress and stop the ever-creeping fig. Finally, Ranger Allyn suggested I make formal request for this from the local state park district office. I did so, and spraying the fig was approved. I was then trained by maintenance supervisor Ann Merritt, and since, over the last 3 months, have sprayed much of the massive fig patches surrounding the Fleming trail. The discolored and dying fig is easily seen, particularly in the southern overlook and animal canyon area. But some cliffside as well as inner trail areas immediately north of the southern overlook also were sprayed. This summer, when fully dried, and so easily pulled and carried out, these dead fig patches will begin to be removed.

Cont. Pg 9



Arachnids at T.P.S.R.

1. Trap-door spider
2. Garden spider Argiope spp.
3. Green egg sac on cactus
4. Garden spider
5. Crab spider in sea dahlia
6. Tarantula

Suggestions for Docents
by David Marriott

The best butterflies to learn for Torrey Pines are:

1) **Danaidae**

The Monarch butterfly overwinters in colonies on the UCSD campus and in other areas of San Diego.

2) **Papilionidae**

The Western Tiger Swallowtail flies around the UCSD campus most of the summer and into the early fall. It is big, bright, colorful and easy to identify.

The Anise Swallowtail is around most of the season in small numbers. You might find its larvae (caterpillars) on anise or sweet fennel. It is smaller than the Western Tiger Swallowtail and has less yellow coloration.

3) **Nymphalidae**

These butterflies are relatively common and among the easiest to identify with confidence.

The Mourning Cloak has a distinctive coloration and often seen at UCSD.

The California Sister and Lorquin's Admiral may appear similar at first glance. The Lorquin's Admiral is smaller, darker and the orange patches on the wings are less conspicuous, not the big blobs that are present on the California Sister.

The 3 Ladies, Painted Lady, West Coast Lady and American Painted Lady, all occur in this area. From the top they appear similar, it is the undersides which are distinctive. These butterflies are normally fairly active and can often be found on Wild Buckwheat. If you don't know which one it is just say it is one of the Painted Ladies - there are 3 different species..... At least one of these three was present in large numbers during the mass spring butterfly movements several years ago.

4) **Pieridae**

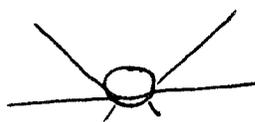
The Cabbage White is probably the commonest white butterfly around San Diego.

The Sara Orange-Tip is distinctive if you are not concerned with placing it in one of the sub-species categories of the California Butterflies book.

5) **Hesperiidae**

The Spread-winged Skippers are very dark and easily overlooked. When they rest they open their wings in a manner similar to other butterflies. Don't worry about identifying these on a walk.

The Folded-wing Skippers are hard to identify as to species but easy to identify as Folded-wing Skippers. At rest, the insect will normally sit so that the hind wing lies flat while the forewing lies at a 45 degree angle (see diagram).



normal
rest position of
Folded wing Skippers
(wings not in the same
plane)

6) **Lycaenidae**

These butterflies are generally very active and hard to identify on the spot.

The Hairstreaks have small hairlike extensions on their hind wings. These are normally difficult to see.

The Blues are relatively common pollinators especially of Wild Buckwheat. Their larvae produce a honeydew and are commonly tended by ants.

References

California Butterflies, J.S. Garth and J.W. Tilden
Audubon Society Guide to the Butterflies of North America

California Butterflies is the primary reference for the local butterflies. This book has color plates which are based on drawings, unlike the Audubon Guide which uses photographs. It is hard for me to say which is the better book - certainly I found the Audubon Guide easier to use, however, having a large number of species represented on the same page is convenient. This can be very useful when there are a number of similar species. However, one can always wonder if something hasn't been accented or reduced when you look at a drawing. In some cases the page layout might lead to some confusion. California Butterflies splits up species into more subspecies than Audubon does. It includes more specific range information, as one might expect.

The Torrey Pines Butterfly Exhibit

The butterfly exhibit was prepared by David Marriott, who also collected most of the specimens displayed. David is director of the Monarch Program and can be reached by contacting the Program at P.O. Box 178671, San Diego, CA 92177. The phone number is (619) 944-7113.

At first glance the exhibit might appear to have been laid out to be aesthetically pleasing. While this is true, it is also true that the exhibit is laid out by Family as well (see Figure 1)*. An alternate classification scheme used in the Audubon guide is given in brackets. The Nymphalidae and Pieridae have been split to make the layout symmetric. This split is not unreasonable, as similar species have been grouped together. This is particularly true for the Pieridae where the predominantly white members have been separated from the predominantly yellow or sulphur members. In the Figure, two of the families shown are split by a dotted line. The insects have been split by type in the Audubon guide.

The exhibit illustrates several of the problems encountered in identifying butterflies. In some cases the males and females look different (check out the Cloudless Sulphur). In other cases there can be separate forms caused by seasonal factors (compare the Orange-tips). In some cases there is more than one color form (compare the Alfalfa Butterfly under the Whites with that under the Sulphurs). In some cases the details in the markings on the undersides of the insects are really diagnostic (compare the Painted Lady, West Coast Lady, and the American Painted Lady).

Most of the specimens have small tags on the pins which hold them in place. Each tag contains the collection date and place as well as the name of the collector. Some of the dates are uncertain (a range or time of year is indicated), some are incomplete, a few are missing. According to the tags that are present, all of the insects were caught in Southern California, most of them in San Diego County. I believe that all of the species represented can be found at one time or another in San Diego County but it is possible that some of them may not occur in Torrey Pines (i.e. the State Reserve, the Sorrento Valley land and the Del Mar extension). Many of the species are listed in the Torrey Pines booklet.

* continued next Torryanna

Ron Lyons - February 1993.

Hiking: Tijuana River

Near Tijuana, a River Marsh Worth Its Salt

By JOHN MCKINNEY

At first glance, Tijuana River Estuary, one of the few salt marshes remaining in Southern California, looks lifeless. But a closer look—or a look through binoculars—might reveal a marsh hawk, brown pelican, California gull, black-necked stilt, snowy egret, Western sandpiper and American kestrel—to name a few of the more common birds.

The estuary, about 1½ miles north of the border dividing Baja and California, 15 miles south of San Diego, is an essential breeding ground and feeding and nesting spot for more than 170 species of native and migratory birds.

A flotilla of land-use agencies have shared control of what is officially known as the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve: the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The greatest challenge facing these agencies—and the biggest threat to the estuary—is sewage discharges from Tijuana. The fast-growing city sometimes empties sewage into the Tijuana River, which in turn empties into the estuary. Border Field State Park and the estuary have been closed to public use several times as a result of such sewage spills. In addition, nearby Imperial Beach and Silver Strand State Beach are occasionally closed due to sewage-related problems.

The various resource agencies staff a nice visitor center that interprets marshland ecology. One good source of information is the pamphlet, "A Walker's Guide: The Natural History of the Tijuana National Estuarine Reserve." The brochure lists some of the more common birds and plants found in the reserve. Guided nature walks take place on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

From the visitor center, trails lead into the estuary and continue all the way to the Tijuana River mouth. At times of low water and low tide, the river can be safely

crossed, but at times of high water and high tide, crossing can be very dangerous.

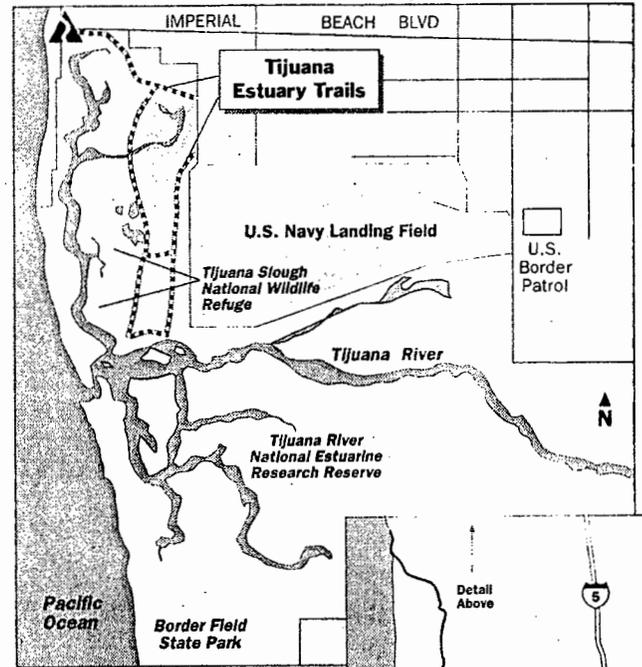
At Fifth Street and Iris, a second signed trail leads into the estuary. The path parallels the Ream Field boundary fence. On weekdays, you're sure to see more helicopters hovering over this stretch of trail than appeared in "Apocalypse Now." Most first-time visitors figure that they must be U.S. Border Patrol copters searching for illegal immigrants crossing the border. Actually, the helicopters from Ream Field are flown by Navy pilots who are practicing their takeoffs, landings and air-sea rescues.

Though the estuary is almost flat, it's not completely flat, and very small changes in elevation bring changes in vegetation. At higher elevations are hillocks of coastal scrub, and at the very lowest elevations are mud flats. Between is a marshland of pickleweed and cordgrass.

For an interesting return route or an addition to your marsh hike, take a walk along wide, sandy Imperial Beach. Imperial Beach was named by the South San Diego Improvement Co. around the turn of the century to help lure Imperial Valley residents to build summer cottages on the beach. Waterfront lots could be purchased for \$25 down and \$25 monthly, and developers promised the balmy climate would "cure rheumatic proclivities, catarrhal trouble, lesions of the lungs," and a wide assortment of other ailments.

In more recent times, what was once a narrow beach protected by a seawall has been widened considerably by sand dredged from San Diego Bay. There's good swimming and surfing along Imperial Beach, and the waves can get huge. Wander up to Imperial Pier, built in 1912 and the oldest in San Diego.

Directions to trail head: From Interstate 5 in Imperial Beach, exit on Palm Avenue. Go west 2½ miles to Third Street. Turn left and drive half a mile to the visitor center parking lot for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.



Tijuana Estuary Trails

WHERE: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

DISTANCE: 1-6 miles round trip.

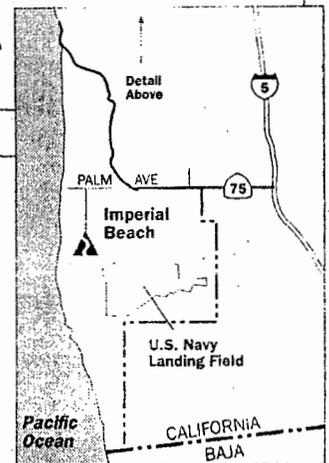
TERRAIN: Tidal creeks, marshland, dunes, sandy beach.

HIGHLIGHTS: One of the Southland's most important bird habitats.

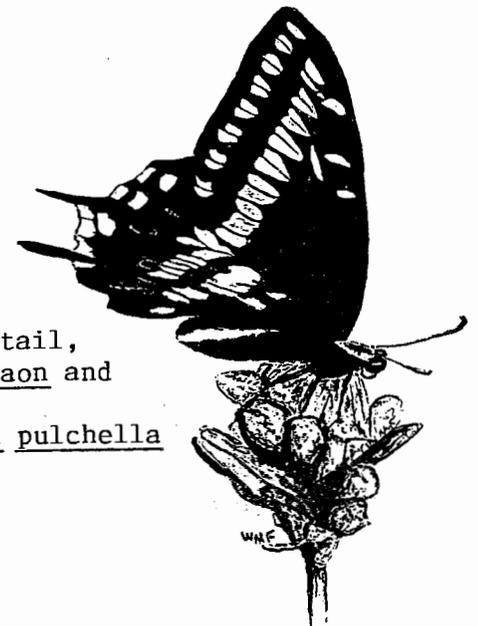
DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Easy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, Calif. 91932, (619) 575-3613 or (619) 575-2704.



HELENE WEBB, Los Angeles Times



Anise Swallowtail,
Papilio zelicaon and
Blue Dick,
Dichelostemma pulchella

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The *TORREYANA* is issued monthly except for August by the Torrey Pines Docent Society, which gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the Torrey Pines Association in its production. **Contributions are due by the 24th of each month send to/or place in Torryana box at the lodge.**

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I also sprayed many large fig patches throughout the Parry Grove Trail at Easter, as well as several areas around the park entrance. All these areas need some further spraying, but the majority is done!

I know the use of herbicide here is controversial, and it's true that some immediately adjacent native vegetation is killed. However, that vegetation would have soon been over-run, smothered and killed by the fig anyway, so all in all, that small and limited sacrifice is worth the overall benefit of spraying and stopping the fig literally "dead in its tracks."

The herbicide used is Garlon, chemically similar to Roundup. Garlon breaks down to a non-positious compound within 48 hours of spraying, and thus poses no permanent contamination danger.

Finally, Ranger Bob asked that I clear the park entrance of Russian Thistle and that has been done, as well as much removal of European Stock and fig there.

So, this summarizes 5 years of effort, my own and others. Literally thousands of bags of exotics have been removed over these years. Several thousand more remain. However, the preservation of our park's native desert coastal ecology to me is preserving the "Garden of Eden" itself. I grew up in a military aviator family, and usually lived near runways--necessarily undeveloped areas where nature bloomed without restriction. Walking through those areas (I especially remember the N.A.S. North Island runway area near the beach) instilled in me a love for the miniature and delicately beautiful coastal desert ecology. Early morning walks through those divine gardens lifted me then, and now too, walking Guy Fleming through the wonderful wildflowers.

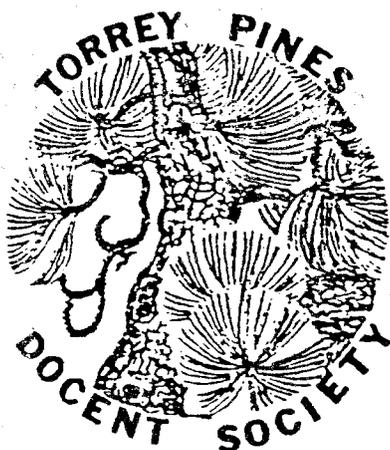
JUNE DUTY CALENDAR

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <p><i>Please be sure to arrange a substitute if you can't do your duty.</i></p> | <p><i>Duty Co-ordinator:</i> <i>Ruth Ganeless</i> 275-1568</p> | | <p>1 L Amanns</p> | <p>2 L May</p> | <p>3 L Musser L Ganeless</p> | <p>4 L Schulman W Dixon L Schulman W Stiegler</p> |
| <p>5 L Parnell W Cassell L Brickelmoier W Martinod</p> | <p>6 L Watson L May</p> | <p>7 L Martin</p> | <p>8 L Sacks</p> | <p>9 L Farmer</p> | <p>10 L Jacobson L Gittelsohn</p> | <p>11 L Polarek/ O'Connor W Dunham L Bardwick/ Dunham W Miller</p> |
| <p>12 L Heller W N. Brav L Ganeless W Steigler</p> | <p>13 L Sacks L Huber</p> | <p>14 L Talberts/ Andersen (trainee)</p> | <p>15 L Miller</p> | <p>16 L Musser</p> | <p>17 L Watson L Weir</p> | <p>18 Mtg. L W Carson L Weir W Miller</p> |
| <p>19 L Parnell W Cassell L Carson W N. Brav</p> | <p>20 L Marine L Huber</p> | <p>21 L Martin</p> | <p>22 L Bardwick</p> | <p>23 L Clark</p> | <p>24 L Oswalt L Gittelsohn</p> | <p>25 L O'Connor/ Satterfield W May L Polarek W N. Brav</p> |
| <p>26 L Heller W Ferguson L Brickelm'r W Dixon</p> | <p>27 L Marine L Oswalt</p> | <p>28 L Talberts/ Andersen (trainee)</p> | <p>29 L Cooper</p> | <p>30 L Clark</p> | <p>LODGE HOURS: Fri-Mon 10-1, 1-4 Tue-Thu 11-2</p> | <p>HOURS OF WALKS Sat, Sun, Holidays 11:00 and 1:00</p> |

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