



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 345

February 2014

Raptors Keep Docents Enraptured

by Pat Finn

What does a speaker have to do to keep Torrey Pines docents totally engaged? Showing a couple dozen breath-taking photos of hawks, eagles and ospreys while explaining the different kinds of raptors and the challenges they face doesn't hurt.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Lincer, the speaker at the January meeting of the TPDS, is an expert on raptors. He is research associate in birds and mammals at the San Diego Museum of Natural History and executive director of Researchers Implementing Conservation Action (RICA), to name just two of his affiliations. Since 1991 he has managed and participated in natural resource surveys throughout Southern California, including San Diego, Riverside, Imperial, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange

Counties. He lives in La Mesa.

Dr. Lincer took the docents on a raptor odyssey featuring birds found in Southern California: hawks, eagles, falcons, osprey, owls, and vultures. Yes, vultures, for even though their prey is dead, not alive, they are lumped in with the other raptors. After all, vultures have the other raptor qualifications: talons for grasping, beaks for tearing and sleek feathers.

Noting that raptors act as environmental monitors for the rest of us because they are so widespread, specialized, and selectively sensitive to environmental changes, he listed a number of threats and challenges they face. They come in many forms, the most obvious from humans; more people mean fewer raptors. Cars, power lines, hunters, and fires are constant threats, as are pesticides. Dr. Lincer, in fact, is a well-known expert on how DDT thins the eggshells of birds.

Docent General Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 9 am

Location: St Peter's Episcopal Rec Hall, Del Mar

Title: Bats!

Speaker: Cindy Meyers, Project Wildlife Volunteer

Cindy Myers is back by popular demand with her presentation on bats, including live bats!

Cindy Myers is the team leader for Project Wildlife's bat rehabilitation team and is an animal ambassador caregiver and presenter on the education team.

Myers first became interested in bats after reading a *National Geographic* article about African fruit bats in 1986. She fell in love with the photos of the flying foxes and learned that bats are critically important to ecosystems but are sorely in need of good public relations efforts.

In 2002, she contacted the only bat rehabber in San Diego at the time, about creating an online field guide to the bats of San Diego. She started volunteering to assist with rescue and rehabilitation efforts as well and soon decided she could save even more bats each year by educating the public about them. She began doing educational outreach at weekend events in order to encourage bat conservation efforts and still works to convert every San Diegan into a fellow bat fan.

What can we do? Public education, more monitoring, captive breeding, more research, and more information management are needed. Dr. Lincer is certainly doing his part.

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TPDS 2014 Board Members:

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Rangers: Kyle Knox, Mike Winterton, and
Jared Kolar

Sr. Park Aide: Louis Sands

Park Aides: Joy Inton (Volunteer
Coordinator), Jake Mumma, and Johnson
Jou

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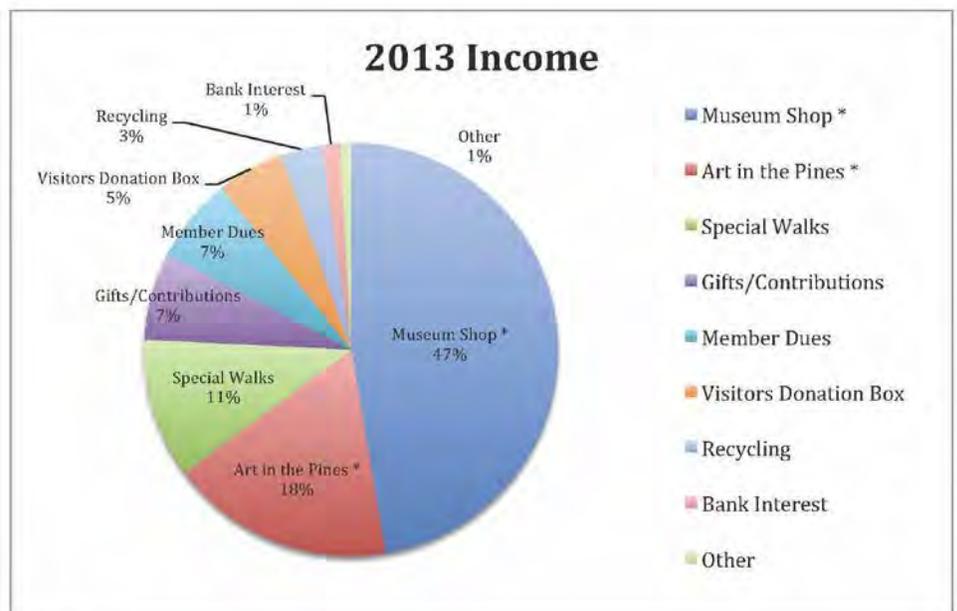


Osprey with corbina

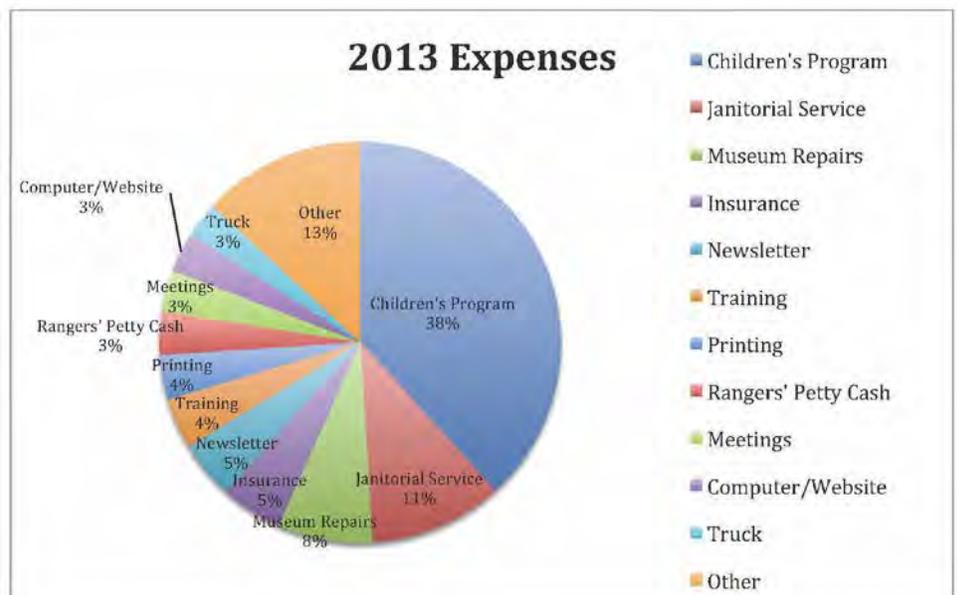
Photo by Herb
Knüfken

For more raptor
photos- see pg. 7.

Summary of the TPDS Income and Expenses for 2013 from
Treasurer Gerry Lawrence



*Net of Expenses



FLASH From Park Aide Joy Inton:
Don't forget to donate your
ZooNooz magazines to the Museum
Shop.

Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2014

*Excerpted from minutes of the TPDS General Meeting taken by Secretary **Annette Ring**. Complete minutes are in the docent library.*

Meeting called to order at 10:45 am by President **Bill Eckles**.

Docent of the Month: **Bobbi Krueger** was named Docent of the Month. She is known as “the T-shirt Lady” for all of her work for the museum shop.

Spotlight On: Parry Grove Trail by **Kristine Schindler**. Kristine showed photos of the new stone steps and overlook. There have been some delays and the latest estimate on completion is early summer. Questions included: *can docents go out there now?* Yes, but Dylan asks that we let a ranger know ahead of time. *Will there be handrails?* Per Dylan (via Bill), maybe later. *Will Whitaker Gardens be wheelchair-accessible?* Yes.

General Announcements:

Diane Stocklin is looking for Mentors for the new Trainees. Please sign-up if you can commit the time and effort. Please contact Diane if you have any questions.

Ann Smith Mercandetti is looking for docents to line the road during the La Jolla Half Marathon on Sunday, April 27th when some 6,500 runners will go through the park in about 3 hours. Having docents with signs along the road during the Komen 3-day walk made a positive difference in the amount of litter and food in the park.

Art in the Pines: AITP has been canceled for this year. After much thought about how to handle the traffic problem, a solution could not be found. It may be resumed another year. Our Reserve was not built for events. Art in the Pines served a purpose and alternatives are being considered - ideas are welcome.

Parking Passes: New this year, parking passes will be numbered and associated with a person. Once your dues and hours requirements are met, you can pick up your new numbered hang tag. All passes, including Lifetime passes, must be replaced.

Holiday Party: Our next holiday party will be held at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Del Mar, instead of in the Reserve.

TPA Update: **Barbara McCardle**, Membership Chair of the TPA and also a TPSNR docent, related that the State’s shutting down the association’s ability to sell parking passes took away about \$100,000 in annual revenue. Even so, the TPA is doing well. There is now a new membership category of \$250, of which \$195 goes to the state.

The TPA annual meeting will be on Sunday February 23rd at 3:00 pm at the Martin Johnson House at Scripps Institute of

Oceanography. Guest Speaker Dr. Molly McClain will talk about her book *Ellen Browning Scripps: A Natural Woman*. All docents are welcome. See the TPA website for more information.

Bob Doolittle announced the TPA has offered to replace the TPDS’s white truck, which is not functional.

Treasurer’s Report: **Gerry Lawrence’s** summary noted 2013 was a profitable year with museum shop accounting for about 50% of the profit. The complete income/expense statement and 2013 Income/Expenses pie charts are on the bulletin board in the Docent Library. See pie charts (by %) on p. 2.

Whacky Weeders: The new Thursday Weeders group meets at 10 - 11:30 am. The Monday group is still at 8:30 – 10 am. If you’d like to join either group, just email Lynne.Small@gmail.com.

Ranger’s report: (**Bill Eckles**): Parry Grove Trail is expected to be opened by summer.

Trail Patrol: Per **Lynne Truong** there will be a Trail Patrol training session on Saturday, January 25th at 9 am.

Museum Shop: Just completed inventory; some items are missing. If you’ve taken anything for a program, please let **Nancy Woodworth** know via email or a note in the mailbox.

Children’s Program: Is in full swing. Please sign up, or if you want to tag along, feel free to just show up. The 1st Tuesday of each month has been added for tours, and the new dates have been booked by schools.

Volgistics: **Roger Isaacson** reported that all hours for 2014 need to be logged into Volgistics. Over 100 docents have started entering their hours in the new system. Calendars are up for the following areas for online signup: Lodge Hosting, Walks, TIK, and Recycling. The Children’s Program continues to use the same scheduler we’ve been using (not Volgistics). The whole room applauded Roger for his tremendous effort and success with implementing Volgistics.

Channel Island trip: **Tom Polakiewicz** announced that the Channel Islands trip is the 3rd weekend in September. Highlights: seeing the other grove of Torrey pine trees, kayaking in sea caves and sightings of elephant seals. The trip includes San Miguel, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa islands. The bus leaves for Santa Barbara around noon. Sleeping quarters are an open bunkroom. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting, and there is a \$100 deposit. The total cost for the trip is about \$600 for the bus, boat ride, food on the boat, and activities such as kayaking.

Refreshments: For February’s general meeting docents whose last names start with J, K, or L are responsible for snacks.

Meeting ended at 11:56 am.

Docent of the Month: Bobbi Krueger



Photo by Herb Knüfken

This is my 10th year as a docent, and I have contributed to the Reserve by doing Lodge hosting, trail patrol, volunteering at Art in the Pines, including being the coordinator for docent art. I served as editor of the Torreyana for three years and have managed the T-shirts in the museum shop for the past two years. No matter what responsibility I have accepted, the neatest part of it has always been the wonderful docents I have worked with.

I am a (mostly) retired webmaster and marketing consultant to the senior housing industry. Having been one of the first 12 to receive the designation of Senior Housing Marketing Consultant (SHMS) from the Building Industry Association (BIA), I focused my last 15 years of full time work on helping owners and developers of seniors' housing to better reach their audience. That included developing a website to help seniors understand types of age-restricted housing. Seniorresource.com is still an active site, but managed by the person to whom I sold it.

To keep active, besides being a docent at Torrey Pines, I am also on the Board of the San Diego Jewish Genealogical Society and on a program planning committee at our temple. I am on the Jewish Book Fair committee at the Jewish Community Center. I enjoy photography, cooking, baking, knitting, and sewing. I am enjoying my 54th year as the wife of another TP docent.

Children's Program

by Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson, Children's Program Directors and

Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator

After the holiday break, January was busy with eight school programs: five on the Kumeyaay, two on Oceans, Whales & Dolphins, and one on Geology, with 473 children attending. We had schools come from as far away as San Marcos and as close as La Jolla and Carmel Valley. Our thanks to the many docents who led the walks with the children and to our presenters, **Wesley Farmer, Janet Ugalde, Joan Adamo, Joellen Barnett, Frank Burham, and Kathy Dickey.**

We welcome both new and experienced docents to come join us! Tag along with another docent or go online for an easy sign-up. When you go on line, you can check the time, dates, and programs that will be given. Look forward to seeing you!

Ranger Lisa Urbach to Leave TPSNR

by Joan R. Simon

Lisa Urbach, one of four rangers at Torrey Pines, is being promoted to Supervising Ranger for the campgrounds of San Elijo and South Carlsbad. TPSNR Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook said "She will be greatly missed, but is much needed and well-qualified to help get the campgrounds back under control." The supervisor position has been vacant for several years, he added.



Lisa at 2010 Docent Holiday Party
Photo by Herb Knüfken

Lisa has been a ranger at Torrey Pines since June 2010. She is the wife of Martin Urbach, who was a ranger at TPSNR in 2008 – 09. She previously worked at the San Elijo Campground.

Jared Kolar will be transferring from the campgrounds to take Lisa's position at Torrey Pines. Jared has been a ranger for two years and completed much of his initial field training at TPSNR under Lisa and Ranger Kyle Knox.



Jared Kolar

Both transfers will be effective February 1st, so there will be no gap, but Dylan asks that docents "be patient with Jared as he works to absorb everything available at Torrey Pines."

On The Museum Shop Book Shelf

Discover the world of flora at the Torrey Pines Reserve

by Suzan Potuznik

Hiking the trails of the coastal sage scrub, the chaparral, or any plant community at the Reserve, you are not likely to find a flower, shrub, or tree that cannot be identified within the selection of books and brochures available at the museum shop. From the comprehensive guides of **Margaret L. Fillius** or James Lightner to the inviting narrative of Leigh C. Rhett in the *Wildflowers of the Guy Fleming Trail* your curiosity will be satisfied and experience enhanced.

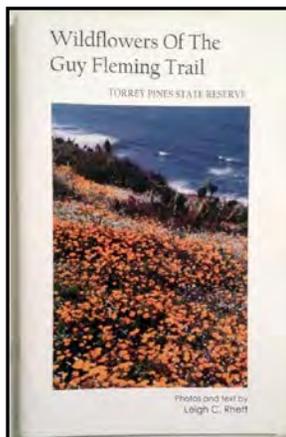
Native Plants, Torrey Pines State Reserve and Nearby San Diego County Locations by Photographer, Author, Editor, Margaret L. Fillius, 3rd Edition, 2010.

Margaret L. Fillius, a member of the Torrey Pines Docent Society, has combined her wealth of botanical knowledge and a photographer's eye to create this easy-to-use, beautifully-designed comprehensive guide of the flora of Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. The book details 300+ species and is filled with photographs. Common name, family, genus, species, habitat, height/altitude, and flowering time are provided in an easy-to-view table. A combined index of common and scientific names, along with an index of flora images sorted by color, simplify the quest of identifying a species. A perfect companion for a hike at the Reserve.



Wildflowers of the Guy Fleming Trail by Leigh C. Rhett, 2005

This small brochure highlights the prominent plants along the Guy Fleming Trail with an easy to read narrative and photos. The plants are identified by their common name, and the narrative includes some of the physical features, an interesting feature or story, and where/when the plant may be found along the trail. Rhett introduces the wildflowers in order of typical appearance on the trail.

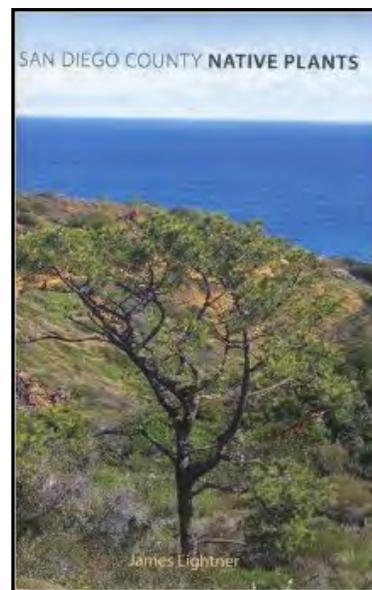


Flowering Plants of the Torrey Pines State Reserve, 2009

Produced by the Torrey Pines Docent Society from file photos contributed by many docents, this brochure includes 50 species of flowers identified by photographs, common name, genus, species, family, and blooming months.

San Diego County Native Plants by James Lightner, 3rd Edition, 2011

Lightner's book is a comprehensive text of the native and naturalized plants of San Diego County, including the Anza-Borrego Desert. It includes a detailed description of local plants with photographs of each species, separating trees and shrubs from herbaceous plants. Many rare and sensitive flora, as well as non-natives considered to be weeds, are highlighted. This book is both an excellent reference source for a botanist/biologist and an easy-to-use guide to the amateur naturalist.



Venomous Animals and Poisonous Plants: North America North of Mexico by Steven Foster and Roger Caras, 1994

This book is part of the *Peterson Field Guides* series sponsored by the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The listed plants range from the highly toxic to those causing slight irritation. The authors describe the poisonous properties of each plant, which part may be toxic, to whom and to what extent. Typical scenarios of poisoning are frequently noted. The end of the book includes over 20 color plates and narratives listing over a hundred species grouped by common name/genus and/or location.

At the TPSNR Library for further details and a historical perspective on the flora of this region and taxonomy, check out the *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*, James C. Hickman (Editor) 1993; *Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains, Coastal and Chaparral Regions of Southern California* by Nancy Dale (1986); *Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains* by Milt McAuley (1985); and *A Flora of Southern California* by Philip A. Munz (1974).

Thank you to **Eva Armi** for an enlightening and historical perspective on the botanical books and their contributions to our knowledge of the flora at the Reserve.

Did you know?*

Who Was First, Part 2

by Tom Polakiewicz

People have lived on the Torrey Pines Mesa for a long time. The earliest human remains found on the mesa were excavated on the grounds of the UCSD Chancellor's Residence in La Jolla Farms, and have been carbon dated to about 10,000 years ago. They are among the oldest human remains found in either North or South America.

Other archaeological sites on the mesa have been dated to be from 5,000 to 8,000 years old. Middens, or waste dumps, burial sites, and stone tools have been found in areas from what is now the south parking lot of the Reserve to the Scripps Institution campus, and as far east as the UCSD athletic fields near I-5. Today, a careful observer can find evidence of shell middens along the roads and trails in the Reserve in a number of places. These sites indicate that Torrey Pines has been inhabited continuously for the last 10,000 years or more.

There is great debate about whether the first inhabitants of the mesa were the ancestors of the present day Kumeyaay, or were unrelated "Paleoindians." Whatever the answer to that question, it is easy to forget that they weren't just archaeological specimens, but people just like us. They laughed and cried, loved their families, and grieved when one of them died. Each stone tool or shell in one of the middens was touched by a real human being for whom it was a part of his or her daily life.

The next part of this series will examine the ways in which the mesa itself has changed over the millenia.

Sources:

Carter, George F., *Pleistocene Man at San Diego*, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore (1957)

Fagan, Brian, *Before California: An Archaeologist Looks at Our Earliest Inhabitants*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. (2003)

San Diego Reader, April 30, 2008: How UCSD spent over \$500,000 on a Home Remodel that Never Happened, sandiegoreader.com/news/2008/apr/30/cover/

Native America Graves Protection and Repatriation Act report, 2008
tinyurl.com/UnivHouse-NAGPRA

*This "Did You Know?" tidbit is one of a series of occasional submissions from **Tom Polakiewicz**.

Torrey Pines Superlatives

by Jack Friery

This is an occasional series on the birds, mammals, and insects of the Reserve, with stress on the smallest/biggest/rarest and the like.

Question: What is the largest songbird in the world?

Answer: The Common Raven, *Corvus corax*. Adding to its superlatives, it is also the largest all-black bird in the world. (They're entirely black, down to the legs, eyes, and beak.) They are among the smartest of birds; they can learn to use tools to uncover food. See allaboutbirds.org/guide/common_raven/id.

The large, dark, soaring birds we see at Torrey Pines are usually ravens.



Common Raven, *Corvus corax*
Photo by Herb Knüfken

Ravens have been mentioned often in the literature and mythology of western culture. They are found in Greek, Roman, Celtic, Norse, and Hindu mythology, the Bible, the Talmud, and the Koran.

Shakespeare mentioned ravens more than any other bird:

"The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance of Duncan
Under my battlements." (Lady Macbeth)

In European culture, ravens were usually seen as symbols of death and dark fortune. Shakespeare, again:

"O, it comes o'er my memory,
As doth the raven o'er the infected house,
Boding to all." (Othello)

Ravens are kept under royal protection in the Tower of London. (And, should they leave the Tower, the British Empire is destined to fall.)

And, of course, Edgar Allen Poe continues this dire raven theme in his poem *The Raven*, describing "the fowl whose

fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core..." (Poe wrote *The Raven* in 1845, while he was living in Manhattan. He shortly thereafter moved to a cottage in the Bronx, which can still be visited. A contemporary caller mentioned that Poe kept caged birds on the porch of the cottage. A raven, perhaps?)

Unlike the depiction of ravens in European culture, the Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest saw Raven as the giver of life and as the trickster. In Haida mythology, Raven was flying and saw a shell on a beach. He lifted the shell, and tiny, timid creatures crept out. They were the first men of the world. (A contemporary First Nation artist

created a sculpture of this event, which you can see in the Museum of Anthropology of the University of British Columbia. A picture of the Raven sculpture also graces older Canadian \$20 bills. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Reid.)

And, to bring this all home, San Diego has a Raven Street, extending for three blocks in North Park.

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: January 4, 2014

Number of species: 85

Gadwall 66
 American Wigeon 36
 Mallard 14
 Blue-winged Teal 12
 Northern Shoveler 13
 Northern Pintail 19
 Green-winged Teal 18
 Canvasback 4
 Lesser Scaup 6
 Bufflehead 17
 California Quail 6
 Red-throated Loon 1
 Pacific Loon 2
 Pied-billed Grebe 5
 Eared Grebe 6
 Western Grebe 1
 Black-vented Shearwater 500
 Brandt's Cormorant 12
 Double-crested Cormorant 32
 Brown Pelican 74
 Great Blue Heron 4
 Great Egret 1
 Snowy Egret 2

Little Blue Heron 1
 Osprey 1
 White-tailed Kite 4
 Northern Harrier 1
 Cooper's Hawk 1
 Red-shouldered Hawk 2
 Red-tailed Hawk 3
 American Coot 15
 Semipalmated Plover 21
 Killdeer 1
 Willet 6
 Whimbrel 2
 Sanderling 3
 Least Sandpiper 124
 Western Sandpiper 61
 Long-billed Dowitcher 9
 Heermann's Gull 30
 Ring-billed Gull 19
 Western Gull 21
 California Gull 16
 Eurasian Collared-Dove 10
 Mourning Dove 14
 Great Horned Owl 1
 Anna's Hummingbird 26

Allen's Hummingbird 3
 Belted Kingfisher 2
 Nuttall's Woodpecker 4
 Downy Woodpecker 2
 Northern Flicker 4
 American Kestrel 8
 Peregrine Falcon 2
 Black Phoebe 4
 Say's Phoebe 5
 Cassin's Kingbird 3
 Hutton's Vireo 1
 Western Scrub-Jay 2
 American Crow 27
 Common Raven 9
 Bushtit 52
 House Wren 7
 Marsh Wren 2
 Bewick's Wren 2
 California Gnatcatcher 9
 Wrentit 25
 Hermit Thrush 1
 California Thrasher 4
 Northern Mockingbird 1
 European Starling 10

Common Yellowthroat 4
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 32
 Townsend's Warbler 1
 Spotted Towhee 3
 California Towhee 25
 Savannah Sparrow 1
 Song Sparrow 19
 White-crowned Sparrow 36
 Golden-crowned Sparrow 2
 Red-winged Blackbird 25
 Brewer's Blackbird 2
 House Finch 76
 Lesser Goldfinch 20
 House Sparrow 5

Observers: Herb Knüfken, Frank Wong, Gary Grantham, Kathy Dickey, Bob Glaser, Blair Francis, Jack Friery, Eva Armi, and Anonymous

Previous Bird Surveys may be found at torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html

Herb Knüfken's amazing photo gallery may be found here: pbase.com/herb1rm

Photos by
 Herb
 Knüfken

Bald eagle



Red-tailed hawk





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Lodge Hosting/Walks Schedule - February 2014 TPDS - Updated 1/30/14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Lodge hosting hours: L- 10-1 L- 1-4	Walks: W Sat/Sun/Hol 9:30 (Start 10:00) W Sat/Sun/Hol 1:30 (Start 2:00)					L-McGee W-Ugalde L-Hartung W-Fillius
2 L-Mussen W-Polakiewicz L-Heinemann W-Meyer	3 L-S&S Rose L-A Paa	4 <i>Maid</i> s L-Fiorentino L-Small	5 L-Fischman L-Colwell/ Hammer	6 L-Alley/ Barger L-Barnard	7 L-Burke L-Martineau-	8 Meeting L- W- L-Torres W-Kamen/ Yehushua
9 L-Simon W-Renner L-Heinemann W-Fillius	10 L- L-Doolittle/ Buckley	11 L-Fischman L-Heinemann	12 L-Colwell/ Hammer L-Dickey	13 L-Griffiths/ Malm L-Dickey	14 L-Beck L-Humphrey	15 L-Schulman W-Farness L-Hartung W-Renner
16 L-Mussen W-Barger L-Heinemann W-J Larrimore	17 L-M Lewis L-Martineau	18 <i>Maid</i> s L-Fischman L-Simon	19 L-Colwell/ Hammer L-Barnard	20 L-Alley/ Barger L-Rosenwasser	21 L-Burke L-Woo	22 L-McGee W- L-Hartung W-Kamen/ Yehushua
23 L-Mussen W-Dickey L- W-Larrimore	24 L-M Lewis L-F Doolittle/ Buckley	25 L-Fiorentino L-Heinemann	26 L-Fischman L-Barnard	27 L-Griffiths L-Meyer/ Rosenwasser	28 L-Humphrey L-A Paa	

To sign up for or to remove yourself from an opening, we encourage you to use the new Volgistics online system. But, if you cannot for some reason, then call a hosting Coordinator to make the change online. Coordinators: Irene Larrimore, Jan Lombardi, or Acting Coordinator Roger Isaacson.