



# TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR  
TORREY PINES  
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 348

Online version May 2014

## Philip Unitt Makes Birds Count

by Pat Finn

Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Long-eared Owls, Tricolored Blackbirds or American Crows – whether endangered or extinct, ubiquitous or rare, hyphenated or not, if a bird is one of the nearly 500 species that live in or occasionally hang out in San Diego County, Philip Unitt has their number.

Unitt, curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum (or theNAT, as it likes to be called now), spoke to docents gathered for the April meeting about the creation of his magnum opus, *The San Diego County Bird Atlas*.

Not that Unitt researched, counted, catalogued and described the 492 species of native, migrant and exotic birds in residence in San Diego County (more species than any other region in the U.S.) by himself. Not by a long shot. He and the museum staff recruited some 400 volunteers from all ages and walks of life. For five years

from 1997 to 2002, they staked out individual squares in Unitt’s precise grid of the county – including even the most remote areas – to count birds, note activity, monitor nesting behavior, and confirm preferred habitats. The timing was lucky. In 2003, the Cedar Fire burned 20 percent of the county’s land surface.

### Inside

Message from the President	2
General Meeting Minutes	3
Docent of the Month	3
Children’s Program	4
Ospreys	4
Science Fair	5-6
TPDS Book Club	6
In Memoriam	7
Poem	7
Lagoon Update	7
Rainfall History	8
Did You Know?	8
New Ranger	9
Bird List	9

### Docent General Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 9 am

**Location:** St Peter’s Episcopal Rec Hall, Del Mar

**Title:** Hunting the Earth’s Magnetic Field

**Speaker:** Dr. Lisa Tauxe

Lisa Tauxe is a Distinguished Professor of Geophysics in the Geosciences Research Division and Department Chair/Deputy Director for Education at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD.

She graduated from Yale and earned a PhD in geology from Columbia University. Her studies concentrate on paleomagnetism, the study of remanent magnetism in geological and archaeological materials. She is working to extend the record of paleo-intensity of Earth’s magnetic field behavior 200 million years back into history.

Dr. Tauxe will talk about how the Earth’s magnetic field (its strength, direction and speed of change, including complete reversals) has changed throughout history. She has developed observational techniques and theoretical models to study these variations in the intensity of the Earth’s magnetic field through geologic time, concentrating on the sediment found on the ocean floor.

**Spotlight On: The two student recipients of the Greater San Diego Science Fair awards from the TPDS will present their papers. For more information, see pp. 5-6.**

**Refreshments:** Docents whose last names begin with T – Z will be responsible for providing snacks for the May meeting.

The result of the work of Unitt and his army of citizen naturalists is the atlas, a huge book that writer Richard Louv said was “more like a small house” because of its size and heft. It allows naturalists to see where birds are increasing, decreasing, have disappeared or are expanding or shrinking their ranges.

(cont. on pg. 3)

The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Pat Finn on alternate months, and is formatted and produced by Roger Isaacson. Submissions are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be emailed to

[Editors@torreypine.org](mailto:Editors@torreypine.org).

Circulation manager: Marian Casazza  
Extra copies of the printed *Torreyana* may be found in the docent library.

Please send postal/  
email address changes to:

Torrey Pines Docent Society  
P.O. Box 2414, Del Mar, CA 92014  
Attn: Membership or email to

[Membership@torreypine.org](mailto:Membership@torreypine.org)

Web sites:

TP Docent Society: [torreypine.org](http://torreypine.org)

TP Association: [torreypines.org](http://torreypines.org)

Visitor Center phone: **858.755.8219**

**TPDS 2014 Board Members:**

President: Bill Eckles

Vice-president: Bob Doolittle

Treasurer: Gerry Lawrence

Secretary: Annette Ring

Dir. of Communications: Lou Adamo

Dirs. of Children's Program: Barbara Justice  
& Marie Johnson

Dir. of Programs: Hank Beck

Dir. of Training: Diane Stocklin

Dirs. of Lodge Hosting: Irene Larrimore  
& Jan Lombardi

**TPSNR Staff:**

**Supervising Ranger:** Dylan Hardenbrook

**Rangers:** Kyle Knox, Jesus "Chuy" Salinas  
Rodriguez, and Mike Winterton

**Sr. Park Aide:** Louis Sands

**Park Aides:** Joy Inton, Johnson Jou,  
Isabelle Medina, and Jake Mumma

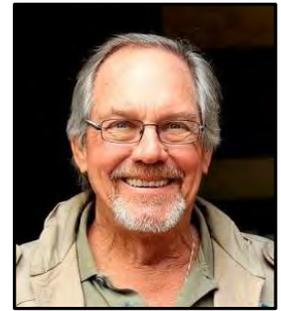
© Torrey Pines Docent Society  
Since 1975  
All rights reserved

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

## Message from the President

Why are we here?

Protect, preserve and educate. That is the overall mission to which we all commit after we spend over three months of Saturdays learning about our Reserve, its history and how to teach its wonders to visitors from around the world. This charter is simple, direct and pretty darned clear...or is it?



We do a good job of fulfilling the interpretation part of our mission, through Children's Program, Lodge Hosting, the Museum, Special Walks and Weekend Guided Walks, and the TIK on weekends. Seabees, Whacky Weeders, and Trail Patrol keep trails and surrounding areas well-patrolled, well-marked, and clear of invasive plants. We have lots of ways to inform and educate our many visitors to see "what's so special about this place?"

But, it's our sensitivity to doing the right thing that, to me, makes the biggest contribution to the Reserve. Easter Sunday at the Reserve was a pretty big day. The weather started cool and a bit gray, but turned warm and generally sunny as the afternoon progressed. The TIK was busy with questions and the various activities that come from guests, both locals and visitors. It was fun to answer their questions and try to read their interests through their dress, T-shirt messages and shoes. We even made a bit of a game out of trying to get consensus on the particular recommendations that were made. "How could you send that family to Broken Hill? They'll be exhausted by the time they get to the trailhead!" "Sure, but they'll love the footbridge and shaded trail when they get there." "Red Butte would have done it better." Visitors, staff and docents were all enjoying the sun, the breeze, the beauty, and the wonders of nature through "stink bugs" and "velvet ants."

Spring is here and the buzz permeating the park was inescapable. People were seeking rejuvenation and joy. Rebirth was found in the Reserve and in our support. Passover and Easter overlap this year and celebrations abound. Torrey Pines provides visitors, our staff and us a rejuvenation as good as any in town. It was all happening in our little space, on our maintained trails and with our beautiful vistas. We help to keep all these elements available and we help our visitors understand and enhance their value. Thanks, Torrey Pines, and thanks Mama Nature! It feels great to be alive.

*Bill Eckles*

President,  
Torrey Pines Docent Society

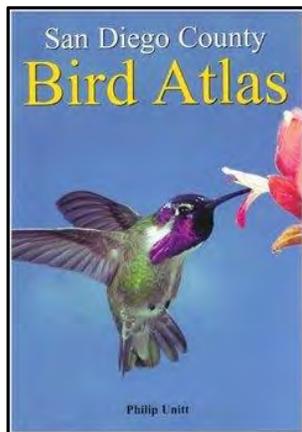
(cont. from pg. 1)

The effect of population encroachment on species that prefer grasslands, for instance, becomes obvious, and changes in the start times of nesting seasons are flagged. One serendipity was the discovery of a few species unknown here.

One practical application of Unitt's atlas was revealed in a question from a docent about why we are seeing so many crows and ravens nowadays.

Unitt acknowledged that there had been a huge change in their range. In 1985, Carlsbad was about as far south as they ventured. Now they're everywhere, thanks to the proliferation of trees and the retreat of grasslands as the county gets more built-over. It's all in the atlas.

If you would like to find out the details on a particular bird species – and you don't want to haul around a heavy hardback – the whole thing is available from Google Earth. Visit the museum's website at [sdnhm.org/archive/research/birdatlas/index.html](http://sdnhm.org/archive/research/birdatlas/index.html) for instructions on how to set it up.



## Torrey Pines Docent Society General Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2014

*Excerpted from notes of the TPDS General Meeting, by Lynne Truong for Secretary Annette Ring. Complete minutes are in the docent library.*

Meeting called to order at 11 am by **Bill Eckles**.

**Spotlight On:** **Wes Farmer** presented an informative slideshow on the Giant Humboldt Squid.

**Docent of the Month:** **Pete DiGirolamo** was named Docent of the Month to acknowledge his leadership of the Garden Committee which is refurbishing the garden in front of the Lodge. **Lynne Small** gave a shout out that he's also an enthusiastic Whacky Weeder.

**Treasurer's report (Gerry Lawrence):** Finance is looking great, with museum and water bottle sales accounting for 61% of revenue. The Docent Society has a healthy reserve.

**Ranger's report (Bill Eckles):** Parry Grove Trail work is progressing. The new Parry Grove gate was painted by artist Stuart Burton. The South Fork of the Broken Hill Trail is near completion. **[NB: South Fork is now open.]**

**TPA (Rick Vogel):** The TPA Symposium on the Lodge renovation last week was successful. When Broken Hill South Trail is finished, TPA will partner with Scripps Foundation to fund materials needed to extend the trail and perhaps stabilize the front porch of the Lodge.

**Museum Shop:** **Nancy Woodworth** announced a new book in the gift shop: *Parry's California Notebooks 1849-51* With Letters to John Torrey, Transcribed, Edited and Annotated by James Lightner. She then read a few excerpts highlighting the Torrey Pine.

**Trail Patrol:** **Lynne Truong** reported that Broken Hill South Trail was monitored by a few dedicated docents who helped greatly with alleviating the vandalism of the new wet trails. Special thanks to **Marty Jacobson** for the informative flyers on the trail closure. Due to the many hours Marty, **Ann Mercandetti Smith**, **Lynne Small**, **Joe Meyer**, **Steve Tarkington**, and **Steve and Sharon Rose** spent guarding the closed trail, the crew was able to make good progress toward completing the ADA trail.

Park Aide Louis Sands encouraged more docents to do trail patrol in the Extension as there are reports of a lot of off-trail activities by the nearby neighbors. Louis also reminded the new trainees to come early to the May general meeting for the **Live Scan**.

### General Announcements:

**Sally Whitlock** reported that the TIK is doing well with interpretation at the trail head. She introduced the Science Fair committee and announced the two awards that were given out (see pg. 5 and 6 for details).

**Ann Smith Mercandetti** announced that the La Jolla Half Marathon is sold out which means there will be 6500 runners going through the Reserve on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Docents have signed up to monitor the runners and cheer them on while they are in the Reserve

**Refreshments:** Docents whose last names begin with **T – Z** will be responsible for providing snacks for the May meeting.

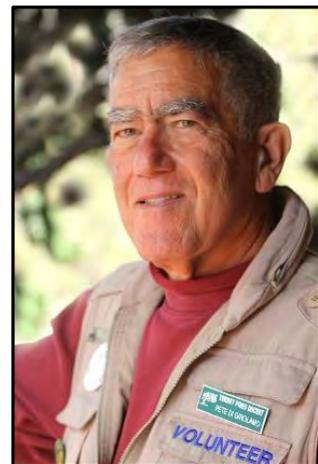
The meeting was adjourned at noon.

## Docent of the Month:

### Pete di Girolamo

*Photo by Herb Knüfken*

I am a retired architect and native Southern Californian and live with my wife Connie and wiener dog, Jake, in an old house in the Burlingame neighborhood of San Diego. My earliest recollections of Torrey Pines include a family car trip up the grade in the



late 1940's and stories from my older brother who was involved in the sports car races on the southern reaches of the Reserve.

After college, Connie and I moved to Cardiff in the mid-60's and I worked in Del Mar. At that time I became more familiar with the Reserve, including hiking with my young sons through Fat Man's Misery in the early 70's. After retirement and with an interest in native plants and the outdoors, I was "recruited" by docents **Ken King** and **Cindy Tozer** while on a bike ride and signed up for docent training and TP "boot camp."

Working on the Lodge garden with fellow committee members and weekly Whacky Weeding have often conspired to keep me off the trails and out of Lodge hosting, but I am enjoying the docent community and its many inspiring mentors. My interests include cycling, native gardening, and hand-built ceramics.

## Children's Program

*by Barbara Justice and Marie Johnson, Children's Program Directors and Louis Sands, Children's Program Coordinator*

Torrey Pines has been beautiful. We Children's Program docents consider ourselves so lucky to be able to share such a special place with the school children who come. There were 11 days in April when we had groups coming – a total of 640 children. This month we had a couple of Tuesdays and even a Monday scheduled beyond our usual Thursday and Friday tours. The docents who were presenters in April were: Louis Sands, **Joellen Barnett**, **Janet Ugalde**, **Ann Smith Mercandetti**, **Barbara Wallach**, **Sue Randerson**, **Kay Harry**, and **Barbara Justice**.



*Photo by teacher:* Students from All Hallows Academy on Red Butte with Docent Barbara Justice in center with Docent Carol Hunt behind

Eight of our eleven programs were for third graders studying the Kumeyaay, two programs on Geology for fourth graders, and one on Reserve, Plants & Habitats for second graders. One little second grade girl got a little upset about all the bees and being out on the trail and told us she was not really a "forest person." We can only hope she'll change her mind in years to come!



*Photo by teacher:* Students from All Hallows Academy studying geology

Our school programs are almost over by the end of May so we invite new trainees and any active docents who want to see what we do to come listen to the program presentation and tag along on the trail with a group of children. Go to the Docent Login Home Page, click on Children's Program Sign-up (you will need the username: docent; password: torreypinesxxx) to open up the dates that programs are scheduled. Trainees should not sign up, but this is for your information to know the topic and the time the program begins. Our programs and trail hikes last about three hours. If you would like to come a few minutes ahead of time, meet us in the docent library or out at the benches. We really look forward to meeting you and having you join us in all the fun we have with the Children's Program.

## After Major Fowl Up, Ospreys have a Happy Landing

*by Steve Tarkington*

Two ospreys have taken up residence on an artificial wooden platform built by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Agricultural District (SD Fairgrounds in Del Mar) on the lagoon side of Jimmy Durante Road. The path to the success of this pair's mating and breeding (three eggs!) was not without some stress.

The osprey pair spent several weeks in late December and early January circling over the Del Mar area looking for a location to make their nest. There were enough sightings of flying and roosting osprey that locals traded stories from their morning and afternoon walks.

"Our" pair first chose the very tall light standards in the parking lot of the Fairgrounds. Many of us watched them fly over carrying long sticks for nest building. The ospreys

seemed very happy with their new nest with one or both staying nearby much of the time for more than a week.

I returned from a vacation a couple of weeks later to hear about the valiant efforts of neighbors in trying to prevent the Fairground staff from knocking down the nests. The police, Fish and Game, and local city folks all were involved to no avail. The removal was legal as no eggs were in evidence.

Following that troubling event, the Fairgrounds built two tall wooden platforms by the side of the road, across from the parking lot. The osprey were spotted sitting on both platforms off and on for a few days before building their new nest on one of them. The location is not ideal but certainly better than the parking lot. The two tall



light standards have been removed. Even better than just the nesting platforms, the Fairgrounds gets extra points for adding a solar-operated camera (hence the photo of the ospreys with their three eggs). Adding a webcam would provide an important view into the raising of osprey chicks for all to share.

Near the nest platform is a small roadside pullout where you can safely park to take a closer look at the nest and osprey.

Incubation and projected fledging time would be about three months. Start looking for young osprey trying out their wings around the end of June.



Three eggs visible from a solar-powered camera



## Greater San Diego Science & Engineering Fair

by Sally Whitlock

For 2014, the TPDS judging team selected two deserving students to receive awards:

“Flight Initiation Distance: Human Presence Impact on Lagoon Bird Response” by Daniel Bruce, Rhoades School, grade 8. Advised by Roxanne Hunker, teacher. (See pg. 6.)

“Development of a Novel Method to Predict Wildfire Ignition Sites in San Diego County” by Alexander Cowan, San Diego Jewish Academy, grade 11. Advised by Jane Willoughby, teacher. (See pg. 6.)

Daniel and Alexander received a Certificate of Achievement and a check in the amount of \$250 from the TPDS. They will present their projects at the May 10<sup>th</sup> docent general meeting during the “Spotlight On” part of the meeting and will receive a parking pass to the Reserve. The official GSDSEF placement was 1<sup>st</sup> for both of these

projects and they were thereby selected to enter the California State Science Fair. Additionally, Daniel and Alexander received numerous professional society awards, as follows:

Daniel: San Diego Association for Rational Inquiry; San Diego Audubon Society; San Diego Chapter of Sigma Xi; San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative; San Diego Zoo Global; American Psychological Association

Alexander: San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative; San Diego Supercomputer Center at UCSD; Journal of Youths in Science.

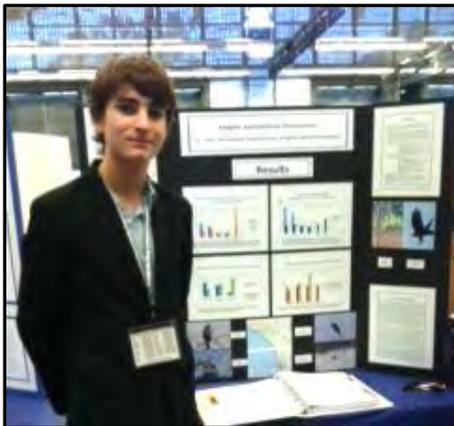
Many thanks to the TPDS judging team for their time and energy in selecting this year’s winners:

L-R in above photo, **Wes Farmer, Wayne Kornreich, Sheldon Krueger, Sally Whitlock, Frank Burham, Lillian Lachicotte, Paula Shaw.**

## Flight Initiation Distance (FID): Human Presence Impacts on Lagoon Bird Response

by Daniel Bruce, The Rhoades School, Grade 8

While observing birds in several coastal salt marshes along the California coast, I noticed a significant human presence: pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians and cars. For my Science Fair project, I decided to study the impact of human activity on bird behavior and species diversity.



Four marshes were selected based on their similar environments, including connection to the Pacific Migration Flyway and the presence of endangered species: Newport Bay, San Elijo Lagoon, Peñasquitos Lagoon and the Tijuana Estuary.

Findings as shown below: Number of people per hour, Noise using a digital decibel meter and FID measured with a laser range finder. The FID is for small passerine birds. Wading birds and waterfowl did not flee when approached at 20 to 26 meters, the closest the trails would allow. Observation times were more than 41 field hours during 8 days of the winter season of 2013-2014.

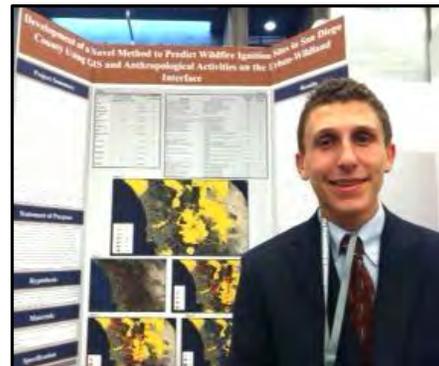
Environment	People/hour	Noise in dB	FID in meters
Newport Bay	91	61.7	4.6
San Elijo	23	63.6	1.8
Peñasquitos	71	65.5	5.5
Tijuana	20	62.5	3.7

In addition, data from published literature and volunteer monthly counts at the lagoons were used in comparison to the findings in this study. All four lagoons had significantly shorter FID than findings of previously published studies in other lagoons. The FID difference confirms my hypothesis that different bird species are affected in various ways by human activity. The fact that higher levels of human activity were inversely associated with bird species diversity suggests that human presence may be negatively impacting birds in these lagoons, perhaps by interrupting foraging or nesting. Noise levels observed, above 60 dB, have been shown to be potentially dangerous to birds, wildlife in general and humans.

## Development of a Novel Method to Predict Wildfire Ignition Sites in San Diego County

by Alexander Cowan, San Diego Jewish Academy, Grade 11

The purpose of this project is to create a novel, proactive and more effective high-risk fire ignition map of San Diego County that incorporates anthropological data on the urban-wildland interface.



Retrospective data was collected from the San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) in order to generate weighted risk factors (weights) associated with fire causation within San Diego. The data collected by SANDAG represents actual cause data for 94 wildfires in 2000-2005. Using Buffer, Union and Dissolve tools, a Final Combined Union Risk Map was created using the shapefiles accessed online. The final weight map was divided into seven weight classes: very low risk (2-14), low risk (15-28), moderately low risk (29-42), moderate risk (43-56), moderately high risk (57-70), high risk (71-84) and very high risk (85-104).

The accuracy and integrity of the Final Combined Union Risk Map was tested using the 972 wildfire ignition sites in San Diego between 2006 and 2010. The risk map captured between 47-70% of the fires that occurred, depending on the buffer zone used: sites that fell in or within 250 meters of the risk map, and sites that fell in or within 500 meters of the risk map.

This test validated the hypothesis of generating a fire risk map that would capture 30% of fires. This map could be a very useful tool in fire prevention and mitigation. The San Diego Supercomputer Center, SANDAG and ESRI, all provided help to this project through donated time and products.

### Torrey Pines Book Club

When: Tuesday, May 27, 2 pm

Where: Kathy Glasebrook home (University City)

What: *A Year in the Maine Woods* by Bernd Heinrich

All TP docents are welcome. Please contact Molly McConnell or Kathy Glasebrook if you plan to attend. (Check Member List for email or phone numbers.)

## In Memoriam: Addie Scholfield



We are saddened to learn that former docent, Addie Scholfield, passed away early in 2014. Addie became a docent in 2005 and, during her active docent years, she enjoyed being part of the Children's Program. It was wonderful to see her at our docent gathering in November 2013, sharing stories and remembrances about the Reserve. She was a cheerful, enthusiastic member of the Docent Society and we extend our condolences to her family.

## Status Update: Los Peñasquitos Lagoon

by Joan R. Simon

Every year in the spring, the ocean inlet at Los Peñasquitos Lagoon closes up due to large volumes of sand and cobblestone pushed into the lagoon from ocean tides and wave events in the winter and spring. This year, at the end of February into early March, a major rainfall occurred and with it exceptionally large waves which, apparently, plugged up the inlet earlier than in recent years.

The Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Foundation (LPLF) worked closely with California State Parks, State and Federal resource agencies, and other governmental entities to arrange for the inlet to be mechanically opened during the week of April 7<sup>th</sup>. A second effort, from April 21 – 25 and again on April 28, was needed because of “the extraordinary volume of sand within the lagoon’s inlet and up its main channel,” according to Mike Hastings, Executive Director of LPLF. For this work City of San Diego crews were brought in to finish the job.



Photo by Roger Isaacson  
First day of dredging, April 7, 2014, just after “breaking the dike.”

## Painted Lady, poem by Rhea Bridy

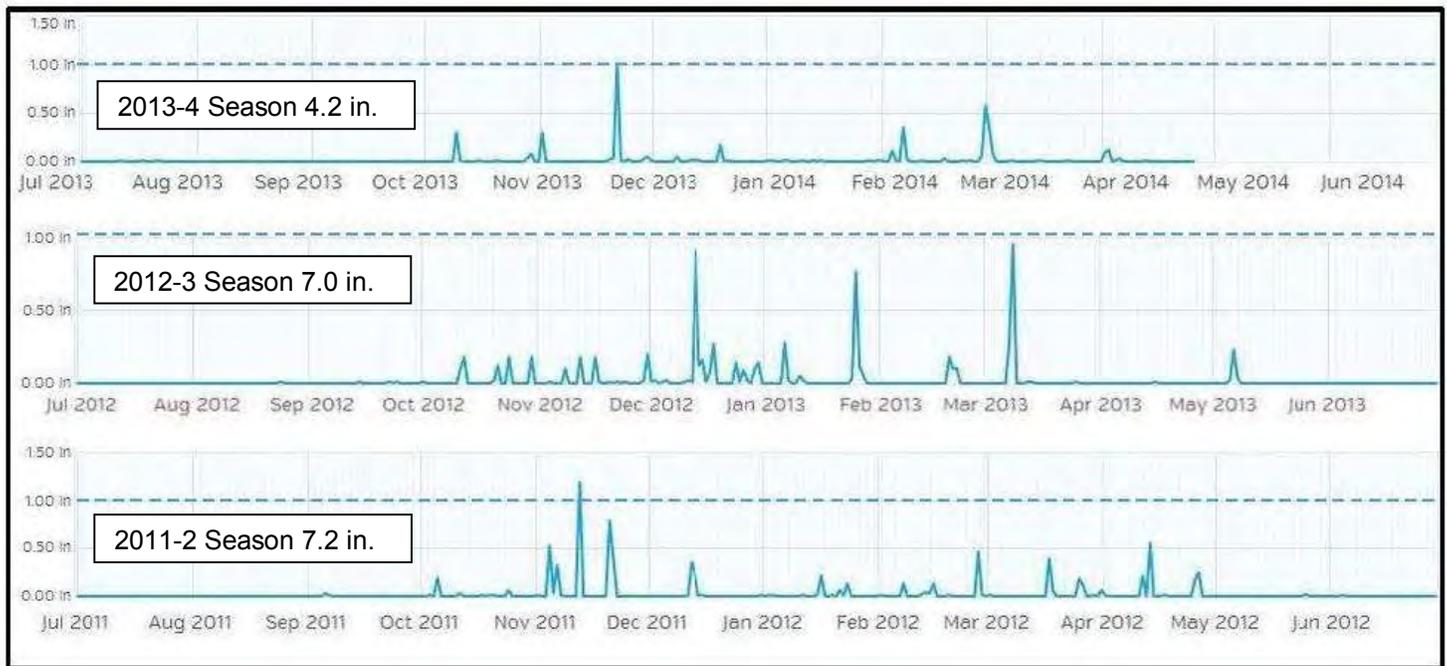
What was that?  
that swooshed beside me  
careened by me  
over and back me  
elegantly swerve me  
and by the way  
orangey  
and yellowy  
That's what I say  
That's what I saw  
a fluttering  
a fire that  
landed far away  
then dipped and  
tipped it wings  
and stayed to sip  
on petalled tarmac  
Painted Lady, ah,  
on display.

“So far, we have been successful in restoring tidal circulation within the lagoon,” Mike said. He noted that this year’s effort also included restoring the remnant dune along the inlet’s eastern bank that had been washed away in previous years. “The restored dune/beach will help protect the vegetation that had been eroded, due to undercutting of the bank from storm surges.” They also hope to restore additional foraging habitat for sensitive bird species, including the Western Snowy Plover.

As in previous years, a considerable amount of high grade sand has been placed back on the beach to help improve beach conditions (e.g., covering cobblestones with sand) for beach users and wildlife. Sand was also placed along the riprap that shelters N. Torrey Pines Road in order to protect the road and public parking from erosion caused by large waves and storm surges.



Photo by Joan R. Simon  
Second to last day of dredging, April 25, 2014



### Rainfall storm distribution at Torrey Pines

Data from link on this page: [tinyurl.com/wunderground-TPSNR-history](http://tinyurl.com/wunderground-TPSNR-history)

Note different vertical scale for the middle panel. Dashed line at 1 inch of rain.

## Did you know?\*

### Who Was First, Part 5

by Tom Polakiewicz

Walking along the trails of the Reserve, it is easy to imagine that the Torrey pines we see are a remnant of a vast untouched wilderness that existed before Europeans came to California. This impression is incorrect. For the last ten thousand years, the land around Torrey Pines, along with the rest of California, has been in large part the product of sophisticated and complex harvesting and management practices of California Indians.

The Kumeyaay Indians, who lived in the area before European contact, used fire to burn grasslands of deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) every two to five years. Burning cleared away aging and dead plant material and increased the quantity of deergrass in the following years.

They collected various grass seeds and chia seeds for food and routinely burned the fields in June or July after the harvest. They then broadcast seeds over the burned area to increase seed production in the following year.

When Don Gaspar de Portolá led the first expedition north from San Diego to Monterrey, he found verdant fields of large-leafed gourds and thickets of wild roses tended by the villagers of Ystagua, the Kumeyaay village east of Torrey Pines.

The Kumeyaay even burned the Torrey Pines woodlands and planted Torreys to increase production of the seeds which they ate raw or roasted.

Fire was not the only management technique used by the Kumeyaay. They pruned shrubs to produce straighter shoots for arrows, traps and construction material. They increased the production of wild hyacinth (*Dichelostemma capitatum*) by careful harvesting. And they planted jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*).

The Kumeyaay were not hapless wanderers across the Torrey Pines mesa, nor was the mesa untouched by human hands. Rather, the Kumeyaay used and changed their environment to make life in and around Torrey Pines possible.

Sources:

Anderson, M. Kat; *Tending the Wild*, University of California Press, (2005)

Carrico, Richard L.; *Portola's 1769 Expedition and Coastal Native Villages of San Diego County*, The Journal of California Anthropology, Malki Museum, Inc. (1977, Vol. 4, No. 1)

Cunningham, Laura; *A State of Change*, Heyday Books, (2010) Franklin, Janet; *Interim Technical Report*, Torrey Pines Association (2007)

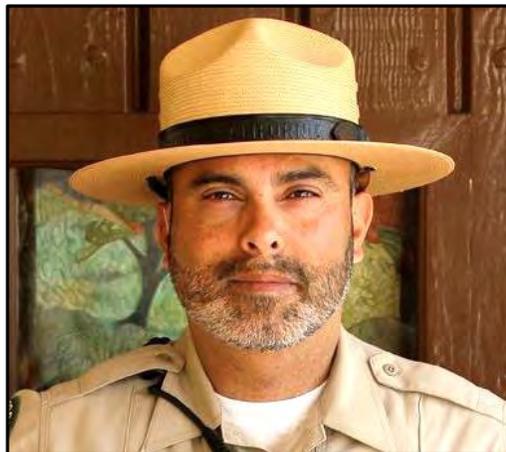
\*This "**Did You Know?**" tidbit is one of a series of occasional submissions from **Tom Polakiewicz**.

## New TPSNR Ranger: Jesus “Chuy” Salinas Rodriguez

Photo by Herb Knüfken

*I grew up in the Los Angeles area and came to San Diego to attend UCSD. I started with California State Parks in 2001. I first started off at Carpinteria/Ventura State Beach. I then transferred to Angel Island State Park located in the Bay Area, living on an island surrounded by urban development. The island had been a military base since the Civil War that also had an immigration station. I then transferred to Oceano Dunes State Vehicle Recreation Area (Pismo Beach) to try out off-highway vehicle recreation, where I got a lot of experience treating medical emergencies. After being away from San Diego for almost 10 years, I decided to come back here to take a position at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. I spent over 3 years at Old Town and then took a position here at TPSNR when it became available.*

*My hobbies include camping, traveling, hiking, and going to the beach. I bought a house 3 years ago and am currently spending a lot of my free time trying to make improvements.*



## Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: April 5, 2014

Number of species: 89

Gadwall 9  
 American Wigeon 4  
 Mallard 14  
 Ring-necked Duck 6  
 Bufflehead 10  
 Red-breasted Merganser 1  
 Ruddy Duck 18  
 California Quail 9  
 Common Loon 2  
 Pied-billed Grebe 4  
 Western Grebe 41  
 Black-vented Shearwater 1  
 Brandt's Cormorant 6  
 Double-crested Cormorant 5  
 Brown Pelican 3  
 Great Blue Heron 2  
 Great Egret 4  
 Snowy Egret 6  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron 1  
 White-tailed Kite 3  
 Northern Harrier 1  
 Red-shouldered Hawk 1  
 Red-tailed Hawk 3  
 Clapper Rail 1  
 American Coot 22

Black-bellied Plover 1  
 Snowy Plover 1  
 Killdeer 1  
 Spotted Sandpiper 1  
 Willet 16  
 Whimbrel 5  
 Least Sandpiper 14  
**Bonaparte's Gull 1\*\*\***  
 Heermann's Gull 2  
 Ring-billed Gull 2  
 Western Gull 2  
 California Gull 4  
 Royal Tern 12  
 Elegant Tern 2  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove 1  
 Mourning Dove 5  
 White-throated Swift 30  
 Anna's Hummingbird 31  
 Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird 5  
 Belted Kingfisher 1  
 Nuttall's Woodpecker 6  
 Downy Woodpecker 2  
 American Kestrel 1  
 Peregrine Falcon 1  
 Black Phoebe 5  
 Cassin's Kingbird 9  
 Western Kingbird 2

Hutton's Vireo 2  
 Western Scrub-Jay 7  
 American Crow 13  
 Common Raven 14  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow 11  
 Tree Swallow 30  
 Cliff Swallow 20  
 Bushtit 27  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 1  
 House Wren 3  
 Marsh Wren 4  
 Bewick's Wren 8  
 California Gnatcatcher 6  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2  
 Wrentit 28  
 Hermit Thrush 1  
 California Thrasher 7  
 Northern Mockingbird 1  
 European Starling 2  
 Orange-crowned Warbler 11  
 Common Yellowthroat 12  
 Yellow Warbler 1  
 Wilson's Warbler 2  
 Yellow-breasted Chat 1  
 Spotted Towhee 17  
 California Towhee 19

Savannah Sparrow 3  
 Song Sparrow 23  
 Lincoln's Sparrow 1  
 White-crowned Sparrow 13  
 Golden-crowned Sparrow 1  
 Black-headed Grosbeak 2  
 Red-winged Blackbird 18  
 Brown-headed Cowbird 1  
 House Finch 28  
 Lesser Goldfinch 16  
 American Goldfinch 1

\*\*\*This was originally reported as a Franklin's Gull (head molting into full hood, rather than a mask). Some experts who reviewed the photo felt it should be more properly considered a Bonaparte's Gull.

**Observers:** Herb Knüfken, Bob Glaser, Jack Friery, Blair Francis, Gary Grantham, Kathy Dickey, Anonymous

Previous Bird Surveys may be found at [torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html](http://torreypine.org/activities/bird-sightings.html)

Herb Knüfken's amazing photo gallery may be found here: [pbase.com/herb1rm](http://pbase.com/herb1rm)



Torrey Pines Docent Society  
PO Box 2414  
Del Mar, CA 92014  
(858) 755-2063  
[torreypine.org](http://torreypine.org)

Where did the Hosting/Walks Schedule go? With the new Volgistics online signup system the whole month fills up very quickly. Volgistics is now being used by 90% of the docents and any openings are available online or you can check the paper copies in the Green Notebook behind the docent desk in the Lodge that are updated every Monday. Questions can be emailed to [portal@torreypine.org](mailto:portal@torreypine.org).