



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 376

September 2016

Tsuyoshi “Mat” Matsumoto: A Daughter’s Perspective

by Joan R. Simon

It’s a long way from Hokkaido, Japan to Torrey Pines, and the road for Tsuyoshi Matsumoto, or “Mat” as most docents know him, was not an easy one. Beloved for his black-and-white illustrations of the Torrey pines at the Reserve, Mat has memorialized the tree in a way that many people feel no photograph or painting can equal.

At the August monthly meeting, docents listened to his daughter, Helen Matsumoto Kagan, as she outlined the unlikely life journey that brought Mat to Torrey Pines. Born in 1908 in the northernmost island of Japan, Mat graduated from an English-language college in Tokyo, before coming to the United States in the early 1930’s to study theology and sacred music in San Francisco and New York. He returned to Japan and became a lecturer at his alma mater. He also played the organ for a dance company, where he met Emi, a Eurasian ballerina, who would become his wife. As their courtship blossomed, a cable arrived from Mat’s friends in New York.

His friends feared that he would be swept into the Asian conflict which led to World War II. So they wrote that he was urgently needed for a job in the United States. Together they chipped in to buy Mat’s fare to the United States, but



Docent General Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 9 am

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

Speaker: Keith Meldahl

Topic: “Surf, Sand & Stone”

Dr. Meldahl is a professor of geology and oceanography at MiraCosta College. His most recent book, *“Surf, Sand, and Stone: How Waves, Earthquakes, and Other Forces Shape the Southern California Coast,”* tells the scientific story of our coastline: its beaches, coastal bluffs, surfing waves, islands, earthquakes, tsunamis and related phenomena. It is available in the library and the Museum Shop. Dr. Meldahl has led the geology sessions for docent trainees since 2010.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **M, N, & O** will be responsible for providing snacks for this meeting.

when he arrived, he discovered that there was no job waiting for him. It had been a ruse to pluck him from the dangers in Japan. So he found his way to Watsonville, California, where a thriving Japanese-American community of farmers provided temporary work in farming, teaching piano, and preaching. Emi was able to join him, and they were married in 1938. After her visa expired, she was forced to return to Japan and had to wait eight years before she could rejoin Mat again.

(cont. on pg. 3)

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

President's Letter

A Whole Lot of TLC

One of the perks of being the TPDS president is attending the monthly TLC meetings. TLC is actually an acronym for Torrey Leadership Council. These meetings are led by Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook and attended by TPA and TPDS presidents and State Park leaders for resource ecology, archeology, maintenance, lifeguarding, special event co-ordination and public safety. The latest projects, proposals and news affecting TPSNR are discussed, and then, as TPDS president, I bring pertinent items to the monthly board and general meetings.



At any given moment, the Supervising Ranger has a long list of prioritized projects waiting for state approval, engineering, and funding. And as you are aware, this process isn't always as fast as we would like, but it is important to recognize that for planning and design, TPSNR is part of the Southern Service Center and that includes every state park south of San Francisco! Three projects awaiting funding for a topological survey before design can be completed include the Children/Multi-Use Pavilion, the Lodge Storm Drain system, and the Park Road shoulder trail. Also in the pipeline at different stages in the "concept-data collection-design-permitting-funding-build" cycle are: rebuilding the West Lot bathroom, Utility Modernization Project (including sewer); Broken Hill trail repair; Road & Trail Management Plan; ADA upgrades for the exterior routes near the Lodge and parking lots; rehab of the North Beach restroom; Lodge Front Porch repair; High Point trail head and handrail improvements; Peñasquitos Marsh water main overhaul; Low Bridge ramp replacement; South Beach storm drain repair; and on and on.

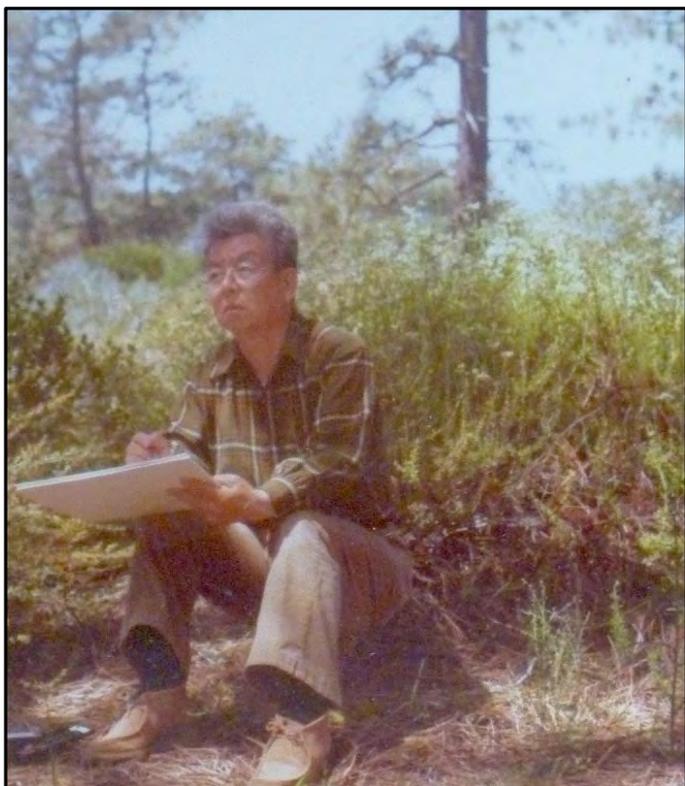
I can assure you that these dedicated members of the TLC group are diligently working on tasks that will benefit future visitors to our beloved Reserve, as well as facing urgent day-to-day tasks at hand.

Ingo Renner, President

Torrey Pines Docent Society

(cont. from pg. 1)

In 1941, Mat finally received a job offer from a friend to teach music at an African-American school in Alabama. Unfortunately, that peaceful employment ended the day after Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, when he was summarily arrested and put in a cage, which was placed in the center of the courthouse so people could see “what a real ‘Jap’ looked like.” With the help of friends, he was released and joined the army as a Japanese language instructor. After the war, he taught Japanese at the University of Hawaii, where he was reunited with Emi. In 1950, he returned to Japan and worked for “two decades of stability” at a US naval base, where Helen and her younger brother grew up.



Mat with his sketchbook

Mat’s first trip to Torrey Pines was in 1971 and that day has become a part of docent lore. Having spent hours wandering the trails at Torrey Pines and falling in love with the trees, Mat lost his wallet and keys and trudged up to the Lodge for help. There the “lodge sitters” (precursors of TPDS Lodge hosts) gave him money for a cab and a copy of the “Green Book” (see: [Torreyana March 2004](#)). He and his wife soon moved to San Diego, where they opened an art gallery on Wall St. in La Jolla. Mat devoted the last decade of his life to drawing his beloved pines, spending many days at the Reserve. He filled 45 large sketchbooks with about 800 “studies of the pine,” as he called them, and he redrew many of these studies into finalized pencil drawings.



Opening a sketchbook

Amazingly, Mat never had an art lesson in his life and had the handicap of being red-green colorblind (which undoubtedly scotched his earlier forays into oil painting). When he died in 1982, he bequeathed his negatives to the Reserve. The illustrated “Mat” cards and larger prints have been popular items for decades at the Lodge Museum Shop. The illustration on the masthead of this newsletter has graced the *Torreyana* for more than thirty years.

The Torrey Pines Association is currently planning an exhibit of Mat’s drawings at a date and location to be determined. They would like to find a location where fund-raising can take place for the Reserve. In the meantime, the UCSD Geisel Library will host an exhibit focused on Torrey pines, including Mat’s work, as well as the work of other artists, sometime in the Spring of 2017.

General Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by **Ingo Renner**.

Speaker: Helen Matsumoto Kagan, daughter of Tsuyoshi Matsumoto. Topic: My Father, "Mat", the Artist.

August CEED Event: **Joe Meyer** reminded everyone that the next event is a geology walk led by **Gill Williamson** on Aug. 15 at 1:00 pm at the South Beach.

Spotlight On: **Ray Barger**’s talk on "Mystery Visitors at TPSNR" highlighted the eight most common aviation visitors to TPSNR. Ray gave a useful slideshow to help with the identification and interpretation for our human visitors who ask about the military aircraft that fly over Torrey Pines. Names include Super Hornet, Osprey, Chinook, Stallion/Sea Dragon, Cobra/Viper, Huey/Venom, Hercules, Black/Sea/Jayhawk. See photos and descriptions on TPDS Google Groups, Aug. 18, 2016.

Park Aides: For the benefit of the new graduates the park aides introduced themselves and gave an overview of the tasks they are responsible for. (**Elliott Beltran** and **Joy Inton** were not present.)

Louis Sands is the coordinator for the TPDS-led Children's Program. He also coordinates the non-docent volunteers and self-guided hiking groups. He distributes docent parking passes and patches.

Johnson Jou and **Joy Inton** coordinate the Junior Rangers program. They also oversee removal of invasive species from the lagoon, and Joy is in charge of the monthly Carmel Valley Rd. clean-up. They set up Nature Discovery interpretation stands next to the TIK (Trail Information Kiosk) on weekends once a month. They are available to help out with problems with the POS (point of sale) system and any interpretation questions.

Sami Collins works with the Children's Program, does interpretation, and works with Darren Smith to control the bark beetles.

Jake Mumma has been a park aide for 6 years. He works with the Seabees and the Whacky Weeders and is the liaison to these two groups.

Docent of the Month: **Mark Embree** for all his work with the Seabees, Trail Patrol and the bird survey.

Museum: **Suzan Potuznik** asked for volunteers to work on the Museum notebook project, bringing back and updating notebooks on various historical and interpretive topics.

Membership: **Lillian Lachicotte** asked docents about their talents and interests during the break.

Garden Committee: **Pete di Girolamo** announced that three new interpretive signs are now in place in Whitaker Garden (see article on pg. 5).

Road Clean-up: **Kristine Schindler** announced a road clean-up (Rt. 101 outside the Reserve) on Sunday, Aug. 18.

Library: **Bonnie Hornbeck** announced two new books in the library (see pg. 7 for details). Due to space limitations, the library committee is starting a project to remove the out-of-date books and is asking experts in various fields to help determine which books are obsolete.

End of Summer Beach Party: Ingo announced the joint End of Summer Beach Party with TPA at the South Beach on Friday, Sept. 16. There will be a minus tide at about 3:30 pm that day and a full moon. Ingo asked for volunteers to help organize this event. He is also looking for entertainment ideas. Contact Ingo if you want to get involved with this.

Refreshments: At September's general meeting docents with last names starting with **M, N & O** are responsible for snacks.

Meeting ended at 10:47 am.

Children's Program

by Janet Ugalde, Children's Program Director

September begins a new year for enthusiastic Children's Program docents. Here we go, team!

The 2016-17 Children's Program will operate Tuesdays, Thursdays & the first Friday of each month. Maximum group size has been expanded to 88 students, in hiking groups of 8, so we will need more docent participation this year.

Thursday, September 15, 10-11:30 am: the kick-off meeting for ALL Children's Program docents! Join your fellow docents for a quick 2015-16 school year review, program updates, and team fellowship! New docents are welcome to attend. An optional pre-meeting group hike will leave the Visitor Center at 8:30 am.

Tuesday, September 27, will be our first program day. As in prior years, registration opened to teachers on August 15, and many dates have already been reserved. Children's Program docents are urged to sign up online for fall program dates. For the *new* website link [click here](#).

The TPDS Children's Program has been in operation for 25 years. During the 2015-16 school year over 4000 San Diego area students participated in this free, interactive, outdoor educational opportunity. The key to our success is the dedication of our awesome volunteers. Last year 47 docents donated more than 1600 hours of their time to the program. With the support of our outstanding training team, we will continue to provide San Diego students with this unique learning experience for many years to come.

To learn more visit our website at torreypine.org/eduprograms/docent-led-program/, or contact our coordinator, Louis Sands, at childrensprogram@torreypine.org.

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." Baba Dioum

Docent of the Month:

Mark Embree

Photo by Herb Knüfken

"Who wants to hike *Fat Man's Misery* with me?"

Having no idea what my future father-in-law was referring to, I politely ignored him, until his daughter, my girlfriend and future wife, said, "Count me in, Dad."

My plans changed; I was going. Since I was 6'5" and weighed about 190, I figured a walk on a trail called *Fat Man's Misery* couldn't be all that bad. I feigned excitement. Having grown up in Los Angeles, fifteen-to-twenty miles removed from the hills of the Palos Verde Peninsula to the south and the hills of Griffith Park to the north, hiking for me had largely been summer backpacking trips to the Sierra Nevada. Hiking in November of 1982 didn't register.

Since my future in-laws lived off Del Mar Heights Road, it was a short trip to the lower parking lot and my introduction to Torrey Pines State Reserve. Our initial steps up the hill introduced me to an environment filled with plants, animals, and geological formations that were foreign to me. Our first steps down *Fat Man's Misery* captivated my sense of imagination as I questioned how different colors of the bluff could sit one on top of another creating a Neapolitan-ice-cream landscape of sorts; some appeared carved with a sculptor's tool, while others stood untouched, similar to the South Bay bluffs I had experienced as a boy. The physical activity took a backseat to all that the Reserve possessed. As a high school English teacher, I allowed myself to envision everyone from the early inhabitants of the area to Richard Henry Dana as he sailed north.



Although my wife and I eventually settled in South Carlsbad, Torrey Pines remained our favorite weekend and summer hiking destination. Often I would ask my wife how the Reserve looked in the early 1960's, before I-5 was completed. I learned of deer not only in the parking lot, but in her unfenced backyard. Her stories stoked my imagination.

When I retired as a teacher in June of 2014, my thoughts returned to the bluffs of Torrey Pines. I joined the docent Class of 2015. I have found my experience educational, enriching, and uplifting. I now have answers for the Neapolitan layers that puzzled me nearly thirty-five years ago. On our recent, summer trip to Burgess Shale in Yoho National Park, I could see examples of sedimentary soil laid layer upon layer by the movements of an ancient ocean and see similarities to the geological formations at Torrey Pines. Through walks with other docents, I've gained a greater appreciation for the significance of each part as nature attempts to create the "whole." Where would the tiny cochineal be without the broad stems of the prickly pear cactus? By volunteering in a number of docent activities, I've had the opportunity to meet many wonderful individuals who are singularly focused on maintaining and sharing the unique features of the Reserve. Each readily shares knowledge with encouragement so newer, less experienced docents feel empowered to carry on the mission.

Thank you for the recognition at last month's general meeting. I look forward to many more years volunteering in the Reserve.

CEED trip

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 13

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Tecolote Canyon Visitors Center - Birding

Duration: 1 ½ - 2 hrs. hike – Meet @ the Tecolote Nature Center

Leaders: Jack Friery, Kathy Dickey – Docents
TPSNR

“At Last”: New Signs at Whitaker Garden & Scripps Overlook

by Joan R. Simon

“At last!” sighed Garden Committee Chair **Pete di Giralomo**, when the new signs for Whitaker Garden, Scripps Overlook and Dr. Whitaker were installed last month after more than a year and a half in the making. The committee spent long hours working on the content and design of each sign, followed by many months waiting for approval from higher up. Finally the signs were manufactured (with funding from the TPA) and installed in August. Thanks to the Seabees for a stellar job drilling through the layer of tough cobbles overlaying the hard Linda Vista surface.



Installing new interpretive signs: Seabees Pao Chau, Brian Fujita, and Bill Eckles Photo by Michelle Kurtis Cole

The Whitaker Garden sign describes the plant communities represented in the garden and greets visitors when they first enter the Parry Grove and Overlook path. Dr. Whitaker’s sign is on the southwest corner of the garden next to the bench and plaque that are memorials to his wife. It pays tribute to Dr. Whitaker’s generosity in establishing the garden in 1984 and his important role, as a longtime president of the TPA, in acquiring the Extension land.

The Scripps Overlook sign will hold special interest for docents. It has been placed along the north side of the Scripps Overlook path, looking out over the Ellen Browning Scripps Natural Preserve. This land was purchased by Ms. Scripps between 1908 and 1912 and includes the Guy Fleming and Parry Grove Trails. Without it, there would be no TPSNR as we know it today.

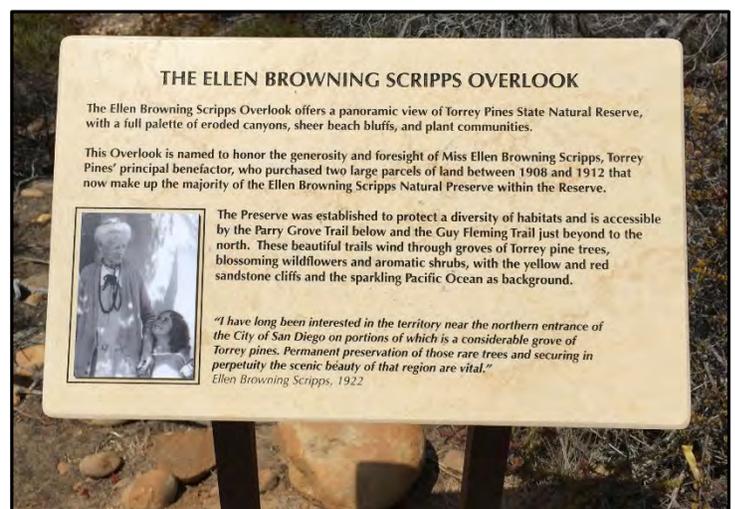
There is much more work for the Garden Committee to do. Since its inception in the middle of 2013, the group has

cleaned up and added plantings to the Lodge Garden, with new plant signs installed in March, 2014. They did the same for the Whitaker Garden, with new plant signs arriving in May, 2015. They have been nurturing young, native plants to add to both gardens when the season (and hoped-for rainfall) allow them to thrive, and will be working with the new district environmental scientist, Cara Stafford, in this venture (see link: [Torreyana August 2016](#)).

A big thanks to all the members of the Garden Committee: **Pete diGiroloamo, Arline Paa, Stu Rosenwasser, Barbara Wallach, Carol Hunt, Bob Glaser, Marian Casazza, Pao Chau, Joan Simon, and Linda Chisari.**



Visitor reading the new Whitaker Garden sign Photo by Joan R. Simon



Ellen Browning Scripps Overlook Sign Photo by Roger Isaacson

Torrey Pines Book Club

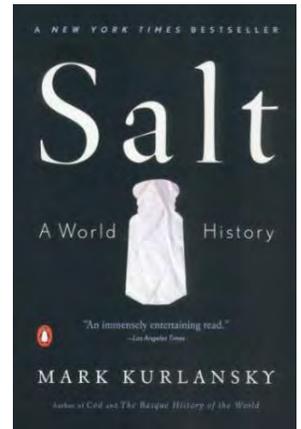
When: Tuesday, September 13, 2:00 pm

Where: Gabrielle Ivany's home in Rancho Bernardo

What: *Salt: A World History*, by Mark Kurlansky.

From Amazon:

In his fifth work of nonfiction, Mark Kurlansky turns his attention to a common household item with a long and intriguing history: salt. The only rock we eat, salt has shaped civilization from the very beginning, and its story is a glittering, often surprising part of the history of humankind. A substance so valuable it served as currency, salt has influenced the establishment of trade routes and cities, provoked and financed wars, secured empires, and inspired revolutions. Populated by colorful characters and filled with an unending series of fascinating details, "Salt" is a supremely entertaining, multi-layered masterpiece.

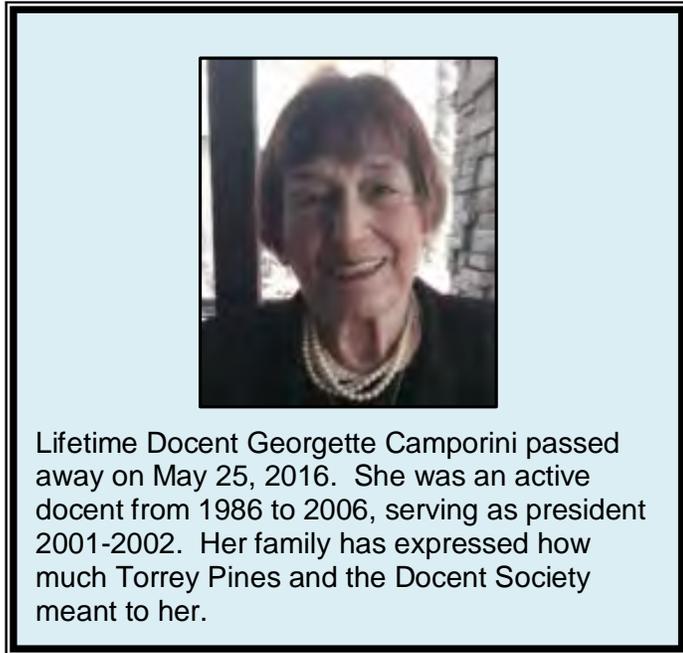


All TPDS docents are welcome. Meetings usually last a couple of hours. RSVP to Gabrielle if you plan to attend. (Check Member List for email or phone number.)

Looking Ahead:

October 11: *Euphoria*, by Lily King at **Mona Kuczenski's** home in University City.

November 8: *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald at **Molly McConnell's** home in Normal Heights.

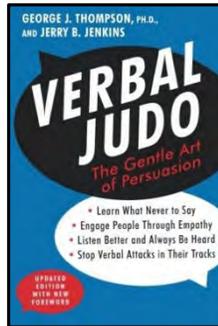


Lifetime Docent Georgette Camporini passed away on May 25, 2016. She was an active docent from 1986 to 2006, serving as president 2001-2002. Her family has expressed how much Torrey Pines and the Docent Society meant to her.

Two New Library Books

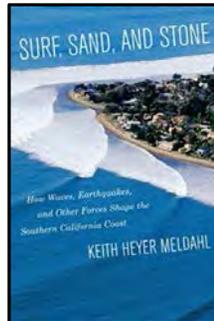
Verbal Judo by George J. Thompson & Jerry B. Jenkins

A martial art of the mind and mouth that can show how to be better prepared for every verbal encounter.



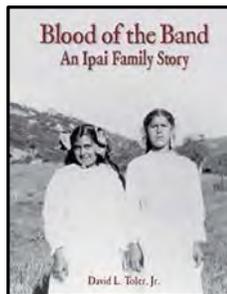
Surf, Sand, and Stone by Keith Meldahl

The scientific story of the Southern California coast: its mountains, islands, beaches, bluffs, earthquakes, and related phenomena.



Soon to come: *Blood of the Band: An Ipai Family Story* by David L. Toler, Jr.

The story of a north San Diego County Ipai (also known as Kumeyaay) family's remarkable, yet little known history of human habitation in what has come to be known as southern California.



Reminder: when checking out any library materials, the length of the check-out time is two weeks.

Bonnie Hornbeck, TPDS Librarian

In the Sandy Wash

by Rhea Bridy

In the sandy wash they spar
two silver and blue males
spinning and spiraling around.
And she, a beautiful butterfly, ignores them.
She, the calm one, finds tiny places
among crisp leaves to lay her eggs.
Summer days shorten, seasons change.
And she does her duty, no fanfare among
the dried blooms, dressed for fall.



Geology beach walk led by Gill Williamson on August 15, 2016

Plant of the Month: Sea-lavender or Western Marsh Rosemary

by Margaret Fillius

I expect you have given and received flower bouquets that include Statice. This is usually either *Limonium perezii*, native to the Canary Islands, or *Limonium sinuatum* (Wavy-leaf Sea Lavender), native to the Mediterranean. Both are invasive in our area and can be seen along Torrey Pines Road near the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.



Sea-lavender or Western Marsh Rosemary

Our native species is *Limonium californicum*, commonly known as **Sea-lavender** or **Western Marsh Rosemary** although not related to either Lavender or Rosemary. Not

as showy as the non-native species, this perennial is still attractive, with small pale violet and white flowers at the ends of a much-branched stem. It grows in salt marsh and coastal strand plant communities along the California and Northern Baja coast, so it is adapted to saline conditions. In the Reserve, it can be found along the western half of the Flintkote Trail. Fresh new leaves appear from the woody base in the spring, and the flowers usually bloom from July to December.



Salt crystals on Sea-lavender

Sea-lavender is a Recretahalophyte, which means it has specialized salt-secreting salt bladders and salt glands. A recent study of a related *Limonium* species has shown that salt glands have four secretory pores that discharge salts, mainly sodium chloride. With time, salt crystals can be very visible on the long leaf blades (see photograph above).

Long-billed Curlew

by Jack Friery; photos by Herb Knüfken

Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve has many superlatives—and here's another. Beginning in late summer, and through the winter into spring, you can spot the Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus*, on Torrey Pines State Beach and at the mouth of the lagoon.



Long-billed Curlew

Why superlative? Because the Long-billed Curlew is the *largest* shorebird in North America. This bird is 20 to 25 inches long, from the tip of its tail to the tip of its (very long) beak. The bird is interesting for more than its dramatically downcurved beak. In the summer, this

“shorebird” leaves the coast to fly to its nesting grounds, not at the ocean, but in the great prairies of the U.S. and Canada. And, when the young are born, their eyes are open, they're able to leave the nest five hours after hatching, and are capable of searching for food after ten hours. See allaboutbirds.org/guide/Long-billed_Curlew/id.

A bird that can be mistaken for the Long-billed Curlew is the Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*). But the Whimbrel is smaller, has a shorter downcurved bill, and has distinctive dark stripes on the crown of its head.



Whimbrel

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: August 6, 2016

*Number of species: 55
(plus 1 other taxon)*

*Uncommon species
bolded*

Mallard 3
California Quail 15
Black Storm-Petrel 6
Brandt's Cormorant 1
Double-crested Cormorant 11
Brown Pelican 56
Great Blue Heron 5
Great Egret 1
Snowy Egret 19
Osprey 2
White-tailed Kite 1
Red-shouldered Hawk 1

Black-bellied Plover 3
Whimbrel 49
Long-billed Curlew 1
Marbled Godwit 11
Willet 20
Heermann's Gull 8
Western Gull 6
Caspian Tern 2
Eurasian Collared-Dove 5
Mourning Dove 16
Lesser Nighthawk 1
Anna's Hummingbird 11
Allen's Hummingbird 5
Belted Kingfisher 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 6
American Kestrel 4
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1

Black Phoebe 6
Ash-throated Flycatcher 1
Cassin's Kingbird 1
California Scrub-Jay 3
American Crow 4
Common Raven 18
swallow sp. 6
Bushtit 38
House Wren 6
Bewick's Wren 16
California Gnatcatcher 10
Wrentit 18
California Thrasher 7
Northern Mockingbird 3
Orange-crowned Warbler 1
Common Yellowthroat 12
Lark Sparrow 1

Savannah Sparrow 1
Song Sparrow 20
California Towhee 35
Spotted Towhee 13
Black-headed Grosbeak 3
Blue Grosbeak 1
Red-winged Blackbird 9
House Finch 46
Lesser Goldfinch 29
House Sparrow 2

Observers: Kathy Dickey,
Herb Knüfken, Bob Glaser,
Marty Hales, Jack Friery,
Frank Wong, Gary
Grantham, and Anonymous

For more details view this checklist online at ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S31108492

Monthly Bird Surveys are available back to 2005 at torreypine.org/nature-center/birds/birdsurveys/

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



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