



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 445

August 2022

Shark Week at Torrey Pines

by Dan Hammer

First mountain lions, then rattlesnakes, now sharks. Time and again, TPDS guest speakers have provided a wealth of information about famous predators while dispelling myths and misinformation that feed our nightmares.

Our July speakers, Patrick Rex and Emily Spurgeon, assured us that white sharks are not coming to get us, despite what we've seen at the movies (think *Jaws*) or on TV (*Shark Week*). We all see sharks cruising up and down our coasts, but that's just what they do for a living. They're looking for stingrays and halibut on the ocean floor, not for bodysurfers or for babies on the beach.



Pat and Emily are both graduate students and researchers at the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab. Both spoke about juvenile white sharks (JWS), by far the most common sharks seen along the southern California coast. Reflecting their work, Pat spoke about JWS-human encounters, and Emily focused on how water temperature affects how JWS spend their time at beaches.

Close Encounters of the Shark Kind

Coastal southern California is a nursery for the northeastern Pacific population of white sharks. Juveniles (4.5 to 10 feet long) form large aggregations along the coast. (When they

Docent General Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 13, 9 am

Location: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Del Mar

Speaker (via Zoom): Andrew Nosal, Ph.D.

Topic: "Local Legends: Movement Ecology of Leopard Sharks off La Jolla, California"

Every summer, hundreds of harmless leopard sharks aggregate in shallow water off La Jolla Shores Beach. Come learn about why leopard sharks aggregate at this spot and the best time to snorkel with them.

Dr. Andrew Nosal is a marine biologist who has studied the biology and ecology of sharks and rays for over a decade. He is currently an Associate Professor of Biology at Point Loma Nazarene University and a Visiting Assistant Researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Refreshments: Docents with last names beginning with **G, H, I** will be responsible for snacks for this meeting.

grow larger and become adults, they move far offshore.) To assess how the growing population of JWS affects beach safety, Pat is studying how and when humans and sharks use the nearshore area.

We know that more humans visit beaches during summer and sunny weather, and on weekends and holidays. They congregate near parking lots and beach access points. In southern California and Baja California, JWS visit various nearshore areas for extended periods of time, moving from one area to another depending on the ocean temperature – generally moving north as the water warms up and south when it cools off.

Using drones, Pat has closely observed when, where, and how sharks interact with humans. He classifies a human-shark *encounter* as any time the two species appear in the same drone frame – up to 600 feet apart but usually less than 180 feet.

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Human-shark *interaction* occurs when they're within 60 feet of each other.

Humans enter the ocean in a variety of ways: wading, swimming, surfing, or stand-up paddling. All wading and most swimming (including bodysurfing) takes place inside the breaking waves. Sharks rarely if ever stray inside the wave break, spending most of their time further offshore. So waders and swimmers stand little chance of encountering a shark.

Surfers and stand-up paddlers move further into shark territory. Surfers tend to congregate outside the wave line, wherever the waves are best, while sharks do parallel swims along the coast looking for lunch. JWS interactions with surfers are generally very brief (about 20 seconds), usually with multiple surfers in the lineup. When a shark encounters a group of surfers, it moves out of the way, then returns to its parallel swim.

Stand-up paddlers (SUPs) move much further offshore, to uncrowded areas where the surface water is smoother. They are more likely to encounter sharks, and their interactions are

longer – up to several minutes. Many SUPs choose to get as close to sharks as they can. (Whatever floats your boat!)

JWS are curious about humans, but they aren't at all interested in eating us – not when one plump seal can sustain a shark for six weeks. Most shark bites occur at dawn or dusk, when they mistake us for something tastier and more nutritious. Over the past two years in Pat's study area, sharks have only bitten two swim fins, and there have been no attacks.

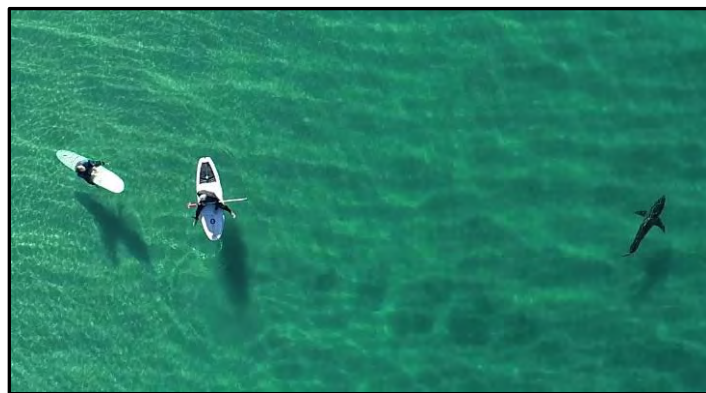
Sharks and Water Temperature

As mentioned above, juvenile white sharks aggregate in nearshore waters for extended periods of time. Though we don't currently know why they choose the beach they do or what causes them to leave, Emily is studying how temperature may influence their decision making.

Unlike other sharks and fish, adult white sharks can regulate their body temperature, generating heat by swimming. However, juveniles – even those 10 feet long! – are too small to effectively maintain their heat, so they swim to warmer water when they get cold. Throughout the year, loose aggregations of JWS may move between different beaches. Currently, scientists have no clear way to predict where they will go at a given time.

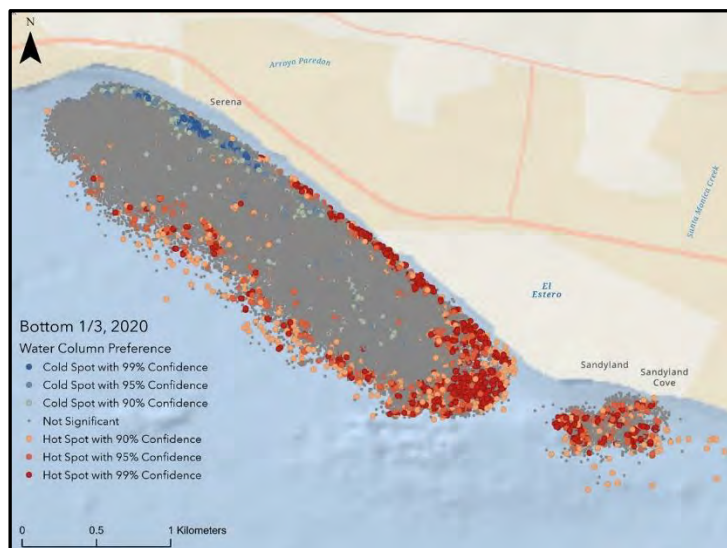
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In 2020 and 2021, Emily focused on the aggregation that formed at Padaro Beach in southern Santa Barbara County. She and her team tagged 25 JWS there in 2020 and 33 in 2021. Using a gridded array of acoustical receivers, the team closely tracked JWS movement and changing water temperature, both along the beach and within the water column. They also used an autonomous underwater vehicle to more closely track temperature changes.

This graph records where the Padaro sharks spend their time near the bottom of the water column. The big clumps of red show that they aggregated around a rocky reef where the water is warmer at depth than it is in sandy areas:



Much as swimmers may avoid a cold spot in a pool or the ocean, JWS may be moving within an area – or off to another beach – when the water gets cold. In November 2020, 80 percent of the JWS left Padaro for warmer waters.

Emily’s research is an important step in understanding JWS aggregation behavior. Understanding where and when JWS use a beach can help prevent negative interactions with the public and may be used to predict where an aggregation will form from year to year. It will also help us predict how shark behavior may change under changing climate scenarios.

If you missed these fascinating presentations or want to see them again, click [here](#).

If you want to learn more about juvenile white sharks at the beach, come to the Nature Discovery Series presentation with researchers from the Shark Lab on Saturday, August 13 (see NDS announcement on pg. 8).

General Meeting Minutes: July 9, 2022

The meeting started at 9:05 am

Invited Speakers

Emily Spurgeon and Patrick Rex, both from Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab, spoke on the topic of Juvenile White Sharks. (See story on pg. 1.)

Two Science Fair winners also gave presentations to the docents. Omar Abdulaziz spoke about whether western bluebirds experience emotions. Jocelyn Zhang presented “Infrared Thermal Imaging and Statistical analysis for Plant Stress Detection and Phenotyping.” (See summaries of their presentations on pg. 7.)

President’s Report and Announcements

President **Lynne Truong** announced that the Docents of the Month are **Joann Sandlin** and **Frank Burham** for constructing a model woodrat nest (see pg. 4).

Lynne informed the group that planning for the 100th anniversary of the Lodge has begun. Lynne will run the committee with **Gabriele Wienhausen, Susanne Florin, Donna Close, Judy Schulman, and Matt Xavier**. The celebration date is April 8, 2023, the closest weekend date to the actual Lodge opening in 1923.

Wine in the Pines: The event will be held on October 15. It has been advertised on the TPC website. It usually sells out. Right now there is early bird pricing so buy as soon as you can. Save the date.

Janet Ugalde presented the financial report for the first two quarters. She stated that for the first six months, store sales were up 40% over same period in 2019. The Special Walks team has doubled its revenue over the same time period.

For the September CEED program, Lynne announced that in lieu of a meeting in September, we will celebrate getting through the busy summer months together with a picnic on the beach near the south lot! Bring your own chairs, tables and picnic dinner and enjoy the company of other docents and a beautiful sunset. The picnic starts at 5 pm on Saturday, September 10th. There will be an optional night hike under a full moon that will follow. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on this fun docent event!

Nature Discovery Series on August 13 with the CSULB Shark Lab in the North Lot will be held at 11 am, right after the General Meeting. (See announcement on pg. 8.)

TPDS Board Applicants

by Ken King

Docent Society board members are the elected leadership of our society. They oversee our activities, create and approve new activities, take care of our finances and reporting, communicate board decisions to TPDS membership, and work with rangers and park aides. Members of the board are expected to attend the majority of the monthly board meetings and actively participate in discussions and decision-making. The board consists of four officers and five at-large members. The officers are the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Each of the five at-large members serves as liaison to specific docent activities such as the Children's Program, Lodge hosting, weeding, etc. Those assignments are selected at the first board meeting of the year in January. The Nominating Committee, appointed by the board, asks the general membership to consider serving, accepts applications, and chooses the nominees who comprise the proposed slate for the coming year. The slate is presented to the general membership in October and the members vote in November. [Click here](#) for Docent Login and application form.

Docents of the Month:

Joann Sandlin and Frank Burham

Photo by Herb Knufken

by Joann Sandlin

During docent training, I had been shown two dusky-footed woodrat nests. I wondered how I could make these nests interesting to visitors because they were only big piles of sticks when seen from the outside. I wanted to show what one finds inside the pile of sticks these rats call home. I talked with my mentor, **Frank Burham**, about constructing a model woodrat nest that could be opened so the rats' inside living spaces could be seen. Frank encouraged me to go ahead and offered to help.

It was a fun project! I molded the rats and rat scat out of sculpey clay. Then I glued tiny clumps of fake fur to the adult rats. I painted the baby rats pink and the scat brown. Frank supplied me with boxes full of sticks and two big bottles of gorilla glue so I could make the base of the nest.

I had envisioned a removable top for the nest so the rat family inside could be seen. Fortunately Frank had the engineering expertise to construct a bowl-shaped wire shed for the removable top, which we covered with more sticks glued in place.

Inside the nest I made separate rooms for different purposes: storage pantries for different foods and a nursery for babies. The female woodrat lines the bottom of the

nursery with wood bark she chews to make a soft pad; I made the model birthing pad from dry moss that I chopped very fine. I also added various shiny objects to imitate the woodrats' passion for collecting and displaying these items.

The woodrat family needs to have a father, even though he does not live in the house the female built. After mating, the mother woodrat evicts him from her house. So he has to build his own nest, where he lives while searching for other mates. I made a small nest for him and placed it next to the larger nest.



Showing the woodrat nests at the Reserve has been fun! We get such great questions, especially from children, such as "Don't they use the shiny things as a mirror?" or "What contribution do woodrats make to the ecosystem?"

Recently we were very pleased to get a request to make a smaller version, 18 inches in diameter, for display in the Lodge. It is there now, complete with the daddy nest nearby.

by Frank Burham

When set up near the TIK, the visual of the pile of sticks attracts a large number of curious visitors. It has also been of value for the Children's Program.

For more on Frank, see his Docent of the Month article in the [August 2018 Torreyana](#) and his 80+ interview in the [April 2021](#) issue.

You can visit Joann and Frank on Saturdays at the large woodrat model, just south of the TIK under the shade of a Torrey pine.

80+: A Conversation with Joan and Lou Adamo

Interviewed by Kristine Schindler

This is our first docent couple interview. Joan has been a docent since 2006 and Lou since 2008. They are both lifetime members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society. We sat down together at Whitaker Garden on a breezy February day. Because both Joan and Lou responded to questions, I'm reporting their answers in third person.

What was your path to becoming a docent?

Joan started in 2006 when she retired from UCSD to keep her busy when not working. Lou followed Joan's lead two years later since she was having so much fun. He did not want to miss out. They heard about the Reserve when they moved close to the area in 1995. The Extension is literally their back yard, and they have loved the location. Lou's experience as a member of the Torrey Pines Planning Board had made him aware of the docents prior to Joan going through docent training.

Tell us about your childhood.

Joan was born and bred in Riverdale in the Bronx. An only child, she went to Manhattanville, a Catholic women's college close to home. She went to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore for a Master of Arts in Teaching program. Lou was born in Brooklyn a few weeks after Joan. He enjoyed living near his large family of cousins until the family moved to New Jersey. That was during the winter of 1947, when a great snowstorm happened and shoveling a long driveway convinced them to move again to Middletown, a small village nearby. A great place to be a kid—fields, woods, and streams in summer, sledding and ice skating in winter. Lou was free to explore and play. Another move for his dad's work brought them to



Washington, DC. They lived in the southern Maryland suburbs, where Lou went to junior and senior high school and had a great biology teacher. Lou then went to George Washington University – a physics major and four-year letterman, rowing on the varsity crew.

How did you two meet?

Joan and Lou met at John Hopkins at the Newman Center, in a planning meeting for a Halloween party.

Lou furthered his studies at Johns Hopkins in the Department of Oceanography, earning an M.A. He then took a job with the Lockheed Corporation and moved west to their Rye Canyon Research Lab to work with large computers modeling waves and ocean current dynamics for global-scale forecasting. Lou went back east to get married, and then he and Joan moved to Newhall, at the time a very small town featuring a Saturday night livestock auction. It was a real culture shock.

Lou's small department moved to San Diego the next year. Here they raised their family – two sons (now living in the Bay Area) and a daughter who lives outside of Denver. Lou and Joan have four grandchildren.

How do you like to serve the Reserve?

Joan's main activities over the years have been the Children's Program, the TIK, and the art shows. And years ago, there was a big project working with the landscape committee at Sea Village (where they live), Darren Smith, and others from the Reserve to redo the entrance to the Extension at the top of Del Mar Scenic Parkway. They also collected photos and materials when whale-watching in Baja that are still being used for the Children's Program.

Lou now just loves being in the Reserve. In the beginning he got involved with mentoring new candidates and refurbishing the weather station. The National Weather Service (NWS) San Diego Forecast team approached him to add our station to their network of Cooperating Weather Observers and fill an important gap in their forecasting data (**Stu Smith** and **Roger Isaacson** were heavily involved at the outset). Now it's time for Lou to pass the baton. Lou won't be climbing ladders to the roof anymore. Park Aide Ingo Renner and **Steve Neal** have been invaluable in the recent battery replacement. Lou has worked closely with Roger on other IT duties. Lou also was a Board member for a while and involved with Art in the Pines.

In 2009, Lou and Joan visited Seville, Spain, home to the Archives of the Indies, the original records of Spanish exploration in the Americas. An exhibit entitled "Thread of Memory – 300 Years of Spanish Influence in the United States" included the earliest map of the San Diego coast (dated 1602). Lou is very proud that he secured permission to display a copy of the map in TPSNR's Visitor Center. He hopes to tell the whole story of the cruise behind the map in a future article.

Any advice for a new docent?

Joan thinks her most important lesson from being a docent for 20+ years is learning to see and appreciate what is native. This is such a beautiful place, and she feels very privileged to live here. Lou struggled with the idea of being a teacher and not an enforcer. He now advises docents to take it easy. Visitors are always grateful for whatever information you share.

What is on your bucket list?

For Joan, certainly travel. First place would be Alaska and then back to Scandinavia. Lou would love to see some of the South Sea islands before they disappear. They both feel lucky to have done a lot of traveling and want to do more.

Junior Rangers Back in Action

by Ingo Renner

Our first Junior Rangers Summer Session has just completed, producing 22 young, enthusiastic naturalists aged 7 to 11. This was the first of two weeklong sessions that focused on Torrey Pines nature-based topics such as “Mammals & Tracking,” “Native Plants,” and “Nature Stewardship.”

It took lots of preparation from the park aide team, with the help of docents **Patty and Bruce Montgomery**, to assemble such a successful event. Even our favorite “insectologists” (yes, I know – *entomologists*) Johnson and Joy dropped by to help!

Luckily, we were rewarded with an energized group of youngsters who graduated their Junior Rangers session eager for more time here in the Reserve. In fact, several were spotted with their parents excitedly sharing all the interesting things they saw and learned.

Ranger Stephanie Adams had the



Any last mentions?

In Joan’s earlier days, she was so impressed that people with many talents are attracted to TPDS while other groups were struggling to recruit members. Lou’s message to future docents is: we have found TPDS always open to new ideas.

To watch the video of this interview, [click here](#). We did have flight noise to contend with – a reality of the Reserve. The full video is a bit longer than most 80+ interviews (> 40 minutes) since both were speaking to the questions, but it’s well worth the time to listen to.

honor of leading the graduation oath ceremony, with proud parents gathered around snapping photos. Warms the heart, with hope for future generations.



2022 Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair Winners

by Wayne Kornreich

The Science Fair winners for 2022 were Omar Abdulaziz, 6th grade, Bright Horizon Academy, Junior Division; and Jocelyn Zhang, 10th grade, Del Norte High School, Senior Division. They presented their work at the July 9 Docent Society meeting. Their abstracts are included here.

Do Western Bluebirds Experience and Express their Emotions?

by Omar Abdulaziz

Western Bluebirds are beautiful birds found in many areas of California. The males are shiny blue with orange bellies, and females are gray with light blue bellies. Bluebirds are cavity nesters, and they build their nests approximately five feet above ground. They are monogamous birds; one pair stays together to raise their young for an entire breeding season.



This project was designed to determine if Western Bluebirds experience emotions. If they do, how would they express their emotions to each other. My first hypothesis is that western bluebirds do experience emotions under different situations and scenarios. My second hypothesis is that bluebirds might experience emotions, but they cannot express their emotions to each other because they cannot communicate like humans.

Birds have a similar brain structure as humans; both have the limbic system which detects and directs emotion and behavior. Emotions are reaction patterns. By expressing emotions is how beings deal with significant situations. They involve facial expressions and sounds. There are five basic emotions, which are happiness, sadness, anger, fear, and surprise.

My first hypothesis was proven correct: Western Bluebirds do experience emotions under different situations and scenarios. My second hypothesis was proven incorrect: Western Bluebirds do express their emotions to each other under different situations and scenarios. Just like humans, Western Bluebirds experience emotions of happiness, love, care and affection, encouragement, anxiety, fear and tension, anger, sadness, and grief. Both male and female western bluebirds show their emotions to each other in various ways. The Western Bluebirds proved that they show different emotions at different situations, and during different stages of their lives.



Infrared Thermal Imaging and Statistical Analysis for Plant Stress Detection and Phenotyping

by Jocelyn Zhang

The frequent drought conditions in California have severely impacted the quality and amount of drought sensitive fruit, like avocados produced each year. Even though plant stress is a critical factor impacting a plant's health condition, current plant stress measurement involves complicated measurement systems, and is not convenient to use. In this study, experiments were conducted on three different plants – avocado; Shaw's Agave, a critically endangered plant; and Toyon, an easy-to-grow plant – to study the different plant leaves' surface temperature distribution under different weather and irrigating conditions by using infrared thermal imaging technique. Further statistical analysis and imaging processes were conducted. The results shows, the temperature difference between the leaf temperature and ambient temperature is a good indicator of plant stress. The infrared thermal imaging could be used as an effective tool to detect the plant stress condition.



Guess who thought of this first (answer on next page).



Photo by Thomas Stehlik

Torrey Pines BioBlitz Event

Text and photo by Ingo Renner

The San Diego Naturalist Society sponsored an all-day public “BioBlitz” on July 16. This event was a biological survey where participants recorded all living species they could find in an eight-hour period and entered that information into the iNaturalist app.

Twenty-one participants observed 142 distinct species. Not bad for an intensive day in the field!



Bee Monitoring Project

by Robert James

We all know that southern California is a biodiversity hotspot. Of the 20,000 or so native bees in our world, we have an astonishing number just in our county – nearly 700! TPSNR supports many of these species, which have important ecological roles, including pollinators of our native plants. (The honey bee, *Apis mellifera*, although integral to much of California agriculture and ubiquitous in our region, is a naturalized bee from Europe.)

Launched in March, the Bee Monitoring Project is a collaborative effort of the UC San Diego Natural Reserve System, the Torrey Pines Docent Society, and the Pollinator Lab at the University of Oklahoma. The goal of this project is to use photography to document and monitor the native bee species in TPSNR. This monitoring is essential to understanding the status and distribution of bee species. It also provides data for informed management of ecological resources at TPSNR, especially important in this time of climate change.

With only a phone camera, it is possible to identify many bees to the species level. The associated location and time linked to the photo add to the scientific value of the observation. We use iNaturalist.org, a worldwide public depository popular with community scientists, which makes the information available to expert entomologists (many are active on iNaturalist!), nature enthusiasts, and anyone else who is interested: [inaturalist.org/TPSNRBeeMonitoring](https://www.inaturalist.org/TPSNRBeeMonitoring).

Beginning with a small core group (Karen Fraser, Jean Kelleher, Tsaiwei Olee, Tina Tong, Crescencio Torres, Stu Rosenwasser and Robert James), about 300 observations of native bees belonging to at least 19 different taxa have been made in just a few months. These have included information on flowers likely being pollinated by each species as well as a notable set of observations of an uncommon endemic bee, the red-tailed micro-shortface bee (*Micralictoides ruficaudus*). In addition, many observations of other associated insects (e.g., beetles, flies, and true bugs) have added to the natural history knowledge of TPSNR. As the project has progressed, we have begun to meet more frequently to coordinate our efforts.

Interpretive concepts have also been generated. For example, *Diadasia*, a large and active bee frequently seen inside the flowers of prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia littoralis*), is easily accessible and a wonderful choice to show visitors when focusing on an ecology or biodiversity interpretive theme.

Turret bee (*Diadasia australis*) in prickly pear cactus flower along Guy Fleming Trail, June 12, 2022. iPhone photo by Robert A. James.



Anyone with a smartphone or camera can participate in the project, and we would love for you to join us! There is a selection of seven one-hour survey routes, flexible times, and the option to do surveys alone or with a partner. Resources are posted online to prepare you for the project. We have found the Bee Monitoring Project interesting, useful, and fun. For more information, please contact Gabriele Wienhausen or go to torreypine.org/volunteering/bee-monitoring-project/. For an earlier article on this project, see the October 2021 issue of the *Torreyana*, pg. 5 [click here](#).

Nature Discovery Series: Sharks!

On **Saturday, August 13**, from 11 am to 3 pm, NDS will host a special beach event. Come see the California State University Long Beach Shark Lab Shack! We will also have a display of commonly found beach items and a scavenger hunt for kids. This public event is free and suitable for all ages. We will meet behind the restrooms at the North Beach parking lot.

Contact Kathy Dickey for more information

Answer for pg. 7: Steve Neal

A Parry Hikes in Parry Grove

by Beverly Toth

While working in the Lodge on a busy Monday afternoon in June, **Gabriele Wienhausen** and I had the pleasure of meeting this delightful woman. She proceeded to mention that she was a descendant of Charles C. Parry! Her name is Barbara L. Parry, M.D., and she resides in La Jolla. I told her we would love to share her photo and comments in the *Torreyana*.

I asked her how she was related to Charles Parry and how it feels for her to be at TPSNR.

Here is her response: "It is quite a treat to hike the Parry Grove Trail and be reminded of my paternal grandfather's uncle, Charles Parry, discovering the Torrey pine tree and naming it after his botany mentor, John Torrey. It makes me feel very rooted in the land here."

You never know who you might get to meet when Lodge hosting!



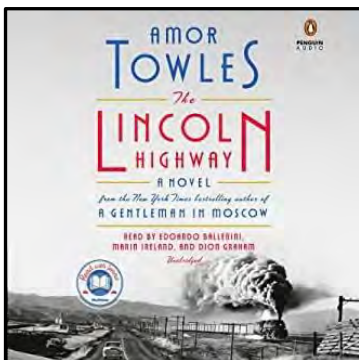
Torrey Pines Book Club

We will continue to meet via Zoom at our regularly scheduled time. Please notify Ken King if you plan to participate and if you need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, August 9, 1:00 pm

What: *The Lincoln Highway: A Novel* by Amor Towles

In June 1954, 18-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served 15 months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed on by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother Billy and head to California, where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers



that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction – to the city of New York. Spanning just 10 days and told from multiple points of view, Towles' third novel will satisfy fans of his multilayered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

All TPDS docents are welcome. Meetings usually last a couple of hours.

September 13: *Patriot, Prisoner, Survivor: An American Family at War*, a biography by docent Jim Bedinger

Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

In case you haven't seen it, the shop team would like to bring your attention to a book we have been carrying for a few months: *The Nature of California*. The title of this softcover field guide says it all! Covering plants, trees, wildflowers, mammals, fishes, reptiles and amphibians, this beautifully illustrated guide highlights more than 370 common and unique plants and animals and 85 of the state's outstanding natural attractions. It is an indispensable single reference for amateur naturalists, students, and tourists alike – a perfect all-around booklet for our visitors!



Bird of the Month: Redhead Duck

by Jack Friery; photo by Herb Knufken

Our highlighted bird this month is the Redhead (*Aythya Americana*), a species of diving duck found uncommonly in the winter at Torrey Pines Reserve. The Redhead is about 15 inches long and weighs between two and two and a half pounds. This lovely duck is especially designed for diving for food – with its legs further back on the body than other ducks, more-extensive webbing on its feet than “dabbling” ducks such as the mallard (which feed with their rear ends in the air), and broad bills for effective foraging for plant and animal life.

The male Redhead has, as its name advises, a redbrick-colored head, together with a black neck and gray back. (Cornell describes the back color as “business gray.”) The female and the young birds of both sexes are much more subdued, a muted uniform brown. The Redhead is sometimes confused with the Canvasback, another duck with a bold red head. But the Canvasback has a characteristic sloping forehead – and, as can be guessed from its name, a bright white back.

There are a number of birds, such as cuckoos and cowbirds, that lay their eggs in the nests of other species and basically



get a free ride in the childcare department. The Redhead is a champion of this technique (called “brood parasitism”), since it is known to lay its eggs in the nests of six or more other duck species – as well as in the nests of other Redheads.

Sources: ebird.org/species/redhea;
allaboutbirds.org/guide/Redhead/overview;
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redhead_\(bird\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Redhead_(bird)).

Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: July 2022

Number of species: 64
(+3 other taxa)

Mallard 3
California Quail 1
Mourning Dove 44
Anna's Hummingbird 20
Allen's Hummingbird 3
hummingbird sp. 3
Killdeer 1
Heermann's Gull 2
Western Gull 43
California Gull 9
gull sp. 2
Caspian Tern 4
Elegant Tern 46
Brandt's Cormorant 3
Double-crested Cormorant 9
Brown Pelican 37
Great Blue Heron 2
Great Egret 8

Snowy Egret 7
Osprey 2
White-tailed Kite 3
Red-shouldered Hawk 2
Red-tailed Hawk 3
Downy Woodpecker 2
Nuttall's Woodpecker 11
American Kestrel 3
Peregrine Falcon 6
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2
Black Phoebe 15
Say's Phoebe 3
Ash-throated Flycatcher 21
Cassin's Kingbird 7
Hutton's Vireo 1
California Scrub-Jay 14
American Crow 3
Common Raven 25
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 15
Cliff Swallow 6
swallow sp. 12

Bushtit 20
Wrentit 64
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2
California Gnatcatcher 7
House Wren 7
Marsh Wren 1
Bewick's Wren 8
California Thrasher 4
Northern Mockingbird 13
Western Bluebird 2
Phainopepla 3
Scaly-breasted Munia 24
House Finch 118
Lesser Goldfinch 34
American Goldfinch 1
Dark-eyed Junco 11
Savannah Sparrow 6
Song Sparrow 16
California Towhee 55
Spotted Towhee 23
Yellow-breasted Chat 11
Hooded Oriole 9

Red-winged Blackbird 4
Brown-headed Cowbird 1
Orange-crowned Warbler 3
Common Yellowthroat 11
Black-headed Grosbeak 4
Blue Grosbeak 1

Observers: Tsaiwei Olee,
Marty Hales, Andy
Rathbone, Donna
Mancuso, Nancy
Richardson, Steve Neal,
Gabriele Wienhausen,
Phyllis Kuszner, Robert
James, Susan Bar, Sue
Randerson, Anonymous,
Robert Turner, David
Walker, Deborah Walker

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S115331574

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



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