



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 446

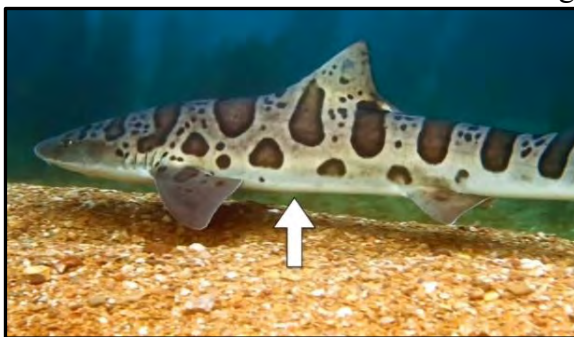
September 2022

Leopard Sharks: Our La Jolla Shores Neighbors

by Joan R. Simon

Every summer hundreds (if not thousands) of harmless leopard sharks aggregate in the shallow waters off the southern end of the La Jolla Shores beach. Our August 13 speaker, Dr. Andrew Nosal, Associate Professor of Biology at Point Loma Nazarene University, devoted his PhD thesis at Scripps Institution of Oceanography to determining what are they are doing there and why they have chosen this particular site. It's a fascinating story.

The species (*Triakis semifasciata*) is endemic to the western coast of North America and its core range is



along the California coast. These sharks aggregate in sheltered bays, coves and estuaries, such as Humboldt Bay, Tomales Bay, San Francisco Bay, part of Monterey Bay, and further south. The area where they congregate in La Jolla, however, is not a bay. In fact, there is open surf, which makes the La Jolla site unique among all the locations in California. So why are they in this particular neighborhood? A close look at the

September Beach Picnic

This month, in lieu of a monthly meeting and an organized CEED event, we are combining them into one wonderful beach picnic!

Date: Saturday, September 10, 5:00 pm (sunset is at 7:00 pm)

Location: Torrey Pines State Beach (South)

Park in the south parking lot and go down the stairs to the beach; turn left (south).

Bring your own chairs, blankets, dinner, utensils, beverages, etc. and enjoy a picnic dinner on the beach with your fellow docents. We are not organizing a potluck, but feel free to share if you like. The tide will be low and the moon will be full that evening for a perfect beach gathering. Come early and stroll along the beach if you like! It should be a lovely time to socialize and get to know your fellow docents a little better! No RSVP required.

(See pg. 9 for information on the TPC Moonlight Walk starting at 7:30.)

topography reveals that the La Jolla Shores beach was once an ancient lagoon, with evidence of mud and silt deposits and fossils consistent with the brackish water of an estuary. As recently as 100-200 years ago, the site looked much like the



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Museum Shop.**

other leopard shark spots along the coast, and remnants of an estuary persisted into the early 20th century. So it is postulated that these sharks have been coming to La Jolla for a very long time.

Dr. Nosal's first task was to figure out what the leopard sharks were doing in this habitat off the La Jolla Shores beach. Initially,

he was struck by the fact that "they don't seem to be doing anything." They weren't feeding; they weren't mating. "They were just swimming around." (He even took a pre-drone aerial video from a giant 7-foot helium balloon with a camera attached that he tethered with a fishing line.)

Over the years, hundreds of leopard sharks have been captured and measured, and it was revealed that 97.1% of the sharks are mature females, with less than 3% males. So clearly mating was not taking place. And it turns out nearly all the female sharks were pregnant. Dr. Nosal's research group attached sensors to 8 sharks and manually followed them for 48 hours.

They discovered that these pregnant sharks spent 70% of their time in shallow waters no more than 2 meters (6 feet) deep and close to the shore, sometimes even within the surf zone. The first thought was that this behavior might be protective, but that wasn't the case. At 5.5 feet long, leopard sharks are relatively small, and the close-in zone they had chosen actually made them more vulnerable to their biggest predator, the male California sea lion. So if this behavior wasn't protective, what was driving it?

Water near the surface and close to the shore is going to be the warmest, not only because it is the shallowest but also because the prevailing westerly winds bring warmer surface water toward the shore, piling it up near the surf line. Dr. Nosal hypothesized that leopard sharks are selectively seeking the warmest water to incubate their developing embryos – "kind of like a mother bird sitting on her eggs keeping them warm."

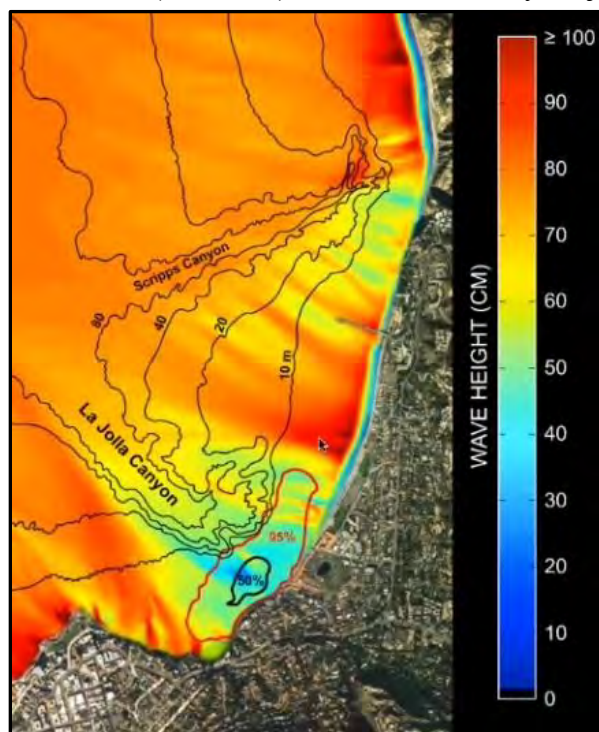


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Why is warmer water advantageous? Leopard sharks have an annual reproductive cycle, giving birth every year. Their gestation period is 10 – 11(!) months, leaving them only one to two months to recover from birth, find a new mate, and start the cycle all over again. Shortening their gestational period by even a few weeks gives them a clear advantage by providing more time to get this job done. Warmer water accelerates cell division and embryo growth rate, and it speeds up their metabolism so they can absorb nutrients faster.

What makes the La Jolla Shores beach such an ideal spot for leopard sharks? The core area where the sharks are hanging out coincides with the area of the smallest waves (blue area). The La Jolla Canyon, just



offshore shore from the beach, causes wave refraction, spreading out the larger waves to either side of their core area (and that is where you'll find the surfers) and keeping the waters calmest where the sharks are spending their time. Calm water means warmer water, since calm waters can absorb the sun's heat more readily.

But leopard sharks are not swimming in their core area all the time. The manual tags showed that they leave the area at night to hunt for their favorite food, market squid, in the deep waters of the La Jolla Canyon. But during the daytime, they are mostly back in the calm and warm waters along the La Jolla Shores beach.

Another question Dr. Nosal wanted to answer was what months the leopard sharks are in town. An automated (passive) acoustic tracking tag was surgically implanted into 19 sharks to track their movements over a period of three years. (This was achieved by capturing the sharks and turning them on their backs, which puts them into a state of hypnosis.) Seven receiving stations, from San Clemente to Tijuana, were installed.

These stations were able to pick up the presence of a tagged shark within 300 meters (1000 feet). The one in La Jolla encompassed most of the sharks' home range. During these three years there were 750,000 detections, with 288 days in La Jolla, ten times more than in any of the other six sites. After one year, 73%



of the female sharks returned, with 50% coming back after the second and third years. The high season for leopard sharks in the La Jolla Shores waters was from late June, when the females are already pregnant, until early December. The sharks then leave and give birth in April and May, somewhere else – as yet unknown.

Quite by coincidence, the area where the leopard sharks hang out is a “no-take” marine protected area (MPA), which means fishing is not allowed. It was established in the 1970s to protect abalone, as well as the walls of the La Jolla Canyon, which are quite unique. But it has also protected the La Jolla leopard sharks. Dr. Nosal suggested it would be very beneficial to protect other areas along the California coast where pregnant leopard sharks aggregate.

Dr. Nosal assured us it's completely safe (and a lot of fun) to swim with the leopard sharks in La Jolla. But he noted that thrashing around makes them skittish because of their fear of sea lions. So float quietly and you may be able to get quite close to them.

Link to video: vimeo.com/739277137

General Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2022

The General Meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by President **Lynne Truong**.

Lynne welcomed the Torrey Pines docents to the hybrid meeting. Forty docents attended in person, and thirty-eight followed the GM via Zoom.

Invited Speaker

Dr. Andrew Nosal, Associate Professor of Biology at Point Loma Nazarene University, who has studied the biology and ecology of sharks and rays for over a decade, spoke about “Local Legends: Movement Biology of the Leopard Shark off La Jolla, California.”

TPDS Business

- **Docents of the Month**

Patty and Bruce Montgomery, Class of 2015, are Docents of the Month. They were honored for their significant contributions to the Junior Ranger Program 2022, their noteworthy involvement in the update of the New Docent Training material, and their contributions to the Earth Day event. Congratulations, Bruce and Patty, and thank you for your contributions to the Reserve!

- **Nominating Committee**

Steve Neal, representing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), explained that he and the other four committee members (**Janice Barnard, Frank Burham, Medina Denker, Ken King**) had been appointed by the TPDS Board on August 10. Following the procedure outlined in the TPDS’s by-laws, NomCom will start the process of selecting the slate of prospective 2023 TPDS Board members. The slate will be presented to the docents during the October 8 GM. This slate of directors will be voted on by the membership at the November annual meeting. Steve noted that nominations may also be made from the floor (with seven days’ prior notice) at the November meeting. A candidate nominated must be a voting member in good standing and consent to the nomination.

The Board application forms can be found at the following [this link](#).

Steve informed the docents that the current TPDS treasurer will not be a candidate for the treasurer position next year. Steve urged docents interested in the treasurer position to come forward.

Steve also shared that membership on the NomCom has a 5-year term limit. **Ken King** will term out after this year. Docents interested in serving on the NomCom should contact the Board.

- **Thank You’s and Need for Docents to get involved in Committees and Workgroups**

- *General Meeting Refreshment Committee*

Lynne thanked **Michelle Kurtis Cole** and **Marian Edelbrock** for their work. She invited other docents interested in helping set up refreshments for the GM to contact Michelle and Marian.

- *IT Work*

Lynne reminded all docents that without **Roger Isaacson**’s yeoman work, conducting hybrid GMs would not have been possible. A big thank-you to Roger. Roger is also the lead for all other IT-related duties, which include Better Impact, the website, and TPDS Google groups. Roger needs additional team members. Lynne urged docents with technology expertise to contact Roger.

- *Speaker Program*

Docents interested in helping to organize the GM speaker program should contact **Gabriele Wienhausen**.

- *Beach and Lagoon Interpretive Kiosk (BLIK)*

A small docent group under the leadership of **Rosemary Wareham** has been working on reestablishing the Beach Interpretive Kiosk. The focus of the kiosk will be expanded to include the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, hence the acronym BLIK (Beach and Lagoon Interpretive Kiosk). BLIK is doing a trial run on August 13 from 11 am – 3 pm, setting up tables next to California State University Long Beach’s Shark Lab table (see pg. 9).

- *Children’s Program*

Starting August 15, local schools can apply to the Children’s Program. Because of COVID, the program will allow only one class per school to attend. The program will offer two sessions per week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) plus the first Friday of the month.

- *New Docent Training*

The new Docent Training class will start Saturday, September 17. The curriculum is being updated. Please let Louis Sands and **Janet Ugalde** know if you are interested in getting involved in the training.

- **Announcements from the Torrey Pines Conservancy (TPC)**

TPC’s Executive Director Susanne Florin made the following announcements:

- *Torrey Pines Anthology*

After two years of hard work, the Torrey Pines Anthology is finally completed. It will be sold

at the Museum Shop and also online for \$40, plus tax. The TPC and a grant from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation funded the project. The income from the sales will be used to fund the next printing. Susanne thanked **Joan Simon, Dan Hammer, Roger Isaacson, and Kathy Dickey** for their outstanding and significant contributions. Each of them worked for more than 200 hours – updating and editing articles and combing through 47 years of *Torreyana* newsletters to select articles and photos suited for inclusion in the anthology.

➤ *TPC and TPDS Roles*

Susanne reminded the docents that the two organizations, TPC and TPDS, share the same goal, which is to preserve the natural habitat of North America's rarest pine tree. They differ in the focus of their work. TPC puts donors' contributions to good use by making grants to TPSNR and TPDS. TPDS members are the boots on the ground, providing interpretive and educational services to the public.

➤ *Moonlight Walk Saturday, September 10*

TPC and TPDS are co-organizing a moonlight walk on September 10. More information is forthcoming (see pg. 9).

➤ *TPC event Saturday, October 1*

Kay Charter, executive director of Saving Birds Through Habitat, will present on October 1 at 9 am at the Children's Pavilion. In the last 50 years, nearly one third of North America's birds have vanished. Habitat loss and degradation are the primary threats to healthy bird population.

➤ *Wine in the Pines*

TPC, with support from TPDS, has been organizing the major fundraising event Wine in the Pines. The event will take place on Saturday, October 15 from 4 - 6 pm. **Matt Xavier** and **Gabriele Wienhausen** are in charge of the logistics for the TPDS. Many volunteers will be needed. Details will be sent in the upcoming weeks.

➤ *100th Anniversary of the Torrey Pines Lodge*

The Lodge will be 100 years old in 2023. A joint TPC and TPDS committee is planning this event scheduled for April 8, 2023. Details will be forthcoming.

➤ *New Item for Sale – Sling Backpack*

A small sling backpack with TPC logo will be on sale. Watch for it on the TPC website.

The meeting ended at 10:55am

Docents of the Month:

Patty and Bruce Montgomery

Photo by Herb Knufken

It's been over six years since we last wrote in the *Torreyana* about what drew us to the Docent Society (link: [April 2016](#)). From our marriage on Guy Fleming in 1990, through a combined 76 years as educators, to our commitment to all things conservation, it was no wonder that in 2015 we found ourselves in the front row of training under the watchful eyes of **Diane Stocklin** and **Jeannie Smith**. We were there to learn and begin to pay back all that the Society and Reserve had done for us and our students. We just never suspected how remarkable the learning and volunteering would be. Who would have predicted that bugs, lichen, or frass could bring such joy?



Our hearts are still with the education and children's programs in all their forms – elementary classroom visitations, special events, docent training, family presentations, Jr. Rangers. It's all selfish; we get to work with the cutest (and we would argue the brightest and most inquisitive) visitors and docents. We also enjoy interpreting at the TIK and on the trails, especially with those under five feet tall. They are, after all, the ones most likely to save the planet. We greatly admire those of you who do the hard stuff – work on the board, pull weeds, lead adults wearing headsets, handle technology, or (gasp) use the POS at the Lodge – leaving us to have all the fun.

Outside of Torrey Pines, we work with the Buena Vista Audubon Society and volunteer in our grandson Sawyer's first grade classroom. Patty is a natural at both; Bruce finds a room full of six-year-olds a chronic, though endearing, bewilderment. We play bocce (poorly). Patty is learning to tap, play recorder, and speak Spanish (at the same time). Pandemic willing, we will return to traveling and gathering (with those not science-averse.)

To be honest, we groaned when we were asked to write this article. But having finished, we are reminded about just how lucky we are to work beside all of you.

Children's Program

by Louis Sands, Program Coordinator

Good News!

Mark your calendars, please: **Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 10:00 a.m., Children's Pavilion.**

Join **Janet Ugalde** and Park Aide Louis Sands for the Children's Program kickoff meeting. We intend to discuss the upcoming year's program details and to share various "tricks of the trade." All docents are welcome, new and returning.

Yesterday I ran into the extraordinary Children's Program docents **Patty** and **Bruce Montgomery**, who just happen to be August's Docents of the Month (see pg. 5). They suggested that we utilize this meeting to examine any tweaks to our program that docents may have pondered: Is the introductory presentation necessary? If so, what should be its intent and substance? What new activities can we develop to best highlight program themes? Should we consider additional docent training for often-avoided topics like geology?

Thanks, guys, I could not agree more. This program is an amazing gift to us all, and it is so worthy of our interest, vigilance, and willingness to adapt. Let's not squander this opportunity. Just like this year's spring session, we will welcome one class per day during the fall months; this is an ideal scenario for testing innovations and refining our skills – all in pursuit of the best practices. Please come to this kickoff meeting prepared to listen, share, and support.

We've got a great thing going here ... let's make it even greater!

CEED: Owl Prowl

by Myrna Trust

The Western Screech-Owl is rarely seen without a special search. They are a fairly common permanent resident in San Diego County's oak and coniferous woodlands, and their favorite habitat is a grove of mature coast live oaks. So the Peñasquitos Canyon was a perfect environment to see one. On July 27, we were fortunate to have an experienced guide, Brian Swanson, a Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve board member who has led owl walks for more than 20 years. Following an informative introductory talk, he led 25 Torrey Pines docents, and a few of their family members, out on the trail with the hopes of spotting a screech owl or two in the early evening hours.

Brian had recorded screech owl calls and we stopped periodically, turned off our flashlights, and stood and waited in silent anticipation for an owl to respond. We did have several verbal exchanges with another owl in the canyon

that evening, but never actually saw one. There were plenty of bunnies and bats about, but the owls did not reveal themselves. We did learn about different local owls and their various sizes and calls while enjoying a lovely moonlight walk through the trees. We stopped to visit the grave of John J. Eichar, who was believed to be a cook for the occupants of the Los Peñasquitos ranch house in the late 1800s' and enjoyed a lovely walk through the trees of the canyon in the moonlight.

"Time spent amongst trees, is never wasted time." Katrina Mayer



Owl Prowlers

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, September 13, 1:00 pm

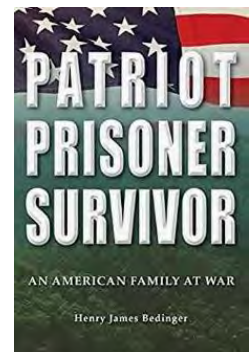
What: *Patriot, Prisoner, Survivor: An American Family at War* by Jim Bedinger

Jim Bedinger, a fellow docent, will be presenting his book and answering our questions at our upcoming meeting.

Patriot, Prisoner, Survivor is a first-hand account of his life, and in particular, his wartime service and imprisonment in Laos during the Vietnam War. Commander Bedinger recounts a tale of heroism, endurance, and the shared struggle in the fight for freedom, alongside the Bedinger family's decorated history of service to the United States. From a fresh-faced recruit to a decorated veteran, Commander Bedinger's story ties living history to the greater narrative of American history. *Patriot, Prisoner, Survivor* serves as a reminder of the impact an individual can have on the very course of history.

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

October 11: *Where the Sea Breaks Its Back: The Epic Story of Early Naturalist Georg Steller and the Russian Exploration of Alaska* by Corey Ford



Rattle-ing the TIK

by Ingo Renner

July brought two thrilling live-animal exhibits to the TIK. The first was a young **Southern Pacific rattlesnake** found on the beach by Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook. It awed TIK visitors with its beautiful camouflage patterns and its flicking forked tongue, which is used for “tasting” scent particles in the air of its unfamiliar environment.

Most folks were excited to see and learn about this live viper from the Reserve, but not all – some purposely avoided it, and one even screamed as she ran away! The rattler was later released in a remote area of the upper Reserve, out of harm’s way from unsuspecting beachgoers who could have stepped on it.

The second “performer” was a **California root borer beetle**, which put on an interesting show, waving its long horns (or antlers) and occasionally hissing.

This species occurs widely between Mexico and Alaska and spends most of its life underground feeding on roots. The mature beetle and its larvae have been found on decomposing Torrey pine roots and under its bark.

Fun fact: Since they fly at night, they are a food source for local bats.

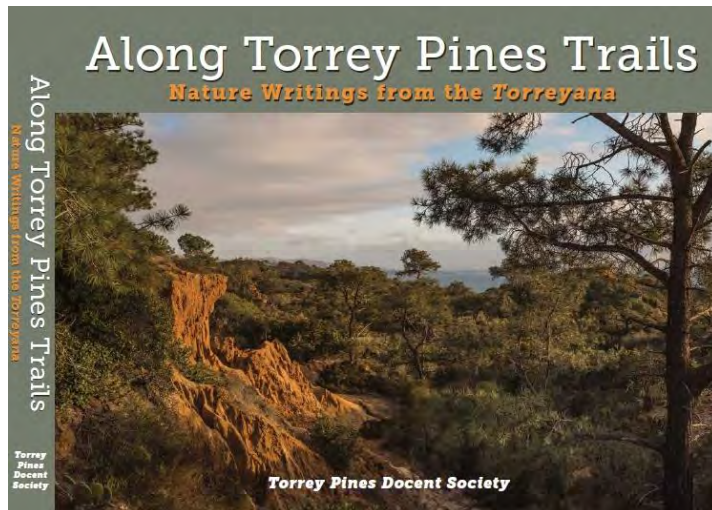
Special thanks to the Docent Society for purchasing the transparent acrylic boxes used to house these temporary exhibits.



Museum Shop Spotlight

by Nancy Walters

The shop team is excited to highlight the new book *Along Torrey Pines Trails*! This wonderful anthology of articles from the *Torreyana* is paired with gorgeous photographs, historical references and nature writings on many topics that will appeal to anyone who loves our Reserve. Thanks and appreciation go out to the docents who spent so many hours on this worthy project. You can open this book to any page and immediately be drawn in by the wealth of information and the beauty of the photographs. Although there is no docent discount on this book, you will find it worth every dollar spent. It is a perfect addition to any home library and makes a great gift. Come into the shop and pick up your copy today!



The book's design by graphic artist Gary Cascio of Late Nite Graftix was made possible thanks to a generous initial grant from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation. An equally generous grant from Torrey Pines Conservancy covered the cost of its printing. The cover price reflects only a modest markup per book, and it is hoped this will help fund a second printing if demand warrants. This margin is so tight that no books are being sold at a discounted rate, but Docent Society and TPC members will receive priority on purchasing the first limited edition of the book.

HOW TO WRITE A TORREYANA ANTHOLOGY

by Kathy Dickey

Gather five willing people and tell them this will be easy ... so many great stories!

Everyone then realizes there are 47 years of *Torreyanas* to review... more than 440 issues! Hundreds of stories, drawings, photos, poems, and more.

Split up the issues so everyone gets some older issues and some newer issues to review and pick articles appropriate for a book.

Rate the articles you pick, then review the others' chosen articles and rate them. Hold a preliminary vote on articles to include.

Meet over Zoom every 2-3 weeks for two years. Debate, make hard decisions, eliminate many favorite stories for space considerations, duplications, and other reasons.

Decide on the goal of the book: how long it should be, how it should flow, what photos and drawings to use (many older ones had low resolution), how it should be divided into chapters, what format to use for author and photographer credits, etc.

Everyone picks several chapters to put together. Edit, combine, delete, and edit some more ...

Improve low-resolution photos; take more photos around the Reserve; find outside replacement photos when needed. Many hours and many extra hands on deck.

Get photo credits and authorizations (difficult for older photos and drawings). This takes a long time.

Put the book together, add introductions to book and to individual chapters, put in appropriate credits. Write missing chapters for both the *Torreyana* and the book (common plants, Torrey pines information, missing insects, etc).

Find a book designer and give him guidance on size of book, format, size of font, and much more.

Edit entire book for typos, grammar, format, flow, and more. Then do it again and again.

Find a printer with good-quality paper and photo reproduction.

Wait while designer works with printer. Ask TPC for money to cover printing cost.

Cry when you finally see the book after two years of work. Toast each other with drinks for finally finishing it.

Bring the BIK Back to Life: Beach (and Lagoon) Interpretive Kiosk

by Gabriele Wienhausen

This summer brought the news that on August 13 the Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab would set up an interpretive booth at the North Beach Parking Lot. Docents were needed to welcome the Long Beach team. But why stop there? Why not also set up shop and excite beachgoers about the marine life on the beaches and cliffs, in the ocean and the lagoon?

Under the leadership of **Rosemary Wareham**, an energetic and determined docent team (**Mediha Denker, Marian Edelbrock, Lisa Kakone, Jim Levin, Sandy Levin, Harry Proctor, Nancy Richardson, Debby Sherman, Malana Tabak, and Gabriele Wienhausen**) asked Supervising Ranger Dylan Hardenbrook for permission to set up a temporary interpretive booth next to the Shark Lab. Our idea was to use the former BIK as the basis for a BLIK: a Beach and Lagoon Interpretive Kiosk. We rolled up our sleeves, transported the BIK material from the South Beach shed to the North Beach shed, organized the exhibits, fashioned a new BLIK poster for a couple of A-frame poster stands, and agreed on a schedule: August 13, 9 am – 3pm.



Reality set in. Did we know enough about the beach, the ocean, and the lagoon? We all admitted that our knowledge was quite rusty. **Kathy Dickey** generously provided marine wildlife and nature books. It was time to cram.

The proof-of-concept rollout was a success. Children and grownups alike came to our makeshift booth and its display of mussel and snail shells. They had questions about the kelp forest, its animals (bristle worms, scud, prawn snails, brittlestars, to name a few), and the holdfast that anchors kelp to the ocean bottom. Touching the slimy kelp elicited quite varied reactions, but everyone had fun, learning in the process how kelp that has washed up onto the beach provides an outdoor buffet for crows, warblers, starlings, and black phoebes in the form of flies, maggots, and small crustaceans.

In summary, the BLIK attracted many visitors and the experience was rewarding for the docents. What's next? The team will get together again on August 23 to develop a concrete plan for operating the BLIK on a regular basis. Docents interested in joining the team should contact **Rosemary Wareham**.

TPC Moonlight Walk

Following the picnic on September 10, the TPC is sponsoring a moonlight walk. TP docents will lead small groups on the hike leaving from the Lodge at 7:30pm. This will be a fun guided group hike at night, not an interpretive walk.

Please [click here](#) to RSVP.

The moonlight should be bright enough for the trails, but in case it is cloudy that evening and for safety, please bring a flashlight. A UV light to search for scorpions is always a fun tool to take on a night hike.

Bird of the Month: Lesser Goldfinch

by Jack Friery; photo by Herb Knufken

(Note: This is my final bird column for the *Torreyana* – it's my swan song. My best to all, and good birding.)

Our featured bird this month is the **Lesser Goldfinch**, *Spinus* (formerly *Carduelis*) *psaltria*. Proving its name, this diminutive and lively little bird is only 3.5 to 4 inches long and weighs a mere .3 to .4 ounces. It's so small, in fact, that it's the smallest goldfinch in the world. (In the American Southwest, we have three native goldfinch species: American, Lawrence's, and Lesser. You may also see, in very small numbers, European Goldfinches, apparently escaped caged birds.)

The Lesser Goldfinch is ubiquitous in San Diego County in all seasons. The bird is normally found in small flocks, harvesting seeds from native sunflowers and from introduced species such as sow thistle. When in breeding plumage, the adult male Lesser Goldfinch has a black cap and a green back; the female is a duller olive color. (When not in breeding plumage, Lesser and American Goldfinches can be difficult to distinguish. Put simply, the American has a brown back, the Lesser a green back, and the American has a bright white wing patch.) Finally, the Lesser Goldfinch's specific name, *psaltria*, is a Greek word meaning "lutist"—a reflection of the bird's musical song.

Sources: allaboutbirds.org/guide/Lesser_Goldfinch/id

audubon.org/field-guide/bird/lesser-goldfinch

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinus_\(bird\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spinus_(bird))

audubon.org/news/birdist-rule-97-get-know-your-goldfinches

Choate, *The Dictionary of American Bird Names*.

[The editors of the *Torreyana* would like to thank Jack for his illuminating and entertaining bird articles. It has been a pleasure to publish his contributions every month for the past six years.]



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: August 2022

Number of species: 51
(+3 other taxa)

Mallard 11
Mourning Dove 79
Anna's Hummingbird 40
Allen's Hummingbird 21
hummingbird sp. 8
Long-billed Curlew 8
Greater Yellowlegs 1
Heermann's Gull 2
Western Gull 37
California Gull 5
gull sp. 3
Royal Tern 2
Double-crested Cormorant 5
Brown Pelican 35

Great Egret 3
Snowy Egret 4
Black-crowned Night-Heron 1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 2
(Juveniles)
Osprey 2
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
Nuttall's Woodpecker 10
American Kestrel 5
Peregrine Falcon 4
Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1
Black Phoebe 19
Ash-throated Flycatcher 4
Cassin's Kingbird 6
Hutton's Vireo 4
California Scrub-Jay 20
American Crow 17

Common Raven 31
Northern Rough-winged
Swallow 4
swallow sp. 2
Bushtit 12
Wrentit 49
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 5
California Gnatcatcher 11
Bewick's Wren 4
California Thrasher 11
Northern Mockingbird 6
Western Bluebird 6
Scaly-breasted Munia 24
House Finch 175
Lesser Goldfinch 36
Savannah Sparrow 3
Song Sparrow 16
California Towhee 71

Spotted Towhee 13
Yellow-breasted Chat 1
Hooded Oriole 12
Orange-crowned Warbler 14
Common Yellowthroat 3
Black-headed Grosbeak 6

Observers: Anonymous,
Robert Turner, Nancy
Richardson, Donna
Mancuso, Andy Rathbone,
Dylan Hardenbrook,
Debbie Regottaz, Susan
Bar

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S117268172

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



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