Birds and the Sound of Power – Perspectives on the Effects of Highway and Jet Noise on Threatened and Endangered Species

by Ann Bowles/Anna-Lena Malm

The speaker at last month’s docent meeting was Dr. Ann E. Bowles, Senior Research Scientist at the Bioacoustics Laboratory at Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute. Dr. Bowles and her colleagues, Dr. Awbrey and Dr. Hunsaker II from San Diego State University have been studying the effects of human-made noise on threatened and endangered birds in the Southwest since the 1990s.

After discussing the difficulties with experimental research in natural settings and the lack of proper controls in earlier studies, Dr. Bowles summarized the results from the group’s more recent, well-controlled experiments in Southern California. That work included a study of the effects of highway noise on territory size and success of chaparral birds, and the effects of military jet and helicopter over-flights from Miramar and Camp Pendleton on populations of the Coastal California Gnatcatcher and Least Bell’s Vireo.

The experiments suggested general principles that can help managers balance the needs of humans and birds. First, birds responded to acute exposures, including those that were highly arousing (e.g., a hovering helicopter), in a surprisingly intelligent and adaptable manner. Second, while noise that is continuous or high in duty cycle can have significant effects on bird communities, effects of infrequent acute exposures were not measurable even in large, well-designed studies. This suggests a threshold effect, below which birds can cope with noisy disturbances and above which reproductive effects and changes in community composition occur. Finally, the effects of noise are likely to be a product not of the disturbance per se but of its impact on an individual’s ability to function. Factors that can have an influence include local environmental conditions and communities, history of other disturbances in the area, species-typical sensory and defensive mechanisms, and individual genetic makeup (i.e., all those variables that are next to impossible to control in an experimental setting). Dr. Bowles’ conclusion was that the team’s results reinforce the need for adaptive management of human disturbance in highly urbanized areas.

For more information about Dr. Bowles’ work, please visit http://tinyurl.com/Bowles-page

For additional information on the topic, please visit http://tinyurl.com/Noise-page

Docent Doings
May 15, Second Annual Art in the Pines Festival
Jun 5, Sumner Cyn field trip
Sep 10-13, Channel Islands trip

Mondays, 8:30-10 am- Weeders
Tuesdays, 8:30-noon- Seabees
Send future event info to editors@torreypine.org
The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the Torreyana bi-monthly, edited by Anna-Lena Malm. On alternate months, the Society publishes the Torrey Pinecone, edited by Lillian Lachicotte. Both publications include the monthly duty calendar, announcements and information concerning membership meetings. Submissions for either publication are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be submitted to Editors@torreypine.org.

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Extra newsletters are available in the Docent Library.

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Park Aides: Kyle Conner, Troy Garcia, Jake Mumma, Vanessa Rivera

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Many thanks to Editor Anna-Lena Malm and the docents contributing to this newsletter and to Copy Editors Lillian Lachicotte and Walt Desmond. And thanks to Carolyn Butterfield for mailing and distribution.

Roger Isaacson
Publication Coordinator

Message from the President

We docents are an interesting and complex tribe. Take, for instance, the relationship between us and the California State Park Employees. All of our rangers and most of our park aides, lifeguards, maintenance crew and other staff people interact with us frequently, and in helpful ways.

So what happens when an energetic, proactive group like the docents meets up with the people who must make sure all the t’s are crossed and the i’s are dotted? It sometimes seems as if we are ready to get started on a project and they are just holding us back. But our common goal is to protect the Reserve. This, and the understanding that we are the volunteers and they are the employees, allow us to work together in productive ways. A case in point is the very successful relationship between our Seabees and the maintenance crew. Recently the Seabees took the time to clear the project to install “STAY ON TRAIL” posts with all the pertinent groups (archeologists and maintenance) and the end result is marvelous! Thanks, Sheldon Kruger, Frank Burham, and the other Seabees!

Another joint project is in the works: Sharon Thompson had the idea of moving the “Torrey Pines Lodge” sign hidden away behind the lodge to a prominent place at the entrance to the lodge parking lot. Ranger Lisa Urbach has taken up the task of preparing a “Project Evaluation Form” and involving all of the staff people that need to approve it. Yes, we can complain that such a simple project doesn’t need all this, but imagine the chaos that would ensue if volunteers could put up signs, dig holes, and remove plants on their own. The time delay is the price we pay, and it’s well worth it for two reasons. First, the bureaucratic hurdles improve the odds that the project will end up being a good one. Second, it’s important to remember that an adversarial relationship would do nothing but harm the Reserve. So kudos to the Seabees and all the other docents who work with the staff, which is much more enjoyable!

Speaking of enjoyable, the Docents had a great time visiting Crystal Cove State Park in April, thanks to Barbara McCardle. Twenty-six docents spent time with each other at a picnic lunch, and then walked through another one of Southern California’s attractive State Parks. Stay tuned; there are more field trips to come. Why? Because it’s fun to get to know the other docents as well as learning more about our natural environment!

One last thought: Check out Lodge Hosting openings by looking at page 10 (or going to the Google calendar). Call the Lodge to sign up for a couple of shifts (you can double up on weekends) and learn how much fun it is to meet our interesting visitors!

Ken King
President,
Torrey Pines Docent Society
TPDS General Meeting Notes  
April 9, 2011

Excerpted from notes from TPDS Apr 9th General Meeting, by Secretary Bill Eckles. Complete minutes in docent library

Ken King, President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 am following our program.

Cindy Wollaeger distributed new cards and book marks promoting Art in the Pines and requested docents to use National University for parking that day. Judith Zyskind still needs 97 volunteers for the event!

Tom Polakiewicz is collecting deposits for the September trip to Channel Islands’ Santa Rosa Torrey Pines Grove and other fascinating island attractions.

President’s Announcements:
• Progress has been made on relocating the Lodge sign from the rear of the building. Lisa Urbach is heading the project.
• Trail Delineators represent a true success story and the Seabees have marked and are marking additional trails to work on.
• The estimated completion of the Guy Fleming Overlook is May 1st, after which work will begin on the Parry Grove Trail restoration.

Torrey Pines Association:
TPA has requested a grant from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation to fund three historic plaques for the Lodge, Guy Fleming House and The Road.

Treasurer’s Report:
The museum Shop generated about $8,000 last month, doubling the average March sales. Special Walks added $600. There is a net positive cash flow of $1,100.

Rick Vogel reported from Park Advocacy Day that budget cuts currently stand at $11M and likely will grow to $22 M next year. Three senate bills need support from the membership. To learn more, please visit www.savestateparks.org

Science Fair: (Sally Whitlock) Four awards were granted. The winners will present to our membership at the May meeting.

Lodge Hosting: (Jan Lombardi) There are still 14 openings for the month. Trainees will be sitting in with participants to learn the ropes. Please support them.

Communications: (Lou Adamo) Google Groups membership has about doubled, but several still need to validate their email addresses. Please attend to this.

Museum Shop: (Nancy Woodworth) The "Plant Portraits" book is a big plus for the shop. Nancy reminded us that we have an abundance of books to guide plant learning.

Train Patrol: (Mike Pisor) Mike is stepping down from his post, unable to devote the necessary time, and Jeff Spivak will replace him.

Ed: Thank you Mike, Jeff and other docents for Trail Patrol support!

Publications: (Anna-Lena Malm) Anna-Lena solicited ideas for future themes and articles in the newsletters. She asked the membership to send their ideas to editors@torreypine.org.

Joan Adamo announced that the entrance to the Extension is progressing and requested help in planting native plants as well as with weeding.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Docent of the Month is Nancy Danninger  
by Anna-Lena Malm

Nan, a docent since 2007, was elected Docent of the Month for March, 2011. I asked Nan what made her interested in becoming a docent. Here is her summary of why:

“Since Torrey Pines is in both my front and back yard, I’ve always felt very protective of it, wanting to learn more about it. It’s been such a pleasure.

Since I’m a rambunctious gardener, being part of the Whacky Weeders is a natural. What a good group! Who could resist pulling weeds, surrounded by flowers, ocean music and watching dolphins! And the laughter!

Photo by Herb Knufken

Also, I’ve so enjoyed working for our Museum Shop. Such creative people. It too, is a natural extension of my experience working for Mingei International Museum (folk art) developing their shop called the Collectors Gallery.

Mostly, I’ve been so impressed and grateful for all the talented docents who are so eager and generous in sharing all they know. It's exceptional!”

Children’s Program  
by Sue Randerson, Children’s Program Director. Laura Lowenstein, Children's Program Coordinator

Many thanks to all the Children’s Program docents who have been so faithful and dedicated this year, presenting and leading children on walks. A whole generation of young people is gaining a love of nature because of you. I’d also like to express appreciation for the great response from the trainees who have been joining in. Some of you have come more than once! May is our last month of the school year. We welcome any and all docents who would like to lead a walk, even if you haven’t led a walk lately.
We have many vacancies this month, when so many are traveling. Please go to the torreypine.org website, then to Docent Login at the page bottom, right. Log in, then go to Children’s Program Online Signup and look for the dates which need leaders. They will be marked in red. As of today, April 20, every day in May is red, including the three makeup days for schools that had to cancel because of rain or the tsunami.

A wrap-up meeting and potluck for Children’s Program docents is scheduled for Friday, June 10 at 9:30 am. We will evaluate our year and discuss suggestions for the future. At 11:30 am we will share a yummy lunch. Save the date!

HisTorrey: A thru Z; The letter Z (Zoom Zoom)

by Judy Schulman

According to Webster’s dictionary, one of the meanings of the word “zoom” is to move with a loud hum or buzz. That would certainly describe the sound that the racing cars of the Torrey Pines Road Race made.

Between 1951 and 1956, there was a sports car racing event called the Torrey Pines Road Race. The San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the San Diego and the California Sports Car Clubs sponsored it. The 2.7-mile course was considered to be one of the best in the country. The main reasons included good viewing for spectators, which usually ranged between 20,000-35,000, and all types of turns, straightaway, bumps, inclines and hills for driving. Originally just local Southern California drivers competed, but toward the end the popularity of the course attracted national attention. It closed because the land was slated to become a golf course.

Remnants of the streets of Camp Callan (primarily the hospital zone) became the Torrey Pines Race Course in 1951. According to the website for South Africa Golf Digest, the starting/finishing line was somewhere in the vicinity of the eighth green of the South Course. Drivers headed north, turned left (across what is today the sixth fairway) on a loop that headed toward the ocean, then away from it (east on the first fairway of the North Course). Turning north again, the race track soon made two right turns to head south on a long straightaway (which had a couple of jogs in it) parallel to the Pacific Coast Highway (now Torrey Pines Blvd.). Today that straightaway is occupied by a small practice range, parking lots, two hotels, and many office buildings. The final loop crossed somewhere along the 9th and 15th holes. Another source states that the backstretch of “esses” is where the clubhouse now stands.

Types of races included 6-hour endurance, Powder Puff (for ladies), time limit runs, and number of laps (usually 6 or 10 times around). There were different divisions based on internal engine size. They also had motorcycle races.

At one time there was a possible plan to create a recreational area on the former Camp Callan site called Sportsland. It would have included a racetrack with a golf course in the center. With planned bleacher seating for 20,000, the area could also be home to soaring championships, motorcycle races, and horse shows. It never materialized because of lack of funding.

For more information about the Torrey Pines Road Race, I recommend the following books.


Torrey Pines Remembered by Art Evans (Photo Data Research, 2004)

This is the last article in my series HisTorrey: A through Z. A note of appreciation for those of you who have followed me through my alphabetical journey through time.
Earth Day, 2011
by Diane Greening
Thanks to all the docents, trainees and staff who helped make Earth Day 2011 a success. The Seabees directed the fence project, while many Whacky Weeders assisted Carol Martin removing the invasives. The before and after photos say it all:

Drip, Drought and Downpours
by Maryruth Cox, March 2011
In third grade we cut out paper snowflakes in December and learned about the four seasons: fall, winter, spring and summer. We didn’t know about the unique weather in Torrey Pines Extension: drip, drought, and downpours, or how life has adapted here.

In the Extension rain usually comes between November and April, interspersed with fog or brilliant sunshine. When the rain dwindles in April, the fog envelops the sea cliffs and wraps the pine trees in mist, like a Chinese painting. Wet streaks appear on the brown stems and sparkling drops dangle from the pine needles, moisture wrung from the mist. The ground under the trees is damp, and bunnies lick the life-saving water that collects on the sunflower leaves.

As the days grow longer, the sun burns off the fog earlier and earlier, till finally in July the Extension is dry and hot all day, seized by the drought. Cactus pads wrinkle from dehydration; snakes hide all day and emerge in the cool of the evening to hunt their prey. Lizards run across the scorching sand with bellies high; the first broad leaves of the larkspur shrink, leaving tall bare stalks topped with crimson blossoms. During the months of drought life in the Extension is ‘on hold’.

After the first rains come in the fall, the land revives. New shoots on the sage and sunflower tint the valley with soft greens; cactus pads swell with stored water. Some years a downpour brings 2” of rain overnight. Then raging brown water courses down the main canyon, which not only drains half the Extension, but receives the storm waters from Del Mar Heights. The impervious roofs and paved streets in the Heights can shed a million gallons of water with 2” of rain. Most of this drains down the main canyon.

The other canyon of the Extension, the Margaret Fleming Trail A, absorbs its rain, and there is little or no run-off. But the main canyon, Margaret Fleming Trail B, has severe problems with storm waters carving deep channels. Sand piles up at the bottom and has to be hauled away periodically to prevent jamming of the 3’ diameter culvert under Del Mar Scenic Parkway.

Gabion dams (see photo below) were installed in 1974-75 to stem the flow, but the heavy rains of 1977-78 (27” for the season) poured over and around the

Docent Field Trip to Crystal Cove State Park
by Barbara McCardle
Twenty-six docents recently spent an afternoon at Crystal Cove State Park. The field trip was organized by Barbara McCardle as part of TPDS President Ken King’s effort to raise the "fun factor" for docents. Carpools made their way north to gather for a picnic lunch overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Lunch was followed by a 3 1/2 mile hike of CCSP’s back country. The hike was led by Winter Bonnin, a very enthusiastic, interpretive guide from the State Park. Several cars of docents then headed to the Beachcomber, the park’s restaurant, right on the sand of the scenic State Beach.

The next field trip has been set for 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 5. Docents will tour Summer Canyon, a very special area overlooking the Pacific, and be led by former TPA President, Pat Masters. Maps and further details will be available at the May docent meeting.
Ed: The following four articles are by our honored winners of the San Diego Science Fair.

**Correlation of Owl Limpet Population to Algae Species Distribution**

*by Katherine Houk*
*Rhoades School, Grade 8*

Last year, I performed a population study on the owl limpets of the Point Loma tide pools and discovered that as owl limpets increase in size, the population density decreases. I also found that the larger territorial females were found in deeper regions. This year, I wanted to discover if the owl limpet tends to live in close proximity with a specific species of algae. I was interested in seeing if the females feed on a different species of algae than the non-territorial male owl limpets.

My hypothesis was that the males and females would live in close proximity to different species of algae because the males and females are located in different regions of the tide pools. To collect data for my project, I used eight 2500cm square quadrants which I laid down in vertical transects with each quadrant 5 meters apart. I recorded the temperature of the ocean water, the air and the sand. I recorded all of the owl limpets, algae species and other invertebrates in the transect. I took photographs of each quadrant. I measured the owl limpets in mm and took detailed notes on the surrounding organisms. I recorded all the algae species in the quadrant. I repeated my procedures on three different days.

The data collected supported my hypothesis that male and female limpets live in close proximity with different species of algae. Both also resided near Mastocarpus, the tar spot algae. I found that most large female owl limpets had an area they claimed as their own. This year’s results correlating average size to population density were similar to last year’s results. Also, according to my results from both years, the larger the limpet, the deeper the intertidal region in which it resided. This year I found the larger territorial females lived in close proximity with Pelvetia or rockweed, while the smaller males lived in close proximity with encrusting coralline algae (which deposit calcium in their cell walls). *Mastocarpus* or tar spot algae seemed to be present with both populations and did not vary significantly in density as the owl limpet size and population density varied. Perhaps the faster growing young have a greater demand for calcium than the older female owl limpet.

**Red Tide Sensitivity to Ocean Acidification**

*by Matthew Goldklang*
*San Diego Jewish Academy, Grade 11*

Oceans absorb one third of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere. When absorbed by the ocean, CO₂ exists in equilibrium with carbonic acid. This process is known as ocean acidification. *Lingulodinium polyedra* (L. polyedra) is a red tide dinoflagellate that has an unknown response to ocean acidification. The species is specifically known for the creation of hypoxia, deoxygenation of seawater under bloom conditions. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of ocean acidification on *L. polyedra*.

A model was developed that electronically controlled gas composition in sea water. *L. polyedra* was then cultured in seawater, with and without F/2- silicate media under constant illumination. Its growth curve was characterized and its sensitivity to acidification was measured by incubating the algae under varying concentrations of CO₂ (387 ambient, 763 and 1453 ppm CO₂). Cell density was measured with a hemocytometer and pictures were taken with a photomicroscope.

At higher CO₂ levels (763 and 1453 ppm), growth rates increased, primary production increased by 32% (1453 ppm only; p<0.05), size increased by 10-30 µm (1453 ppm only; p<0.05), and cell structure changed. The cells became more spherical and lost definition of their thecal plates. All morphology changes were irreversible after two months of re-incubation in 387 ppm CO₂. The increase in size and growth rates indicates the potential for a higher bloom incidence and therefore a greater incidence of hypoxia. The structure and size changes may disrupt the food chain by impacting species which consume *L. polyedra*.

**Endangered Belding’s Savannah Sparrow: Desensitization Effects of Pedestrian Disturbance**

*by Avery Van Houten*
*Rhoades School, Grade 8*

The Belding’s Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) is an endemic and endangered species that lives year round in the salt marshes of Southern California and northern Baja California. This bird requires continuous stretches of Pickleweed, Salt Grass and Shoregrass habitat for its survival.

The goal of my project was to see if in less pedestrian intruded areas, the sparrows might startle sooner and retreat for greater distance away from...
humans than in areas with greater pedestrian disturbance.

My hypothesis, based on earlier observation, was that the Belding’s Savannah Sparrows would be more acclimated to pedestrians in areas of high intrusion. It is important to determine if this endangered species can acclimate in areas of high pedestrian intrusion, since anxiety levels might affect reproductive rates.

I made multiple visits to the San Elijo Lagoon, the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve (TPSNR), and the Torrey Pines (TP) State Beach. I investigated how pedestrian disturbance might affect the Belding’s Savannah Sparrow’s behavior. I surveyed ambient environmental factors such as noise levels, amount of pedestrian intrusion, and automobile disturbance. I used the Bushnell SPORT 600 rangefinder to document the birds’ distances from the experimenter. I also used a digital decibel meter to measure ambient noise. I recorded the number of people in the vicinity each time I observed the endangered sparrows.

This experiment was performed over a period of four months. I found that the site with the highest average maximum decibel levels was the TPSNR. I had anticipated this because this location was adjacent to a road. The second highest average maximum decibel levels occurred at the TP State Beach. This site was where I also documented the greatest number of Belding’s Savannah Sparrow sightings. The TP State Beach location had the greatest average number of pedestrians. The quietest site and least intruded site was the San Elijo Lagoon. I noticed the behavioral differences in the sparrows at the three test sites.

The Belding’s Savannah Sparrows at the TP State Beach location seemed bolder and on average tolerated significantly closer pedestrian approaches than at sites with fewer pedestrians, such as at the San Elijo Lagoon or TPSNR. At the San Elijo Lagoon, the average approach distance tolerated was 17 meters. At the TPSNR site, the average approach distance tolerated was 11 meters. At the TP State Beach site it appeared that greater exposure to pedestrian intrusions made the Belding’s Savannah Sparrows less apprehensive and less apt to startle at the intrusions. I often spotted the Belding’s Savannah Sparrows within three meters of where I stood.

During my testing, I never directly approached towards a Belding’s Savannah Sparrow. I was always out in the open and only in areas where pedestrians were permitted. I plan to continue testing to see if, according to research, behavioral changes occur during the breeding season.

**Impacts of Leaf Surfactants on Water Absorption Rates in Soil**

*by Riley Nolan*

*Rhoades School, Grade 7*

While watering the yard, I noticed the leaves beneath an African Sumac tree foamed up whenever water hit them. This made me wonder about the leaves of that tree. I did some research and found that African Sumacs contain saponins which are soap-like substances that occur naturally in some plants.

Saponins are surfactants which are substances that act as wetting agents. When African Sumac leaves fall on the ground, the saponins in the leaves may help the soil to absorb precipitation more readily.

I designed a soil percolation test to determine if a variety of native and non-native plant leaves contained surfactants. I hypothesized that drought resistant plants related to the African Sumac would have the fastest percolation rates, and plants native to areas that receive more precipitation would have slower percolation rates.

Materials in my experiment included 12 varieties of native and non-native leaves, which were Lemonade Berry, Sugar Bush, Cottonwood, Black Sage, Narrow Leaf Willow, Toyon, African Sumac, Liquidambar, Laurel Sumac, Sycamore, Coast Live Oak, and Coffee Berry. I also used five gallons of chaparral soil, distilled water, a hygrometer, thermometer, soil moisture meter, and various containers for measurement. I made solutions consisting of 20 grams of leaves in 120 ml of water. I poured each solution over 240 cc of soil contained in a vertically oriented tube. The amount of water exiting each soil sample was measured at one minute intervals.

My test results showed the Lemonade Berry had the fastest percolation, followed by Sugar Bush, Cottonwood, Black Sage, Narrow Leaf Willow, Toyon, African Sumac, Liquidambar, Laurel Sumac, Sycamore, Coast Live Oak, and Coffee Berry.

The African Sumac, Lemonade Berry, and Sugar Bush come from the order Sapindales. All Sapindales contain saponins which are soap-like compounds. Since these three plants are from drought prone areas, I believe that the saponins may be an adaptation to droughts. The saponins or soap-like compounds, when present in the leaf litter, may allow the soil to more effectively absorb and distribute even small amounts of rainwater that might otherwise be lost as runoff. Future testing could include comparing leaf surfactants to testing commercial surfactants, testing more varieties of plants, and testing the partially decomposed leaf litter found at the base of each plant.
Why Am I Seeing So Many Brown Pelicans?

by Jack Friery

A number of people have asked why there are so many Brown Pelicans soaring off the beach at Torrey Pines. Your observations are not imaginary. On our monthly docent bird count in early April, we counted 877 individuals in a three-hour period.

One clear reason is that the birds are staging to fly to their breeding grounds. In Southern California, Brown Pelicans nest in the spring on the islands off Northern Baja California—the Coronado Islands, and perhaps Todos Santos, and San Martin. (Further up the California coast, Brown Pelicans nest on the Channel Islands.)

Another possible reason for the concentration of birds—although this is anecdotal, and not yet proven—is that there is an unusual abundance of baitfish in local waters.

But there’s a deeper reason for the abundance of the birds. There are simply more of them today. Until not long ago, the Brown Pelican was on the Endangered Species List. Brown Pelicans were listed in 1970, after the population was decimated by the use of the pesticide DDT. Unlike most birds, which warm their eggs with the skin of their breasts, pelicans incubate their eggs with their feet. This peculiar incubation method made them vulnerable to the effects of the pesticide DDT. The DDT made the eggshells thin, and the incubating parents frequently cracked their eggs.

DDT was banned in the U.S. 1972. The population of Brown Pelicans began to soar. As a consequence, in November 2009, the U.S. Interior Department took Brown Pelicans as a species off the Endangered Species List. The population of Brown Pelicans at the time of delisting was estimated at 650,000. While you are watching the apparently endless parade of Brown Pelicans—called a “pod” or a “squadron,” by the way—consider these fascinating facts about a fascinating bird.

• Brown pelicans have extremely keen eyesight. As they fly over the ocean, sometimes at heights of 60 to 70 feet, they can spot a school of small fish or even a single fish. Diving steeply into the water, they may submerge completely or only partly—depending on the height of the dive—and come up with a mouthful of fish. Air sacs beneath their skin cushion the impact and help pelicans surface.

• In western mythology, the pelican has long been a symbol of selflessness and parenting. Taken from a medieval—or earlier—legend: the myth that the pelican feeds her young on her own blood pecked from her breast. As a consequence of this myth, the pelican became a medieval symbol of Christ. Shakespeare makes reference to the pelican myth in King Lear (III.4.77) and Richard II. (II.1.126). In Hamlet, Laertes says:

“To his good friends thus wide I'll ope my arms; And, like the kind life-rendering pelican, Repast them with my blood.” (IV.5.142-44)

And Keats has the line “Nurtured like a pelican brood,” in his poem Endymion, l. 816.

• Finally, speaking of literature, we’ve probably all heard the pelican poem attributed to Ogden Nash:

A wonderful bird is the pelican, His bill will hold more than his belican. He can take in his beak Food enough for a week; But I'm damned if I see how the helican.

Enjoy your pelicans.

2 Cornell Lab of Ornithology, at http://tinyurl.com/44boq7u.
3 http://tinyurl.com/ycvgc8s.
4 Ibid.
5 http://tinyurl.com/3rqfvm.
6 This is the poem that starts with the marvelous line, “A thing of beauty is a joy forever....”
7 A wonderful poem, indeed. However, it was not composed by Ogden Nash, but by a relatively unknown poet named Dixon Lanier Merritt in 1910.

Photo © by Docent Photographer Herb Knufken.
While assisting at the desk at the Visitor Center, a gentleman from Colorado asked me if the Torrey of Torrey Pines was the same Torrey that “Torrey’s Peak” was named after. I asked, “Where’s Torrey’s Peak?” He indicated that it was one of the 53 Colorado “fourteeners” (peaks that exceed 14,000 feet) and one of the peaks to be climbed by those aspiring to be members of the elite Fourteeners Club.

When I indicated that I didn’t know, he asked if we had any books that might answer the question. I told him I thought it was unlikely, since our collection of books would probably have a lot of information about Charles Parry who actually described and named the tree but not very much about John Torrey who, though Charles Parry’s mentor and a distinguished professor of chemistry and botany at Columbia University, probably never actually saw the tree. I believe I was right about our collection of books not having the answer to his question, but my reasoning was inappropriate. Not only was the peak named after the same John Torrey for whom our tree is named, but Charles Parry was the one who named it.

It turns out that after his stint as physician and botanist for the 1850 boundary survey, Parry developed an enthusiasm for a new instrument that used barometric pressure readings to determine altitudes of mountains. The peripatetic Parry then went about measuring the height of peaks throughout the Rocky Mountains. As would be expected, he also collected an enormous amount of information about the flora of the Rocky Mountains. Many of these peaks already had names, but he gave names to the previously unnamed peaks that he measured. Torrey’s Peak sits along the continental divide fairly close to Parry’s Peak. It is noteworthy that in the Wikipedia entry for Charles Parry, he is identified as “botanist and mountaineer.” It is also noteworthy that John Torrey did not see his peak until 11 years after it was measured and named.
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To sign up for an opening, call the hosting docent (858-755-8219) to confirm the time and write your name in the Logbook. If you cannot do your session, please try to find your own substitute by switching with another docent or using the short-notice list. Then call the hosting docent to make the change in the Logbook. Coordinators: Irene Larrimore & Jan Lombardi