

## NOTES

### KILLDEER HATCHES IN A SNOWY PLOVER NEST

ANDREA AGEE, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 524, Newark, California, 94560 (current address 10117 Ranchwood Manor Dr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73139)

On 10 June 1996, I discovered a Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) nest on a salt pan at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Fremont, California. The nest contained two Snowy Plover eggs and one egg that was significantly larger, slightly darker, and with wider markings. I later identified the latter as a Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) egg. All three eggs were being incubated by a female Snowy Plover, and no adult Killdeer was observed nearby. On my next visit on the evening of 12 June, a newly hatched Killdeer chick, still damp with a solid dark brown downy covering, lay huddled in the nest. The two Snowy Plover eggs had not yet hatched. The following day refuge biologist Joy Albertson and I observed the nest from a road approximately 10 m away. At that time, the Killdeer chick was out of the nest, appeared healthy, and was running toward the female Snowy Plover, standing approximately 3 m distant. Since we did not want to keep the female away from the nest any longer than necessary, we did not approach the nest. On 14 June I approached the nest and observed one newly hatched plover chick and the shell fragments of the second Snowy Plover egg, which appeared to have hatched earlier. The adult female plover was nearby, but I did not see the killdeer chick or the other Snowy Plover chick, so assumed they were hidden in nearby vegetation. No adults or chicks were present when I returned to the area the following week.

This particular Snowy Plover nest was the only one I observed parasitized, although there were several other plover nests on the same salt pan. There are no records of such an incident occurring before on the refuge, and in further research I found no publications describing the parasitism of a Snowy Plover nest by a Killdeer.

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*Wing Your Way to . . .*

Western Field Ornithologists'

## **22nd Annual Meeting**

# **IMPERIAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

## **21-24 August 1997**

at the Airporter Inn in Imperial, adjacent to the Imperial County airport, 3 miles north of El Centro, and near the south end of the Salton Sea.

Field trip destinations on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings include many sites around the Salton Sea and throughout the Imperial Valley. Air-conditioned minivans will be available!

Target species include the Wood Stork, Fulvous Whistling Duck, Yellow-footed Gull, Laughing Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Black Skimmer, Stilt Sandpiper, and many others. The meeting takes place at the peak of waterbird migration, when tens of thousands of shorebirds, Black Terns, and more converge on the Salton Sea. Plus, the timing maximizes our chance of finding frigatebirds, boobies, or other wanderers for which the Salton Sea region is famed.

Because of the high summer temperatures in Imperial County, our field trips will take place in the morning only, and our meetings and scientific presentations will be spread over two afternoons and evenings, Friday and Saturday. In addition, Friday evening features a workshop on bird atlases and the notorious identification panel, Saturday our evening banquet.

Our scientific presentations will focus on the ornithology, biology, and conservation of the Salton Sea area and nearby desert regions. Several well-known field ornithologists have already committed to speak, but we welcome additional speakers. If you would like to present at the meeting, please contact Philip Unitt (San Diego Natural History Museum, P. O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112) or Kimball Garrett (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007).

Address for registration and correspondence concerning other aspects of the meeting: WFO conference, IVC Desert Museum, P. O. Box 430, Ocotillo, CA 92259.