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4th. San Quintín Bay Bird Festival

TERRA NEWS
The Importance of Photography in Environmental Conservation

FAUNA
A Look at Terrestrial Mammals in Baja California

FLORA
Salt-Marsh Bird's Beak

Terra Peninsular

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Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the first issue of Mediterranews in 2019. Hurray! We are very happy, not only because on April20 we will celebrate our 18th anniversary, but because this year we have been betting on a regeneration that will grow and strengthen our conservation actions on this beautiful Mediterranean region.

In March of this year, with the help of our friends from Insad and thanks to the support of FONNOR through the Pescadero Program, we will update our strategic plan for the next three years (2019-2021). Soon we will share more details with you, but for now we are happy to know that this document will help us to evaluate, improve and in some cases reinvent us!

I also want to share with you that our request to be part of the Mexican Center for Philanthropy (CEMEFI in Spanish) has been accepted and today we are working to raise our standards in administrative processes, transparency and accountability. It is very important for us to make clear how much we value your trust, handling each of your donations and contributions responsibly and ethically. Those who know Terra Peninsular, surely agree with me that our management body is very scrupulous and with high standards, but now we will take it to the next level.

I am sure there will be much to share with you during this decisive year. Good news, some concerns, certainly successes, but above all, the pleasure of making visible the effort of some of those who work to keep breathing this old green and blue planet.

I hope you enjoy this issue!

César Guerrero
Executive Director of Terra Peninsular

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Inauguration of the mural "Migración" painted by the artist Esther Gámez. This photo was taken during the 4th San Quintín Bay Bird Festival on December 8, 2018. Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

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alex espinosa

MALABANDA

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Terra Peninsular

festival de las aves

The participants of the 4th San Quintín Bird Festival are happy to say goodbye to the experience and sure to return in the next edition

The Importance of *Photography* in Environmental Conservation

Text and photos by Alex Espinosa
This article was translated by Antonieta Valenzuela and Manuel Mendoza

Through the window of the bus I see the torrential rain falling on the town's streets of San Quintín, I can see that it has damaged most of the unpaved ones. I wonder how the road to La Chorera will be, my final destination.

When the bus arrives at the station only two other people and I go down jumping and trying to avoid the big puddles that the rain has left, I am starting my adventure in the 4th San Quintín Bay Bird Festival, organized by Terra Peninsular. The institution invited me to participate on this edition and to offer a photographic safari. In this activity young people who are part of the Huellas Volcánicas Nature Photographers Club participated. They started this club with the support of Lamberto, the local high school teacher, who has allowed them to cultivate their fondness for photography. As a suggestion of Lamberto and with the support of Terra Peninsular, I will give a workshop to the young students that will provide them with tools to build photography projects with a clear and direct narrative through which they can share the beauty of the place and how they live on this area.

Photography is a way to communicate, and it is one of the most used communication tools. Every day we are exposed to thousands of photographs, and reading these images not only inform or entertain us, but also creates awareness about an infinity of important issues and, what is more important, can lead to changes, such as creating a positive impact on protected areas. **Nature photography is fundamental for conservation, there are photographers who have managed to safeguard fragile ecosystems through their work. If we do not show what is in danger it is difficult to encourage conservation.**

This is why involving young people in nature photography will not only provide them with a means of expression, it will create a deeper interest and knowledge of their environment, and through images, they can share that knowledge with the general population. Photography is a tool that not only allows you to keep records of biodiversity and landscape, but also a way to connect with the place and learn the fragility of the ecosystem. It is very important to highlight the connection with nature that is generated when doing photography of this type,

El Arco Wetland.

Participants of the photographic safari taking shots and putting into practice the advice given in the activity.

> *I am sure that photography is a means by which we can learn more about our world and learn to respect it and look for ways to take care of it.*
> -Alex Espinosa

which surely helps to narrow the relationship between conservation and population.

At the beginning of the first day of the festival the rain stopped, leaving a clean and renewed air where the activities of the festival began. I carried out the photographic safari, which in this particular case was mostly focused on understanding the approach to landscape. During this walk the participants learned some techniques and suggestions to achieve better nature photographs. Natalia and Panchito joined me, they are part of the club and created a link between nature photography and the principles of conservation. We started with an ascension to the Picacho Vizcaíno volcano and ended up with a closure in the middle of the wetland.

During the trip, the young students and Lamberto were sharing anecdotes of their outings to take photographs, there were questions, and above all a sense of interest among the participants that made me feel that they had seen a bit of what I love most about photography, that magic of being involved with the place in an intimate way.

More than a profession, for two decades photography has been a key that has allowed me to access new places, people and knowledge. I am sure that photography is a means by which we can learn more about our world and learn to respect it to look for ways to take care of it.

About Alex Espinosa

Alex Espinosa has worked as a photographer since 1999 developing projects for different organizations, publishers and publications in 17 countries of Latin America. His work ranges from documentary projects, reportage as well as portrait. Alex has presented his work in different galleries and public spaces in Mexico, United States, France, Norway, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. Alex Espinosa is represented by the German agency GRUPPE28. Since 2013, he has conducted workshops and courses, as well as teaching at universities in Ensenada.

View of El Arco wetland from the Picacho Vizcaíno volcano.

Natalia, member of the Huellas Volcánicas Nature Photographers Club, exploring in the wetland.

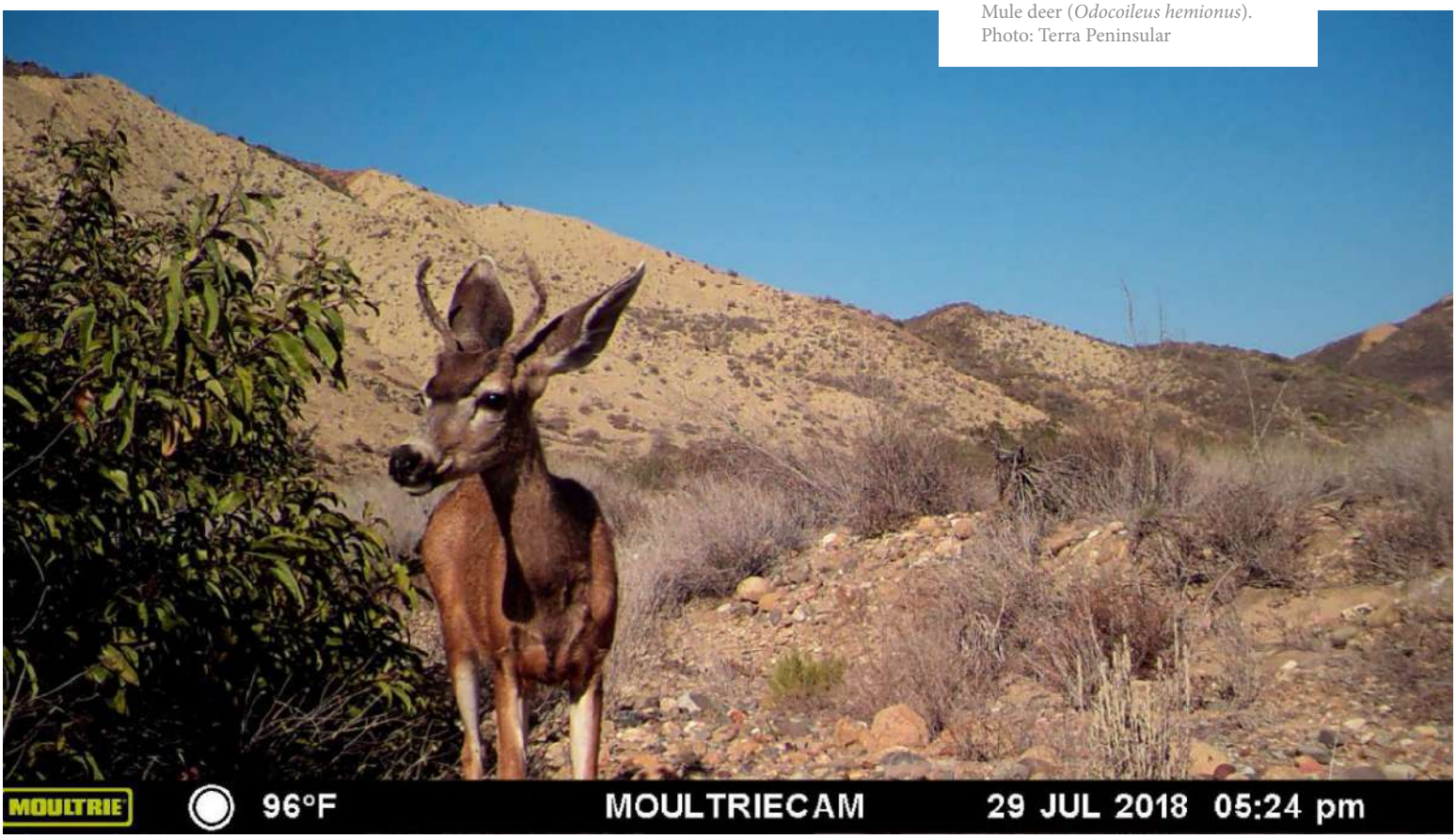
A Look at Terrestrial Mammals *in Baja California*

Text by Héctor Sánchez (UABC), Yael Schoeppe (UDLAP), Leticia Marisol Talavera (UNAM) and Iamania Vergara (UDLAP)
Photos by Alan Harper, Antonieta Valenzuela and Terra Peninsular
This article was translated by Antonieta Valenzuela

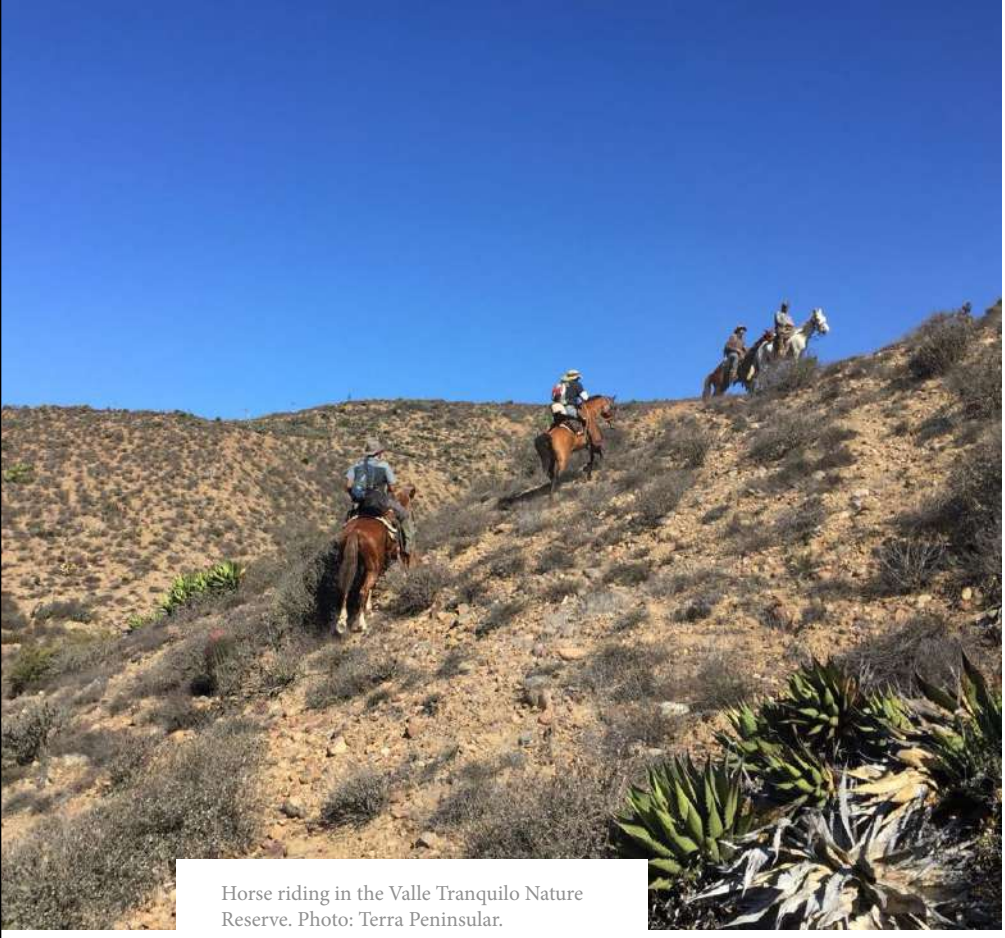
Mammals are vertebrate animals that,due to their adaptations, have been able to establish in the most diverse ecosystems in the world (*Sánchez-Cordero et al.,* 2014). In addition to this, mammals are a fundamental link in the food chain, both human and animal, and therefore, are elementary to maintain the balance of ecosystems (IUCN, 2009).

Mexico ranks third worldwide for mammal diversity, behind countries such as Indonesia and Brazil. Of the 535 species described in Mexico, 488 are terrestrial, of which 164 are endemic and 47 are marine species (CONABIO, 2009). Particularly in Baja California there are 84 species of mammals (Guevara *et al.*, 2016).

Due to the above, it is considered important to have a broad knowledge of mammals, and based on this knowledge find the best schemes for its management and conservation. With the aim of knowing a little more about



Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Photo: Terra Peninsular



Horse riding in the Valle Tranquilo Nature Reserve. Photo: Terra Peninsular.

Tracks were identified and, with the help of plaster and water, molds were taken for each trace for later identification. Photo: Terra Peninsular

San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax*). Photo: Alan Harper.

the mammals of the nature reserves protected by Terra Peninsular, as a team we conducted field work based on indirect methods such as fingerprinting and placement of **trap cameras**, as well as direct methods such as rodent sampling with **Sherman traps.** These traps were placed before sunset and later collected at dawn. To handle rodents, we adhered to the good practices of the American Association of Mastozoology (ASM) and giving priority to the integrity of organisms. Once captured, we collected data: weight, total length, ear size, hind leg and tail length.

In all the reserves, trap cameras were systematically placed and subsequently dismantled to check the material obtained. The placement of the cameras was done during walking routes, however, the most interesting place to install the cameras was the Valle Tranquilo Nature Reserve; we had to make an excursion on horseback due to the extension of the reserve and the need of traveling long distances. **In total we made a 6 mile ride on horseback and installed 7 trap cameras.**

> *"Mexico ranks third worldwide for mammal diversity, behind countries such as Indonesia and Brazil."*

During the walking routes to place cameras in all the reserves, traces were identified and with the help of plaster and water, molds were taken for each trace for later identification. Additionally, mammal feces were observed. With the help of identification guides it was possible to determine the species for each of the traces.

The results obtained were very diverse and gave us interesting data about each area. Within the reserves we can find different species such as the **deer mouse** (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) and the **kangaroo rat** (*Dipodomys simulans* and *Dipodomys merriami*). One of the most important results from this investigation was the capture of some

Coyote (*Canis latrans*).
Photo: Terra Peninsular.

individuals of the **San Quintín kangaroo rat** (*Dipodomys gravipes*), as well as the **San Diego pocket mouse** (*Chaetodipus fallax*) and the **little desert pocket mouse (***Chaetodipus arenarius*).

Important results were also obtained in the three reserves using trap cameras. In the case of the Punta Mazo Nature Reserve, a stable population of **coyotes** (*Canis latrans*) was registered for the first time. Adults and puppies were identified in the Monte Ceniza Nature Reserve where individuals of this species were photographed. The Valle Tranquilo Nature Reserve was the site that gave us the most significant results, since we obtained a picture of **puma** (*Puma concolor*), **mule deer** (*Odocoileus hemionus*), **gray fox** (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), **bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*), and also **coyote** (*Canis latrans*).

The traces obtained in the reserves were coyote and at least one gray fox, which will remain within the Terra Peninsular collection as study material. Finally, the estimation of hares and rabbits is a prece-

Leticia Marisol Talavera, Héctor Sánchez, Jorge Andrade, Iamania Vergara and Yael Schoeppe. Photo: Terra Peninsular.

The Valle Tranquilo Nature Reserve is located in El Rosario, Baja California. Photo: Terra Peninsular.

Puma (*Puma concolor*). Photo: Terra Peninsular

Finally, the work done had a positive impact on the protection and conservation of mammals, since little by little and with the efforts of different people and institutions it is possible to obtain results that contribute to the knowledge of the species found in the region. **It is necessary to first know to conserve.** We know that with our modest effort we have managed to contribute to the increase of knowledge of mammals in the reserves protected by Terra Peninsular•

dent for later work; this is important because it is a fact that is unknown within the reserves.

The extension of the three reserves is a wonderful set of information of which we still know little, all you need is to walk a few feet to find traces, feces or traces of the passage of an animal, and so begin to ask a thousand questions about what is happening and what else we can know, hence the importance of this type of work.

San Quintín kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys gravipes*). Photo: Antonieta Valenzuela

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Salt Marsh Bird's Beak or *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*.
Photo: Jon Rebman.

Salt-Marsh *Bird's Beak*

Text by Margie Mulligan
Photos by Jon Rebman y Margie Mulligan

Amongst the salt marsh plants not far from the water's edge grows an unassuming plant that doesn't exclusively use chlorophyll to make food. In addition to photosynthesis, this special plant employs a unique strategy of parasitizing its companion plants by extending a slender projection (haustorium) from its roots penetrating the tissue of its host stealing its nutrients. **Salt Marsh Bird's Beak or its scientific name *Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*** is not a showy plant, however it is particular about its habitat.

It is halophytic, salt-tolerant plant and grows in soils of high salinity, similar to the other salt marsh plants. However, this taxon, unlike its companions, appears to need a perfect combination of fresh and salt water to survive.

This unusual annual plant is in the Orobanchaceae or Broomrape Family and **formerly described under the name *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*.** Many plants in this family are also hemiparasitic, possessing chlorophyll but deriving some or all of their nutrients from other living plants. Some of these taxa are host-specific and use particular plant species that are in close proximity. Salt Marsh Bird's Beak is not host specific and will use a variety of plants found nearby.

Some of the commonly associated plants include *Distichlis littoralis*, *Frankenia salina*, *Batis maritima*, *Salicornia bigelovii*, *S. pacifica* and *Limonium californicum*. Interestingly, scientists have been able to grow this taxon in a lab without any hosts showcasing its photosynthetic abilities (Chuang and Eckard, 1973).

Salt Marsh Bird's Beak occurs in disjunct salt marshes ranging from Morro Bay, California, in the north to its southern extent in San Quintín, Baja California. **It is considered a rare plant in Mexico listed as threatened** (*Amenazada in Spanish*), a species that could be in danger of disappearing in the short or medium term, in the official Mexican Standard NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010. It is also **listed in the U.S. as Endangered**, considered in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Fortunately, in Baja California most of the populations occur on Terra Peninsular managed lands near Bahía de San Quintín and Bahía Falsa where habitat is protected.

INAH 1939-2019

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Explore, Learn and Conserve

Our project of recreational activities will take place on the natural areas in San Quintín protected by Terra Peninsular. The goal is to make known the environmental value of the nature reserves through an educational experience, and promoting the connection with nature during walks guided by experts.

We will begin this project in March 2019 with an archaeological walk focused on women, this as part of the 80th anniversary of the National Institute of Archaeology and History in Mexico.

DATE

Saturday
March 23, 2019

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION:

Mirador Valle Volcánico
en La Chorera, San Quintín

DURATION:	DISTANCE:
2 hours	1.5 km
DIFFICULTY:	**RECOVERY FEE:**
medium	$100.00 pesos

Capacity: limited to 15 participants

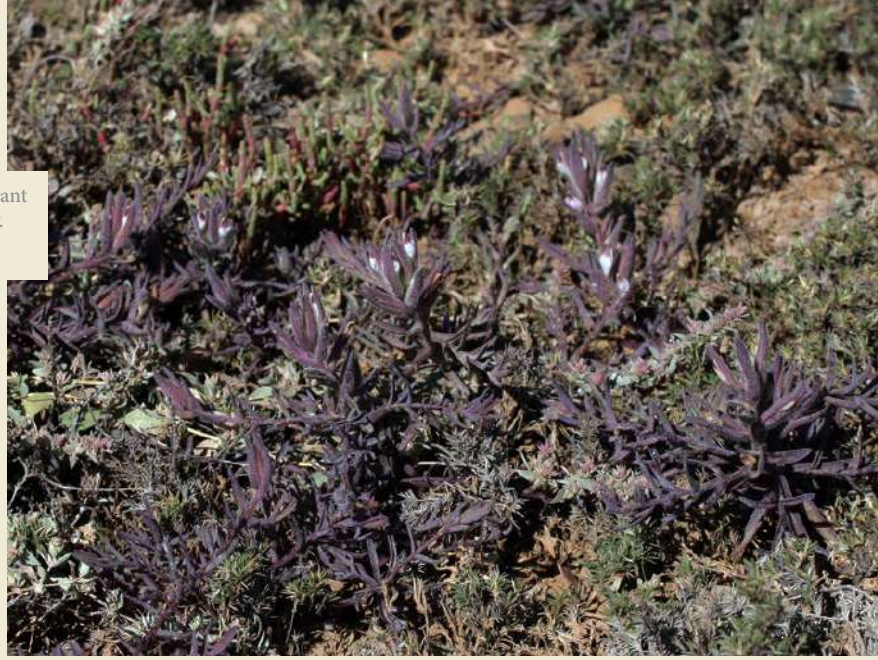
INCLUDED:

tour guide, guide for plant identification, water and tea (please bring a reusable water bottle and coffee mug)
Not included: food

RECOMMENDATIONS:

bring closed footwear (trekking and hiking), a jacket, a hat, sunscreen, proper clothing for the activity, binoculars, sunglasses, and snacks

http://terrapeninsular.org/en/
For more information, please send and email to claudia@terrapeninsular.org



This plant is halophytic, salt-tolerant and grows in soils of high salinity. Photo: Jon Rebman.

A new location was brought to our attention via iNaturalist observations by Pro Esteros at Estero Punta Banda in Ensenada. This locality was not mentioned in the literature or known amongst Botanists studying this taxon. Digging deeper into this location, we were able to find a 2008 collection listed under the old name of *Cordylanthus*. Historically, there were populations that occurred north of San Quintín at Bahía de San Ramon and San Telmo but these have not been observed in recent years. This new locality is exciting to scientists because it bridges the gap between San Quintín and its nearest population in Tijuana Slough in San Diego.

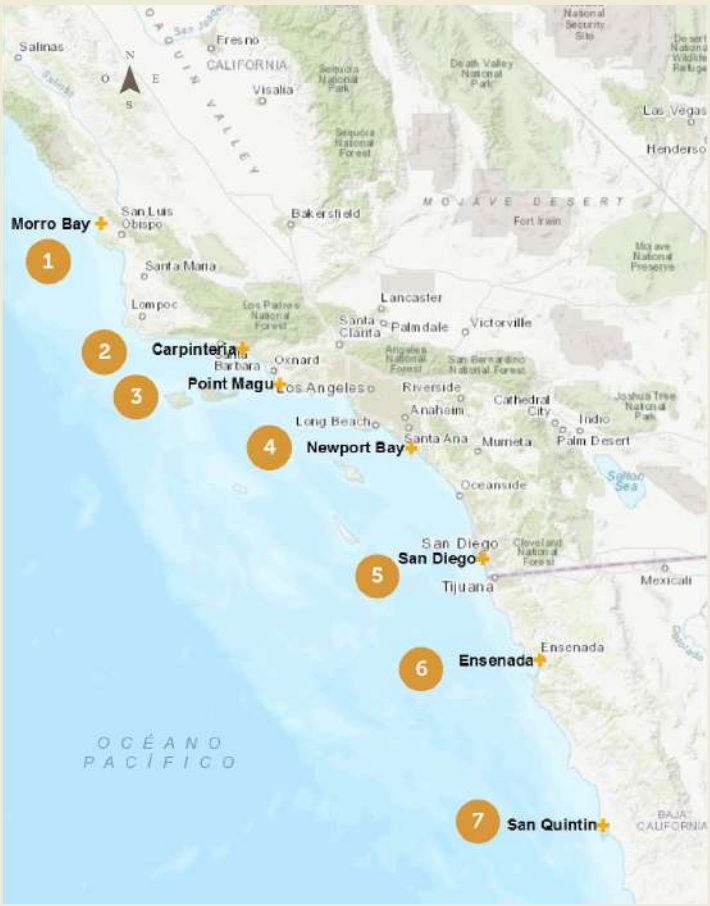
Population size numbers appear to be relatively small compared to San Diego populations. In 2017, scientists from the San Diego Natural History Museum found populations in San Quintín ranged from 50 to 100 plants with a total occurrence size of 300 plants. That same year San Diego populations supported a total of 25,000 plants. Salt Marsh Bird's Beak populations do fluctuate wildly year to year most likely influenced by changes in rain fall and/or storm surges. In 2008, Sula Vanderplank (2011) observed populations in the 10,000s in several patches at Bahía de San Quintín and she also reported good spring rains.

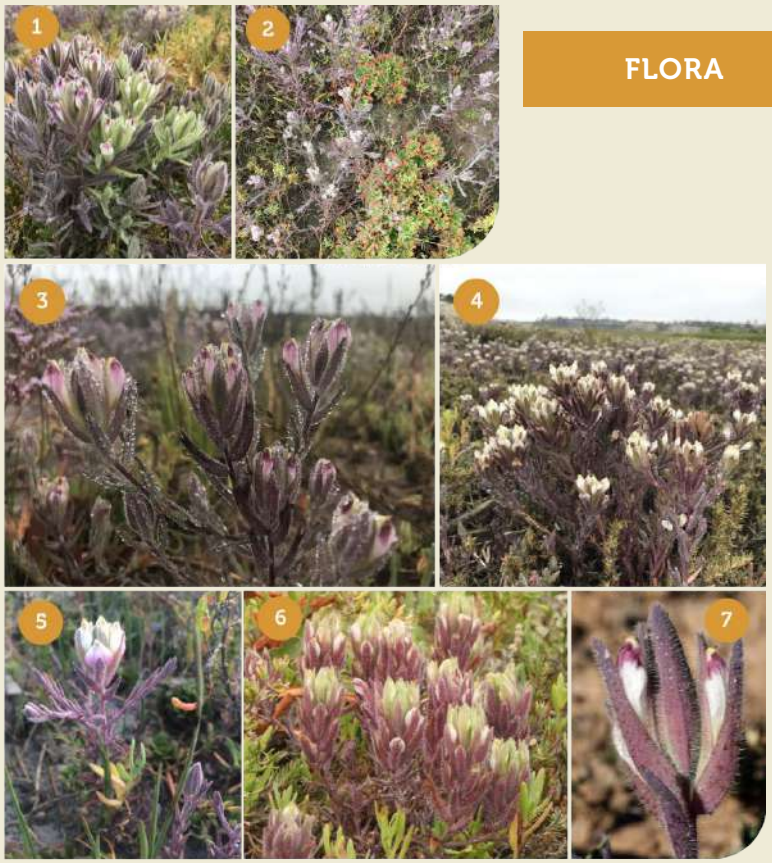
Climate change is a threat to these populations across its range. Rising ocean levels and increase in and severity of storm surges makes these populations vulnerable, especially in Mexico. Populations are often within 50 feet of shore with no barriers for protection, and reduction of freshwater due to drought conditions could change salinity in some areas. Current populations should be monitored closely to mark any significant declines in population numbers. As a precaution, with genetic studies as a guide, seed should be collected to preserve the diversity of these populations.

> *"Rising ocean levels and increase in and severity of storm surges makes these populations vulnerable, especially in Mexico."*

This is a call to fellow Botanists and naturalists to find additional populations especially in areas where it was previously known, such as San Ramón and San Telmo. Looking through aerial photos on Google Earth, I can see several disjunct salt marshes between Ensenada and San Quintín and this doesn't necessarily include the degraded locations where this taxon may still persist. All observations can be documented through the iNaturalist app at inaturalist.org or feel free to email locality info directly to mulliganbiocon@gmail.com. With community support, we could increase the range of this taxon in Mexico.

Thanks to Terra Peninsular for continuing to protect habitat for Mexico's rare species such as Salt Marsh Bird's Beak. Their work in the salt marshes of San Quintín has been integral to preserving this plant in Baja California•





Distribution map of *Chloropyron maritimum*. Credit: Margie Mulligan.

Mike Simpson, Margie Mulligan, Sula Vanderplank and Jon Rebman in Bahía Falsa, San Quintín in 2017. Photo: Margie Mulligan.

About the author

Ms. Mulligan is an independent Botanist and a Department Associate in the Botany Department at the San Diego Natural History Museum. She has over 24 years of botanical experience with 14 years, specifically in San Diego County and northern Baja California. She holds a BS in Environmental Studies (Biophysical) from Northland College and an MS in Botany from Miami University of Ohio. She specializes in floristics and rare species of San Diego County and has a strong interest in northern Baja California flora. She is a founding member of San Diego Botanical Society and teaches a botanical field course at San Diego State University.

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4th San Quintín Bay Bird Festival

Text by Mirna Borrego and Claudia Guzmán / Terra Peninsular
Photos by Mariana Espinosa, Ana Rosa Azuela and Miguel Mayoral
This article was translated by Antonieta Valenzuela and Amairani Márquez

The Bird Festival took place in San Quintín, Baja California. Photo: Ana Rosa Azuela.

2018 was a great year for the 4th San Quintín Bay Bird Festival, an all-terrain adventure joined by old and new friends. We think of the festival and we automatically feel adrenaline, excitement and a kind of uncertainty for the next one.

This festival was the result of the exchange of experiences in which we participated throughout the year and that also helped us to enrich our development as persons. It triggered many emotions, a lot of teamwork and above all, a lot of inspiration among the attendees. In addition, the festival attracted travelers who, like us, followed the migratory route of the birds.

The 4th San Quintín Bay Bird Festival offered a new proposal; an invitation to explore the nature reserves protected by Terra Peninsular, to learn about the habitats of birds and to enjoy the amazing landscape. On this festival we wanted to share a memorable community experience, and we hope that on the next edition; the spirit of celebration will last in the same way it concluded.

For many, bird and nature festivals provide a first approach to knowledge, a first contact with conservation work and a space for informal learning. The event was like an invitation to our house, with our family and friends, surrounded by nature, in a space that in our foreign visitors caused, in some level, the disconnection of urban activity, social networks and the disturbance of the city.

We realized that working on following the path of creating emotional, memorable and positive experiences is the course we want for festivals; seeking the balance between science, art and community.

Unlike the previous festivals, the idea of extending it for two more days came about thanks to the exchanges of experiences in which we participated with the support of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). These events have years of

As every year, the La Chorera community hosted the festival. Photo: Ana Rosa Azuela.

experience and, like us, they have diversified their program of activities with the objective of achieving greater community outreach.

We found inspiration in places as far away from each other like **Cordova (Alaska), Point Reyes (San Francisco), Vancouver (Canada), Cozumel (Mexico)**, and other bird related events where the festival has worked as a platform to talk about issues related to conservation and appreciation of na-

This year there were attendees who traveled from Rosarito, Tijuana, Alaska, Washington and San Diego. Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

ture by performing interpretive walks, as well as workshops, presentations and lectures.

In addition to the influence of the exchanges of experiences, this festival was developed under the 7 **principles of Leave No Trace,** which means that it is an event of low environmental impact. During 2018, part of the Terra Peninsular staff was trained in the responsible use of recreational spaces, and our responsibility is to promote this knowledge with the community and visitors.

Despite the weather conditions of that day, heavy rain and flooding in some areas of San Quintín, on Thursday, December 6, the festival offered attendees a **welcome party, toast and sea gastronomy** at the Molino Viejo restaurant to celebrate the beginning of the festival and to kick off the 2nd. Bird Watching Marathon. In addition, we carried out the registration of attendees and we provided information about the program of activities, location map and educational materials. We had a great time and the atmosphere felt like a warm gathering on a boat and we had the opportunity to receive friends from Alaska, Washington, San Diego, Tijuana, Ensenada and La Paz. Of course, we needed the members of the community, but they were busy getting ready for the next day.

On Friday, December 7, and with a sunrise that gave us a lot of energy and a clean and clear landscape, we began with the outdoor activities.

The first activity was the **birdwatching boat tour**, this activity consisted of a boat tour around the bay in search of aquatic and migratory shorebirds. We managed to fill two groups with a very interesting attendance. One of the guides was Eduardo Palacios, an expert in shorebirds and board member of Terra Peninsular.

The **hiking for botanical identification from the Arco Central wetland to the Sudoeste volcano** was a much-requested activity and one in which we received the most

Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

Our friends from Contacto Salvaje surprised the audience with an emotional release of a peregrine falcon. Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

This year there were birdwatching tours. Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

The first day there was a welcome party, toast and sea gastronomy at the Molino Viejo restaurant. Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

attendance. The interpretation of the landscape was led by Indómita Aventuras Educativas and during 3 hours the attendees explored and identified the transitional vegetation of the El Arco wetland, the dune area and then the Sudoeste volcano, where a drawing activity was conducted by the Club de Dibujo Online. It was a memorable experience for all.

The **identification tour to the rocky intertidal** was not just a relaxing walk along the beach, as the tour led the participants to explore the rocky intertidal, a landscape hidden by the tides. This walk was guided by Keith Lombardo, Director of Southern California Research Learning Center, and Ricardo Domínguez, San Quintín Bay Waterkeeper Projects Associate.

Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

A journey to the past of the coast: archaeological trail through shell middens. San Quintín is a territory of great biocultural diversity that has been recognized and exploited for 8,000 years by groups of hunters-gatherer-fishers. On this hiking we observed the footprints of the ancient settlers, thanks to the guidance of Enah Fonseca, archaeologist at the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH).

The **photographic safari** was guided by Huellas Volcánicas Nature Photographers Club, led by the teacher Lamberto Hernández and the documentary photographer Alex Espinosa. Between the Picacho Vizcaino volcano and the El Arco wetland, the young students shared photographic techniques while explaining the 7 principles of Leave No Trace to raise awareness about the importance of generating minimal impact while enjoying outdoor activities.

Bird watching tour: go and see birds. Jonathan, the guide during this activity, and the birdwatchers traveled 6.3 miles from the slopes of the volcanoes Riveroll, 771, Picacho Vizcaino, Kenton and the oys-

Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

Thanks to the sponsors, collaborators, volunteers and the community for making this edition possible by contributing with their time, talent and resources. Photo: Mariana Espinosa.

ter fields in Bahía Falsa to go in search of shorebirds and aquatic birds. The closure of the hiking took place at the Monte Ceniza Nature Reserve, where the participants enjoyed a beautiful panoramic view of the sunset from the top of the volcano.

The **Oceanfront Party** has become a tradition for the community, for the fourth consecutive year it was held in Campo Don Alvaro in La Chorera. In this edition, 10 educational and interactive modules on nature, archeology and art were installed. Our special guests were: Sierra de San Pedro Mártir National Park, National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), Contacto Salvaje, Club de Dibujo Online and Ensenada's Ecology Department. In addition, the sea gastronomy was prepared by the local communities. The local artisan group "Manos de Mar" was also present. And young people from the locality and visitors participated in the 2nd. Birdwatching Marathon for beginners. There was also an exhibition of birds of prey by our friends from Contacto Salvaje who surprised us with an emotional release of a peregrine falcon. And finally to celebrate connectivity, the inauguration of the mural "Migration" painted by the artist Esther Gámez.

We thank all the attendees who visited us from Rosarito and Tijuana and those who flew all the way from Alaska, Washington and San Diego.

Thanks to the sponsors, collaborators, volunteers and the community for making this edition possible by contributing with their time, talent and resources.

We hope to see you next winter in **the fifth edition of the festival on November 8 and 9, 2019.** Save the date! •

Photo: Miguel Mayoral.

Desde su arranque, el programa ha creado un entorno adecuado para facilitar espacios de discusión de temas institucionales. Foto: FONNOR A.C.

Strengthening Capacities and Leadership of Organizations *in Northwestern Mexico*

Texto and photos by María José Mesén / Coordinator of the Capacity Building Program of FONNOR

This article was translated by Antonieta Valenzuela and Manuel Mendoza

NiNorthwest Mexico and the Gulf of California is one of the regions with the greatest diversity of ecosystems and home of enviable biodiversity, it is not fortuitous that it shelters so many non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Some of the largest, oldest and most experienced organizations in the Mexican environmental sector have contributed to raise awareness of environmental problems in the region, promote transparency and accountability, and support local communities in the management of natural resources. Given the key role that NGOs play, the strengthening of institutional capacities, as well as good leadership, are fundamental for the sustainability and effectiveness of NGOs.

In this context, the program known as Pescade-

ro was born in 2014 with inputs from the "Strategy and Collaborative Plan of Institutional Strengthening for Northwest Mexico", promoted by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. It is called Pescadero because the priorities of the strategy resulted from a workshop in El Pescadero, Baja California Sur (2012) in which donors, leaders and NGOs participated.

The program started with resources from the Packard Foundation, The Walton Family Foundation and The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. Subsequently, the Marisla Foundation and the Sandler Foundation would join the initiative, as well as having the administrative and strategic support of the International Community Foundation (ICF). The program is executed by the regional fund for northwest Mexico FONNOR under the supervision of the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN).

The **objective of the Pescadero Program** is to strengthen the institutional and leadership capacities of NGOs in northwestern Mexico through different lines of action: better governance, management and administration; diversification of funding sources; design of communication strategies; strategic planning; monitoring and evaluation; as well as the strengthening of individual leadership capacities of middle and upper management. The program proposes that strengthened organizations at an institutional level will make better projects, that in turn will have a greater impact on the conservation of nature.

The Pescadero Program offers two types of guidance, mainly to 28 organizations, although to the extent possible, other NGOs are included in the activities that are carried out. On the one hand, it provides support through general training, and on the other, it provides specialized advice through experts when needed. Since its inception, the program has created an adequate environment to facilitate spaces for discussing institutional issues. The activities have allowed the exchange of experiences between different organizations and have fostered collaborative work in the region.

As one of the main indicators of the program, FONNOR uses the Institutional Effectiveness Index, a skills self-assessment instrument developed by the FMCN, which allows identifying the degree of effectiveness and efficiency of organizational processes, as well as the effectiveness of the projects and programs of each organization. The IEI allowed guiding the support actions of the Pescadero Program in a specific way for each organization, as well as determining common themes in the region that should be addressed. The IEI was applied in 2014 (baseline), in 2016 and will be applied at the end of the program in 2019.

Terra Peninsular is one of the organizations that are part of the Pescadero Program. In the

The activities of the program have allowed the exchange of experiences between different organizations.

The forum "The power of executive boards" was held in Tijuana, Baja California, on September 18, 2018.

In total, between 2014 and 2018, the Pescadero Program provided 40 training courses.

The Pescadero Program provides support through general training, and also provides specialized advice through experts to the organizations that require it.

last four years, 13 members of Terra Peninsular have participated in 36 of the 40 trainings that the program has offered on the aforementioned topics. Additionally, through the program, Terra Peninsular has received specialized advice on communication and resource mobilization issues, as well as team integration.

In total, between 2014 and 2018, the program offered 40 trainings on the aforementioned topics, in which more than 300 people from 58 different NGOs participated; 25 organizations received specialized consultancies, 16 organizations received scholarships or special supports, and 90 leaders of middle or upper management completed the 80-hour training on leadership issues•

About FONNOR

FONNOR was created in 2016 through the impetus of the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN) that sought to have a regional ally to help in the conservation of nature and the promotion of environmental quality. For more information, please visit: www.fonnor.org

shorebirdsfestivals.com

Shorebirdsfestivals: A Platform to Promote Bird Festivals

Text by Antonieta Valenzuela and Jonathan Vargas / Terra Peninsular

This article was translated by Gaël Courtin

Terra Peninsular signed an agreement with Manomet to manage the website Shorebirdsfestivals from February 2018 to February 2019.

Shorebirdsfestivals is an online platform with the aim of connecting and promoting festivals which celebrate shorebirds all over the American continent, it is also a tool to get information, lessons and trainings made for two types of audiences: people interested in starting or strengthening a festival, and people interested in participating in festivals, like tourists or general public.

Moreover, the platform also have free resources, such as infographics on migratory birds and educational materials. It is also possible to request through the platform a poster of the shorebird wings named "We Are All Shorebirds" and contribute with the Shorebird Journal.

This project is an initiative of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and the Copper River International Migratory Birds Initiative (CRIMBI), and it is also supported by the US Forest Service.

Photo: Paul Marrón, member of the band Childs, during the tour in China.

First shorebirds ambassador

During the one year period of the agreement, the band Childs, lead by the musician Paul Marrón, joined the initiative as the first ambassador for shorebirds in Mexico. As an ambassador, Childs will be an important spokesperson to promote the protection of shorebirds in northwestern Mexico, the band will also take part in different projects and activities of Terra Peninsular related to shorebirds.

The aim of the ambassadors is to raise awareness on the urgent need to conserve migratory shorebirds and their habitats through the participation of public personalities and committed leaders.

Results

- 87 festivals from Mexico and Latin America were documented.
- 21 festivals registered in the platform that took place in Mexico, Argentina, Ecuador, Peru y Venezuela.
- 43 new users in the platform.
- The platform is available in Spanish and English.

Visit the platform and promote your festival at: www.shorebirdsfestivals.net

Mediterranews

CONSERVING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

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www.terrapeninsular.org/mediterranews/en/

Bertha Aguayo and Agustina Murillo participated in the exchange of experiences. Photo: Mirna Borrego.

During the activities of the festival we participated in birdwatching tours. Photo: Mirna Borrego.

This trip was part of the exchange of experiences program promoted by the CEC. Photo: Mirna Borrego.

Our Experience at the 10th Cozumel Bird Festival

Text and photos by Mirna Borrego Lazalde / Education and Community Outreach Officer at Terra Peninsular

This article was translated by Gaël Courtin and Amairani Márquez

From October 12 to 15, 2018, I travelled with Agustina Murillo and Bertha Alicia Aguayo, members of the community committee of Ensenada, to the 10th Cozumel Bird Festival.

The objective was to get the participation of the community committee members of the festivals organized by Terra Peninsular, and make contact with other community members who participate in the organization and promotion of bird conservation through festivals, like the Cozumel Bird Festival. **This trip was part of the exchange of experiences program, promoted by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC).**

During the festival, the 2nd National Meeting of Coordinators of the Urban Birds Program (PAU) took place, organized by Fundación de Parques y Museos de Cozumel. We spent time with 23 people from different states of Mexico and other countries, such as Belize, Guatemala, Venezuela and the United States. We also participated in birdwatching tours in natural areas, such as Punta Sur Eco Beach Park and the Cozumel Country Club, where we identified endemic birds that, some of us, watched for the very first time. At the end of the festival, we attended lectures and participated in workshops and educational activities in Benito Juárez Park, in Cozumel Island.

As part of the festival different activities were held, such as the presentation of awards Cuzam, the national recognition of the Urban Birds Program, and the inauguration of the photography exhibition “Foto Natural”.

The experience that Agustina and Bertha had in this festival represents more than a simple journey to the warm waters of the Caribbean and more than a few days in the sublime Cozumel. **This opportunity gave them a space for dialogue with members of different communities and expanded their vision about the importance of the role they play in the organization of the festivals in Ensenada.**

I realized that they gained motivation; I saw them making new contacts, sharing their experiences, watching birds and asking questions. This is the objective of the exchange of experiences: improving ideas, getting inspired, meeting allies and coming back home with innovative and open-minded proposals for the enjoyment of the community•

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Calendar

FEBRUARY

2
World Wetlands Day and San Quintín Bay was designated as 1775th Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention

11
International Day of Women and Girls in Science

13
Golden Eagle Day (Mexico)

14
World Energy Day

MARCH

3
World Wildlife Day

8
International Women's Day

21
International Day of Forests

21
First Day of Spring

22
World Water Day

31
Reto Volcánico in San Quintín www.retovolcanico.com

APRIL

18
The Monte Ceniza Nature Reserve in San Quintín was certificated as an Area Voluntarily Destined for Conservation

20
18th anniversary of Terra Peninsular

22
International Mother Earth Day

25
Guadalupe Island was designated a Biosphere Reserve in 2005

26
Sierra de San Pedro Mártir National Park was created in 1947

27
Constitution 1857 National Park was created in 1962

28
Save The Frogs Day

Wait for the next issue of the Mediterranews magazine on May 24, 2019!

www.terrapeninsular.org/en/mediterranews

Glossary

7 principles of Leave No Trace:
Principles to provide guidance to enjoy our natural world in a sustainable way. More info: https://lnt.org/learn/seven-principles-overview

Camera trap:
A camera trap is an automatic device that detects movement or temperature changes (depending on the camera), and is triggered by a sensor to take a photograph.

Halophytic plant:
Salt-tolerant plant that grows in waters of high salinity.

Rocky intertidal:
The intertidal zone is a place of transition where abrupt changes occur due to the movement of tides.

Shell middens:
Archaeological sites of ancient populations where remains of the consumption of mollusks, animals and plants can be found.

Sherman trap:
Sherman-type traps are live capturing traps built from perforated aluminum and galvanized lightweight steel in different sizes. They are foldable, which facilitates their transport. The pressure exerted by the animal when entering the trap releases the mechanism of action that was used to kept the door open

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- In Ensenada at Irish 4
- In San Quintín available at Molino Viejo and Posada Don Diego

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