

Saturday's Summer Pelagic Trip Report by Tom Benson

Sea & Sage Audubon held its annual summer pelagic trip today, July 16, on board the Ocean Institute's R/V Sea Explorer with Mike Bursk as captain. Leaders on today's trip were Jon Dunn, Jerry Tolman, Robert McNab, Jeff Bray, and Tom Benson. We enjoyed nice weather as we explored Lausen Sea Mount, the oil platforms off Huntington Beach, and the offshore waters between these locations and Dana Point.

The highlight of the trip was probably the Long-tailed Jaeger over San Gabriel Canyon 11 km due SW of Huntington Pier that was seen well by all. Other birds included thousands of Black-vented and Sooty Shearwaters along with a few dozen Pink-footed Shearwaters, a flock of about 50 Black Storm-Petrels on Lausen Sea Mount, seven Brown Boobies on Platform Edith, a Northern Fulmar, three Cassin's Auklets, two murrelets seen briefly that were later identified as Craveri's Murrelets from photos, and Parasitic and Pomarine Jaegers. Marine mammal sightings during the trip included a Fin Whale, a Blue Whale, Common Dolphins and California Sea Lions.

Thank you to the Ocean Institute for getting us out to see the birds and getting us back safely. Sea & Sage Audubon's next pelagic trip is in September; see the website for details.