

Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIV No. 4

January-February 2010

Editor Arne Christiansen

GULL IDENTIFICATION COURSE

n February 27th, Paul Lehman will take some Palomar Audubon Society folks to the field for a course in gull identification. We all know how hard it is to separate the gulls (especially the immature ones) and Paul is going to help us do just that. Paul is a "Big Time" birdwatcher and professional birding guide. He started birding as a young boy and has continued non-stop. Paul grew up in New York, where he started his birding. He came west to Santa Barbara to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara. Paul is known for the many vagrant birds he has identified. He is a non-stop birder. If you use SDBIRDS you know how often he posts new bird sightings with very informative news that helps many people tick off new county birds. Paul's resume is endless and if you don't believe me just Google Paul Lehman and start reading.

Here is how we are going to make this possible. We are charging \$20.00 for each participant and we are limiting the trip to 20 people...so we will be able to hear Paul talk. People will be enrolled in the course on a first come first serve basis with sign up starting on January 1, 2010. Doug Nail is the Palomar Trip Leader for this trip so you will have to enroll with Doug by phone 760-451-9370 or e-mail, naildo@sbcglobal.net on or after the first of the year. Payment will be at the time of confirmation of your enrollment in the course. Time of day and location will be set at a date closer to the trip date.

REMARKS TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO CITY COUNCIL 12/2/09 Dick Bobertz

- Dick Bobertz
- The budget detail for the recommended budget reduction for the San Dieguito River Park JPA is "Current JPA services for maintenance may need to be delayed, transferred or discontinued." That sounds innocuous, but ...
- Translated into my reality, what is being proposed to you is suspension of the entire City contribution to SDRP JPA the fourth quarter of this year and all of next year. That is an amount of \$368,855 or a 36% cut to our operating budget.

- There is a question whether or not <u>any</u> agency can survive a 36% cut to its operating budget ...
- But, the point I need to make today is that if you vote for this cut you will, in effect, be voting to <u>eliminate</u> the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.
- The JPA has been a successful example of regional cooperation for 20 years <u>because</u> the City of San Diego participated.
- This City was the primary force in establishing the JPA and has been its largest member these past 20 years. Your continued participation is crucial to hold together our alliance of five cities and the County.
- If you withdraw your total support now it will be like sawing off one leg of a 3-legged stool. The JPA simply will not be able to function without the City of San Diego. I hope you will factor that into your deliberations.

EXPERIENCE NATURE

Experience Nature with the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park Joshua Tree National Park, CA, December 1, 2009 – The Desert Institute offers exciting, short outdoor courses in cultural history, natural science, survival skills and the arts where adults can explore the wonders of the park with expert instructors. Each student will have an intimate learning experience with the natural world. This is a great way to visit Joshua Tree National Park and the surrounding area, where sunshine is plentiful in this fascinating backdrop of ancient rock formations and desert vegetation. Below is a course calendar for Spring 2010. Please call or email the Desert Institute to request a course catalog at (760) 367-5535 or desertinstitute@zippnet.net.

February 19 & 20	Basic Map & Compass
February 19 – 21	A Prickly Proposition: The
	Survival of the Joshua Tree
February 21	Advanced Map & Compass

B see **JOSHUA TREE**, Page 5

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW Doug Nail

WW ell, it's beginning to look a lot like the Holidays! I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season and a great New Year. Mickey and I are going to see the



grandkids in Gilbert, Arizona. It gives us another chance to develop them as birders. It's not an easy task in these days of computers, electronic games, MP3 players and cell phones. We are committed to giving it our all...at least for now.

There sure are a lot of good birds around the county and thanks to SDBIRDS we

have been getting some good leads and direction. If you aren't looking at SDBIRDS, you need to get on this Yahoo Group. We've had Mountain Plovers at Tijuana Slough, Hooded Merganser at Dairy Mart, Orioles and Tanagers at the Zoo, Painted Redstarts at Point Loma, Mountain Bluebirds in Ramona Grasslands. Many of these birds are overwintering so it's a good chance to see them as they well may stay around for a few more months.

Speaking of birds, don't forget the Escondido Christmas Bird Count which will be held on January 2, 2010. If you are not signed up and are available, it's a fun day and we even feed you a nice free lunch at Kit Carson Park. You don't have to be an experienced birder either. We can put you with a team comprised of birders of all levels so you won't have to fret about what is that bird you are seeing as someone will help you. There are also spots where you can contribute by being the list recorder; it's a great job for beginners.

And...speaking of beginners (with Palomar Audubon, that is) we have a few new faces among us. Two new members are from Fallbrook: Diane and Doug Walkley, and John Walker from Carlsbad is originally from Scotland (not England!). These folks are not new birders and I know we can learn a lot from them. We have also had several birders from out of town with us on our walks. These are folks who read about our birding trips on our Palomar Website. It's always fun to have new faces and learn about others birder's experiences and locations where they birdwatch.

The Palomar Audubon Panama Trip is on go! We have nine people signed up and committed. We aren't full but the trip is on and should anyone decide they would like to go, please check with Hal and Dianne Benham. They have been doing a great job of making this trip a very memorable experience for all of us.

On February 27th rather than our normal birding trip we will have a special event which will be open to 20 birders

and will cost \$20.00 per person. This is a new concept we are going to try as it fits one of our strategies of helping our members increase their birding skills. We are having Paul Lehman, a very experienced birder and professional guide, take those who participate in a gull identification course at a field location to be decided by Paul but will be within San Diego County. Paul wants to make sure we go where the gulls are so the location is undecided at this time. The closer to the date the better chance we have of seeing the most gulls. I will be the Palomar Audubon Leader on the trip and the trip sign up will be on a first come first serve basis so contact me directly to sign up or with any questions/issues. Call me at (760-451-9370) or by e-mail at naildo@sbcglobal.net.

One last thing: the Wildlife Research Institute has asked us to help them with their Hawk Watch duties in Ramona. They would like to have volunteers from Palomar Audubon help folks view the birds through birding scopes during the months of January and February. January 16th - one person, January 23rd - two people, January 30th - three people, February 6th - one person, February 13th - one person, February 20th - two people, February 27th - one person...if you can help please do. I need to hear from those who can help and I will make sure WRI has your name and on which day(s) you can help. So, if you are interested in helping please contact me directly at the number and location listed above.

Good birding,

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

P alomar Audubon Society recently lost two longtime members. James E. McCarty passed away on August 16th. Jim served as PAS Secretary from 1994-1995 and was also involved with Christmas Bird Counts from 1988-1999 and Lake Hodges Bird Counts from 1991-1999. Jim attended meetings with Poway City officials in the early stages of establishing Blue Sky Ranch.

Retired Colonel Charles Bogner passed away on December 7th at the young age of 93. Chuck and his wife of 62 years, now deceased, Jean Bogner, hosted the folding of PAS newsletters from 1997-1999. Chuck participated in our successful parking lot sales for a decade. Most importantly, Chuck was well-loved for his friendliness and sense of humor.

Our condolences go out to the families of these terrific gentlemen,



CONSERVATION NOTES Char Glacy

I wanted to share with you an article that recently appeared in the North County Times. Char

PROPOSED RIVER WALK

The North County Times recently highlighted a proposal to transform the city's barren flood control channel into a lush river walk is gaining momentum, with graduate students near Los Angeles launching a detailed analysis and local business leaders joining environmentalists in support. City officials say the ambitious project will still probably take several years to come together, but they **expressed optimism that growing community support would help the city eventually overcome the project's financial and environmental hurdles.**

One source for that optimism is April Marshburn, a graduate student in Cal Poly Pomona's prestigious landscape architecture program, who began researching the issue this summer.

Marshburn said Wednesday that she was inspired and intrigued this spring when she read about City Councilwoman Olga Diaz's desire to create a lighted and landscaped river walk out of the flood control channel, which runs 7 miles from the city's northeast corner at Lake Wohlford Road to its southwest corner at Harmony Grove Road.

"The channel is an interesting dynamic because you have the natural world and the human world interfacing," said Marshburn, a city native and 1994 graduate of Escondido High School. "Increasing community access and usability would make the city and many of its neighborhoods more connected."

Marshburn recently completed a 25-page analysis of options for the flood control channel, which was intended as a precursor to a more comprehensive study that would involve a team of Cal Poly graduate students visiting the city frequently beginning in January.

The city could use such a comprehensive study as a master plan for the river walk initiative, which could help the city get state and federal grants, said Jerry Van Leeuwen, Escondido's director of community services.

"A master plan ties together all the possibilities," said Van Leeuwen, suggesting that such an approach would also increase community support and enthusiasm for the project.

University officials will decide in late October whether to make Marshburn's proposal one of four projects assigned to student teams next semester. Marshburn and Professor Susan Mulley said they were confident it would be chosen.

"This project has huge potential for the city," said Mulley. "It would be an environmental improvement for the community, and it would create green space where green space is really needed."

Another hurdle would be \$50,000 in matching funds from the city to cover the cost of the study, but Van Leeuwen said the city could cover those funds with federal money the city gets to spruce up low-income neighborhoods. Virtually all of the neighborhoods the flood channel passes through are low-income, he said.

Councilman Dick Daniels and Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler said \$50,000 would be a huge bargain for such a study, which would cost far more if it was conducted by a private firm.

"It'd be hard to replicate this without lots more money," said Daniels. "And that creek is an environmental resource we need to take better advantage of."

Daniels also recently convinced Escondido Chamber of Commerce officials to get behind the river walk idea.

"We want to have a nice place that people want to visit," said chamber chief executive Harvey Mitchell. "Sometimes the business community and environmentalists don't see eye to eye, but this sounds like something we could get behind."

Several cities across the nation have transformed flood channels into river walks, including San Antonio.

Mayor Pfeiler said she might also support the project, but she reiterated her previous concerns that creating a river walk would be complicated, expensive and timeconsuming.

Councilwoman Diaz said such concerns make the Cal Poly study particularly important, because it would analyze the hurdles, costs and other issues.

The school has been studying such projects for about 30 years, said professor Mulley. Recent success stories include upgrades to a beach in Oxnard and improving public access along the Santa Clara River.

Diaz said that in her most ambitious visions she sees the channel lighted and widened, with holes poked in the concrete so trees can be planted and attractive murals painted elsewhere along the channel's walls.

"This could be a really amazing place for the community to come together," she said. "It could become a real asset to the city."

Call staff writer David Garrick at 760-740-5468. Posted in Escondido on *Wednesday, September 30, 2009 8:30 pm Updated: 10:35 pm.* |

FIELD TRIPS Jim Beckman

Whether a seasoned birder or a beginner, you are welcome to join us. For more information call the trip leader shown below. Heavy rain cancels trips. Locations in Thomas Guide Coordinates are shown in parenthesis as (Page-Column Row). Ratings: 1=easy, suitable for all levels, 2=moderate, a bit more walking and possibly some hilly terrain, 3=challenging, longer hikes and may involve some steep terrain.

> Saturday, January 2 No PAS Field Trip Scheduled Escondido Christmas Bird Count Saturday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. Dixon Lake Escondido (1110-C3) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Escondido, exit at El Norte Parkway and drive east approximately 3 miles. Turn left (north) on La Honda Drive and drive toward Dixon Lake to the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the east end of this parking lot, adjacent the Dixon Lake entrance. Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, January 16, 8:30 a.m.

Sweetwater River/Bonita National City

(1310-C4) Rating: 2

Take I-15 south to I-805 south and take the Sweetwater Road exit in National City. Turn right at Sweetwater Road and then right at Plaza Bonita Road. You will see the Plaza Bonita Shopping Center parking area on the left. Meet at the far west corner of the parking lot near the Outback Steakhouse. Our walk will be along the Sweetwater River where we should see a good variety of waterfowl and other birds.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, January 23, 8:00 a.m. Note: earlier time! Lake Norconian, Naval Warfare Center Norco, Riverside County (R.C. 713-C5 and 6) Rating: 1

Take I-15 north to Norco. Exit at 2nd Street ramp in Norco. Turn left (west) and proceed to Hamner. Turn right (north) and go one long block to the **Carl's Jr. Restaurant (2896 Hamner) where we will meet at 8 a. m.** (or earlier) and perhaps carpool. We will then continue on further to 5th Street. Turn left and continue up the hill to the Naval Center on your left. We will gather there at the gate and go in at 8:15 a.m. WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A LIST OF ATTENDEES IN ADVANCE. SIGN UP AT A FIELD TRIP OR CONTACT JIM BECKMAN (858) 792-5526 (email; jbeckman@pwtinc.com) BY JANUARY 19! We will walk around a wonderful lake filled with lots of waterfowl and other species. We will likely see the elusive Wilson's Snipe. Allow 75 min. driving time from Escondido. Leader: Jim Beckman 858-792-5526

Saturday, January 30, 8:30 a.m.

Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Rd.

Ramona

(1171-H5) Rating: 2

From I-15 in Rancho Bernardo go east on Rancho Bernardo Road, which turns into Espola Road (S5), and continue to Poway Road (S4). Turn left and drive east to Highway 67. Head north on Highway 67 and just before you reach Ramona, make a hard right on Mussey Grade Road (heading southwest). Continue on Dos Picos Park Road ¹/₂ mile to the park entrance on the left. There is a San Diego County Park parking fee.

Leader: Mickey Nail

760-451-9370

Saturday, February 6, 8:30 a.m. Oak Hill Memorial Park Escondido

(1130-F1)) Rating: 1

From I-15 exit east on Via Rancho Parkway, which becomes Bear Valley Parkway, and drive 5 miles north to Glen Ridge road at Orange Glen High School. Turn right on Glen Ridge Road and proceed approximately 1 mile east to the cemetery gate. Turn left to parking area. Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

Saturday, February 13, 8:30 a.m.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard, staying left at the bottom of the ramp, and drive 4.4 miles to Highway 76. Make a right turn and continue east about ¹/₂ mile to Lake Guajome Rd. Turn right (south) and drive up the hill past the park entrance, which does not open until later, and park on the street.

Leader: David Mathis

760-754-5215

Saturday, February 20, 8:30 a.m.

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

Irvine, CA

(Thomas Guide to Orange County, page 859 J-7) Rating: 2

Take I-5 north to the San Diego Freeway I-405, then exit on Culver and turn left. At the first signal, which is Michelson, turn right. Continue on Michelson to the third



B*FIELD TRIPS*, from Page 4

signal, and then turn left on Riparian View and continue toward the Irvine Ranch Water District water treatment plant. Follow Riparian View and the signs directing you to Audubon, the Duck Club, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. You will be on a paved 2-way road for a quarter of a mile. Before you encounter a gate that closes off the rest of the road, signs will direct you to turn right down a short hill and into a parking lot. The first building you see will be the Sea & Sage Audubon House. Beyond Audubon House are the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and 10 miles of trail for us to explore. Allow 50 min. from Oceanside.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-792-5526

Saturday, February 27, Time: TBA Special Gull Identification Workshop/Field Trip With Paul Lehman Location: TBA

See the details in the January/February issue of the Band Tales newsletter. To register for this special field trip, contact Doug Nail (760-451-9370) or email, naildo@sbcglobal.net on or after January 1, 2010. Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370

San Diego Bird Festival – No Scheduled Field Trip

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February 26 – 2	
	National Park
February 27	Basic Desert Survival
February 28	Advanced Desert Survival
March 6	Geology & Cultural History of
	Cottonwood Spring
March 6 & 7	Archaeological Surveying and Site
	Recording
March 7	Explore the Hexie Mountains
March 13	Joshua Tree Through the Lens
March 13	Native Californian Plant Cordage
March 14	Discover Eagle Cliff Mine
March 14	Light & Color: Oil Painting in Joshua
	Tree National Park
March 20	Watercolor Painting in the Park
March 20 & 21	Flora of Joshua Tree National Park
March 21	Rock Art of Southern California
March 27	Wildflower Wanderings
March 27	Plein Air Poetry®
March 27 & 28	Indigenous Peoples of Joshua Tree
	National Park
March 28	Basic Skills for Desert Plant Identification

PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the <u>Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive,</u> <u>Rancho Bernardo</u>. There is a social period beginning at 7:00 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:30 pm.

Thursday, January 28 **Doug Nail** Ecuador: Places, People and Birds!!

Doug Nail will present a program on his recent bird watching trip to Ecuador. Doug will discuss and show slides on the places he visited, the people he met and the birds he saw. You'll be treated to a view of one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. This was a trip taken by Doug and other Palomar Audubon members last February and March. Mitch Lysinger was the guide from Fieldguides and we traveled by small bus and airplane to many of the great birding spots in the Andes from north of Quito to south of Zamora, Ecuador. Come see what we saw and bring a friend it's free!!

Thursday, February 25 Ed Hall Brazil : Where the birds are!

Ed Hall will present a program on the bird watching trip he made to southeastern Brazil in 2008. Ed, several of his close birding buddies and their private guide spent two weeks exploring pristine parts of Brazil's remaining temperate rain forest and surrounding regions, all loaded with marvelous birds. Ed is a long time member of Palomar Audubon and has led many trips for us over the years. He is an accomplished birder and a great friend of Palomar Audubon Society. Ed has done much to make Palomar Audubon Society a strong and meaningful chapter. Come and bring a friend. I promise you'll be treated to a great program.



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Bring your bagged aluminum cans to the meetings. Proceeds from the recycling are used to defray chapter costs.

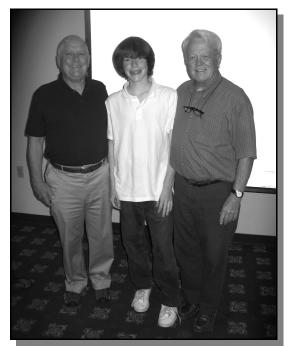


OF INTEREST

A tour October General Meeting, Kenny Kimbrough gave a very interesting presentation about his participation in the 2009 ABA Young Birders' Conference held this past summer in San Diego. His talk covered not only the birds he saw on the daily field trips, but also he clued us in on a lot of other "non-birding" activities that he was part of during his week-long stay with the other teenage birders. Kenny is the fourth young birder to receive an all-expense-paid PAS scholarship, and all them have become very active birders. We feel it is very important to continue this program to involve young people in birding.



(Kenny with parents Joan and David Kimbrough and PAS Scholarship Chair Jim Beckman)



PAS President Doug Nail, Kenny and Jim Beckman

RAMONA GRASSLANDS HAWK WATCH 2010

E very Saturday in January and February the Wildlife Research Institute welcomes visitors to the Ramona grasslands to enjoy the wide open space and view the wildlife. Nineteen different species of wintering and resident hawks have been identified in years past. The stars of the show are the Ferruginous Hawks that arrive from the northern United States and Canada. The Ferruginous Hawk is the largest hawk in North America. Spectators will also view Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Burrowing Owls, and Golden Eagles, to name a few.

Come early (around 8:30 am) for coffee and donuts. Bring binoculars and wear warm clothing. The program starts promptly at 9:00 am. The program consists of a brief overview of the Wildlife Research Institute, the life and history of hawks and their habitat, and the North American bird banding program. Visitors will see captured hawks banded and released. The Burrowing Owl identified as a "species of special concern" has been reintroduced to the grasslands and will be viewed by all.

It's free, so come see us at 18030 Highland Valley Road, Ramona, California, just 2¹/₂ miles north of Highway 67, Phone: 760-789-3992 www.wildlife-research.org





(The Ramona Wildlife Research Institure has been a recipient of PAS donations for the fine work they do in conserving the Ramona grasslands and protecting wildlife. You may be interested in seeing where some of your donations are being used.)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS		
Annound Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership Mail your application to: Palomar Audubon Society P. O. Box 2483 Escondido, CA 92033-2483 Membership in the Palomar Audubon Society includes a subscription to Band Tales, Palomar Audubon's bi- monthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips. New Member - \$20 Renewal - \$20	CEMENTS CONSTRUCTION CONSTRUCTION <td< th=""></td<>	
New Family Member - \$25 Renewal - \$25 (payable to Palomar Audubon Society) Contribution Name Address City State	a steal. Call Mickey Nail at 760-451-9370 or catch her at an upcoming walk to snatch one up! These warmies are great for early morning bird watching and our crisp winter outings! And great for any youngster - a budding birder - to wear on our Saturday	
Telephone E-mail 100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally. Please check here if you are interested in National Audubon Society membership.	SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL For information on the 13 th annual San Diego Bird Festival (March 4 through 7, 2010, Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay) go to: http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm SAN DIEGO	
Please check here if you are a member of National Audubon Society. (Chapter Affiliation)	DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 15 TH . SUBMIT COPY TO <u>arnec@juno.com</u>	

Band Tales January-February, 2010

The **Band Tales** is an official publication of the Palomar Audubon Society; it is issued bi-monthly and sent to all members as a part of their National Audubon Society membership or Palomar Audubon Society Chapter-only membership.

