



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXIV  
No. 4

January-February  
2011

Editor  
Arne Christiansen

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Doug Nail*

Here's hoping you all had a wonderful holiday season! Now, it's 2011 and away we go!

The Christmas Bird Count is well underway... if not completed. Hope you got a chance to be involved.

Some of us are in Trinidad and/or Tobago as you read this Band Tales. I'm sure we are looking at some wonderful birds.

Those of you who have been birding with Palomar Audubon this winter have had some great trips and seen some nice birds. The Lindo Lakes trip find of the Yellow-throated Warbler was really fantastic. The Salt Works trip was special. Lake Elsinore trip must have been the largest bird walk for us ever! We've had really good participation from folks new and old to Palomar Audubon. We're having fun and that's part of why we are members...I hope. Thanks to Jim Beckman for all his efforts!!

We sure intend to continue our efforts in 2011 with the Wildlife Research Institute, Escondido Creek Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and of course, we want to continue our Young Birder Scholarship program to help us encourage young birders to excel. Hopefully they will play significant roles in our organization in the future.

Several weeks ago on a Palomar Audubon bird trip I was discussing GISS and we got into a lively discussion on its origin. Well, after some research it appears there are two possibilities: 1). Military – stands for General Impression of Size and Shape. 2). Gestalt – a distinctive physical “attitude” from any specific fieldmark. Personally, I'm happy with either. To me, it's just a quick bringing together of all your experiences about birds that makes you say a bird is a certain bird without distinguishing why it is what it is. It's just GISS!!

Just a reminder we are looking for a Program Chair, Merchandizing Chair and Education Chair. If you'd like to play a more active role in Palomar Audubon, please give me a call at 760-451-9370.

Good birding!

## CONSERVATION NOTES

*Char Glacy*

I am sure many of you participated in the Escondido Christmas Bird Count held on January 2nd. While it is a really fun thing to do it seemed important to look at how all of this benefits the birds. The data collected by observers allow researchers, conservation biologists, and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of our bird populations. When combined with other surveys, it provides a picture of how bird populations are changing.

The long-term perspective made possible by the Christmas Bird Count is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

In the 1980's CBC data documented the decline of wintering populations of the American Black Duck, after which conservation measures were put into effect to reduce hunting pressure on this species. More recently, in 2009, the data were instrumental in Audubon's Birds & Climate Change analysis, which documented range shifts of bird species over time. In 2007, the data were instrumental in the development of two Audubon State of the Birds Reports - Common Birds in Decline, which revealed that some of America's most beloved and familiar birds have taken a nosedive over the past forty years, and WatchList 2007, which identified 178 rarer species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are imperiled.

These three reports helped scientists and policy-makers to both identify threats to birds and habitat, and promote broad awareness of the need to address them, so a big round of thanks to everyone who went out and participated in the count!

Happy Birding,

Char

### *Inside this Band Tales*

<i>A Birds-Eye View</i> .....	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Field Trips</i> .....	<i>pages 2,3</i>
<i>Programs</i> .....	<i>page 3</i>

## 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.

### January - February 2011

Sunday, January 2

#### Escondido Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 8, 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 and the Daley Ranch free parking area on your left. Meet at the east end of this parking lot, adjacent the Dixon Lake entrance.

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

Saturday, January 15, 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 22, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street ramp in Norco. Turn left (west) and proceed to Hamner. Turn right (north) and go several long blocks 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 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left and continue up the hill to the Naval Center. 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- 205-2819**

**(email; jbeckman@pwtinc.com) BY JANUARY 18!**

We will walk around a wonderful lake 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

858-205-2819

Saturday, January 29, 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 ½ 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 5, 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 12, 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 ½ 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 19, 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

*See FIELD TRIPS, Page 3*

*FIELD TRIPS, continued from Page 2*

on Culver and turn left. At the first signal, which is Michelson, turn right. Continue on Michelson to the third 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 the 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: Doug Nail  
760-451-9370

Saturday, February 26, 8:30 a.m.

**Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve**  
Murrieta, CA

**(Thomas Guide to Riverside County, page 957-C30)**  
**Rating: 2**

Allow 1hr from Escondido. Travel north on I-15 through Temecula to Clinton Keith Rd. Exit Clinton Keith to the right, then go back under the highway and travel west on Clinton Keith for about 4 miles to the Reserve Visitor Center on your left. There is a parking fee. We will meet here and bird briefly around the center, then carpool to the vernal pools, and walk to the historic adobe Ranch House.

Leader: Jim Beckman  
858-205-2819

Saturday, March 5

**San Diego Bird Festival – No Scheduled Field Trip**

## HAWKWATCH 2011

The Wildlife Research Institute, Inc.  
January and February, 2011

**HAWKWATCH IS HELD EVERY SATURDAY IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2011 from 9 AM – 12 NOON.** Program begins promptly at 9 am.

**From the south & west,** Take Highway 67 to Ramona and turn North (left turn) on Highland Valley Road for 2 miles and look for our sign, Wildlife Research Institute, Inc. on the right, 18030 Highland Valley Road.

**From the north,** take Highway 78 to Ramona Main Street (Hwy 67) turn right, proceed 3 miles to Highland Valley Road turn north (right turn) for 2 miles and look for our sign, Wildlife Research Institute, Inc., 18030 Highland Valley Road.

For more information, go online to:

[www.wildlife-research.org](http://www.wildlife-research.org)

## PROGRAMS

*Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo. There is a social period beginning at 7:00*

**Thursday, January 27**

**Kenny Kimbrough**

**2010 PAS Scholarship Recipient**

Palomar Audubon Society has a multifaceted mission, including a community outreach program with several special initiatives. One of these initiatives is our scholarship program. Last June, we provided a 100% scholarship award for a weeklong educational summer camp on birding conducted by the American Birding Association at Camp Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. Kenny Kimbrough was the recipient of this award. Kenny is 15 yrs. old and has been “hooked on birds” since the 4<sup>th</sup> grade when he vacationed with his family in Australia. Kenny will share with us the highlights of his participation at the 2010 ABA Young Birders’ Conference.

**Thursday, February 24**

**Doug Nail**

**“Trinidad and Tobago:  
Places, People and Birds”**

Doug Nail will present a program on Palomar Audubon’s recent bird watching trip to Trinidad and Tobago. Doug will discuss and show pictures on the places we visited, the people we met and the birds we saw.

Trinidad and Tobago are small islands in the southern Caribbean northeast of Venezuela. They host over 450 species of birds, including all the bird families of South America. Highlight birds include scarlet ibis, oilbird, bell birds, boobies, manakins and an array of hummingbirds.

Please come and bring a friend or two. Remember it’s free!

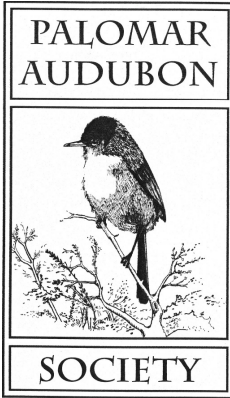
## THANK YOU, GILL

After many years of faithful, if not adequately recognized, service organizing the folding and processing of **Band Tales** newsletters, Gill Moreland is “retiring” after this issue to follow other passions. We, and I as editor, thank her and her volunteer “folders” for their service to PAS and wish them well. Unless somebody else volunteers to fill Gill’s shoes the newsletter will consist of four pages, as this issue demonstrates.

# Band Tales

## January-February, 2011

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.



**Band Tales**  
**Palomar Audubon Society**  
 P.O. Box 2483  
 Escondido, CA 92033-2483

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 SAN DIEGO, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 1515

CHECK ADDRESS  
 LABEL FOR  
 EXPIRATION DATE  
 OF MEMBERSHIP

**DATED MATERIAL**  
*Please Expedite*

**PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,  
 & COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
 2010-2011**

**President**  
 Doug Nail..... 760-451-9370

**Vice-President**  
 Dianne Benham..... 858-679-7904

**Secretary**  
 Sunny Christiansen..... 858-487-0731

**Treasurer**  
 Jeff Ebright..... 858-484-3932

**Directors-at-Large**  
 Jim Beckman..... 858-205-2819  
 Orval Carter ..... 760-489-5602  
 Vicki Ebright..... 858-484-3932  
 Char Glacy ..... 858-538-6788  
 Penny Hernandez..... 760-746-8315  
 John Walker ..... 760-707-6587

**Committee Chairs**  
 Band Tales ..... Arne Christiansen ... 858-487-0731  
 Conservation ..... Char Glacy ..... 858-538-6788  
 Exhibits ..... Penny Hernandez.... 760-746-8315  
 Field Trips ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819  
 Fundraising ..... Committee ..... 760-746-8315  
 Hospitality ..... Penny Hernandez.... 760-746-8315u  
 Membership ..... Vicki Ebright ..... 858-484-3932  
 Merchandising..... Mickey Nail ..... 760-451-9370  
 Programs ..... Doug Nail..... 760-451-9370  
 Publicity ..... Mickey Nail ..... 760-451-9370  
 Scholarship..... Jim Beckman..... 858-205-2819

Web Page: <http://www.palomaraudubon.org>  
 Webmaster: Kemer Thomson:  
[kemer.thomson@gmail.com](mailto:kemer.thomson@gmail.com)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS**  
*Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
**7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club**  
**16916 Hierba Drive**  
**Rancho Bernardo**

*Note: All Palomar Audubon Society members are welcome at Chapter Board meetings.*

<b>QUICK CALENDAR</b>	
<i>January</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>8</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>15</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>22</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>27</b>
<i>January</i>	<b>29</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>12</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>19</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>24</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>26</b>
<i>March</i>	<b>5</b>

**Escondido CBC - No Walk**  
**Dixon Lake Walk**  
**Sweetwater River/Bonita Walk**  
**Lake Norconian, Naval Warfare Center**  
**General Meeting: 2010 PAS Scholarship Winner, Kenny Kimbrough**  
**Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Rd. Walk**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk**  
**Guajome Regional Park Walk**  
**San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Walk**  
**General Meeting: Trinidad & Tobago Trip recap**  
**Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve Walk**  
**San Diego Bird Festival (March 3-6) - No Walk**