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!
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

**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 2nd 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 4th 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

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

**Rating: 2**

Take I-5 north to the San Diego Freeway I-405, then exit
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

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 4th 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.
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

**QUICK CALENDAR**

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<td>March</td>
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETINGS**

*Thursday, February 3rd*

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.*