

Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society

A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVI January-February Editor
No. 4 2012 Arne Christiansen

AUDUBON WORKS TO REDUCE BIRD KILLS BY WIND TURBINES

ews of a recent bird kill of Blackpoll Warblers and other species at a wind facility in West Virginia spread quickly through birding lists and caught the attention of the birding community in the region. Audubon staff learned of this unfortunate event and contacted the facility owner, AES Wind Generation, to investigate the causes of the incident and to work toward developing solutions that will help ensure such an incident doesn't happen again. From all indications, a combination of lighting and poor weather conditions were the primary causes of the bird kill.

AES representatives told Audubon they have taken immediate corrective actions to curtail excessive night lighting, replace equipment with preferable downward-shielded lighting fixtures, and will modify other site specifications. They will increase monitoring and take additional steps to reduce or eliminate lighting the facility during migration seasons to avert future bird kills of this type.

Now, actions need to be taken to minimize the likelihood of similar events in the future at other wind power facilities. Audubon is in discussions with AES and others about sharing the lessons from this event with the broader wind industry and emphasizing the importance of the lighting practices in the forthcoming federal wind guidelines. We hope that, as a result, new facilities will be written to specs that incorporate lighting practices that have been shown to minimize bird mortality during migration. This is a straightforward corrective action that will significantly lessen the negative consequences to birds, while delivering carbon-limited sources of renewable energy. We will be working to help make this a standard practice across the industry.



TESHEKPUK LAKE IBA SAFE... FOR NOW

eshekpuk Lake, in the northeastern part of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), lies at the heart of a wetland complex that supports millions of breeding seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl that migrate to states across the nation. Teshekpuk Lake provides the most important goose molting area in the circumpolar Arctic, used by up to 30 percent of the Brant population in the Pacific Flyway. The area is recognized as a globally-significant Important Bird Area (IBA) and also the major calving area for the 67,000-animal Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd.

A recent announcement by the Obama Administration about oil and gas leasing on the North Slope of Alaska included some good news for the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area within the NPRA. This past summer President Obama directed the Department of the Interior to conduct annual lease sales in the NPRA but also stated that sales should be held "while respecting sensitive areas." When the Department of the Interior released the map for the upcoming December 7 sale, there were no lease offerings in the biologically-rich Teshekpuk Lake Special Area and surrounding wetlands further west.

Audubon feels the Bureau of Land Management's map reflects a sound effort to balance the Department of the Interior's dual mandates of production and protection. More than three million acres will be made available for oil and gas leasing in December 2011 while safeguarding areas of exceptional ecological value. In this case, Audubon believes a reasonable balance has been struck as directed by President Obama and also provided by federal law which calls for "maximum protection" of special areas in the NPRA. (Learn more about Teshekpuk Lake in this month's Audubon Magazine, including a postcard you can send to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar urging

See Teshekpuk, Page 5

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

The board has started working on our goals for the year and we need your help. In addition to birdwatching, Audubon is about conservation, political advocacy and educational outreach. With your help we

can have an impact in these areas. I ask that you visit our website at www.palomaraudubon.org/volunteer.html and look over the list of volunteer needs. With your help, we can make Palomar Audubon a stronger chapter that meets the noble goals of Audubon to improve and enjoy the natural world.

A nominating committee consisting of Jim Beckman, Doug Nail, and Barbara Dunn will start the process of recruiting new board members. If you would like to learn more about serving on the board, they can answer your questions.

I hope you all had an enjoyable time over the holidays with family and friends. Our programs will start in January following the holiday break. Some members have suggested adding a short presentation on local birding at our programs. Starting with our next program, I plan to do a 10-minute presentation on birds of interest that we might see on upcoming walks and recent rarities seen in San Diego County.

I wish to bid a fond farewell to John and Katherine Walker. They will be moving back to England in January. Their good birding skills and humor will be missed on our bird walks and John's work on the Board of Directors was much appreciated.

As always, I would like to hear your thoughts. Feel free to talk to me or one of your other board members when you see them on bird walks, programs or other Palomar events. Or send an email to palomaras@gmail.com.

Good Birding!



CONSERVATION NOTES

Doug Nail

PALOMAR AUDUBON PLANS 2012 BIRDING TRIP TO PERU

he Palomar Audubon Board of Directors has approved the planning and execution of a bird watching trip to Peru for September of 2012. Brian Coleman, our British member and England resident, has done much of the "leg work" to put together a great birding experience including a side trip to Machu Picchu. The trip would begin in Lima, Peru on the 2nd of September. We would most likely leave San Diego to arrive the night before our tour starts.

The trip would include almost a full day of birding around Lima followed the next day with an early flight to Cuzco. We will bird around Cuzco for nearly a full day then head out to some of the most famous birding areas in Peru. We will be staying and birding at the Wayqecha Scientific Station (one night), the Cock of the Rock Lodge (two nights), the Amazonia Lodge (three nights), and the Manu Wildlife Center (six nights).

Near the end of this great birding adventure we will head from Manu back to Cuzco where, depending on river conditions, we will have an afternoon off in Cuzco to look around. We will stay in Cuzco for the night and then head to Machu Picchu in the morning on a train to Aguas Calientes, then a bus to Machu Picchu. We will stay at the four star hotel in Aguas Calientes/Machu Picchu that night and then return to Cuzco the next evening to spend the night. On the last day we will fly back to Lima and catch our evening flights back to the US.

The trip will start on September 2nd and end on September 18th in Lima. The costs are dependent on the number of folks going. The maximum number for the trip will be eight participants and the minimum is three. The trip costs slide from \$4,235 with eight participants up to \$5,435 for a minimum of three people.

The trip costs are all inclusive from Lima back to Lima with the exceptions of personal items, hotel and meals on the day before the trip, laundry and alcoholic beverages.

If this sounds interesting to you, we'd love to have you join us. Brian Coleman and I will be co-leading the trip with Neblina Forest as our local tour group and local bird guides. Neblina is a very well respected organization and is the tour group used by many of the premier international birding companies.

Please contact Doug Nail at 760-451-9370 or e-mail me at naildo@sbcglobal.net as soon as you decide or if you have any questions about the trip.

FROM THE PAS INBOX

Jeff Ebright

Palomar Inbox has moved. Due to problems with changes at Hotmail, I have moved Palomar's general e-mail service. The new PAS email address is palomaraudubon@gmail.com. Please use this e-mail address to volunteer, ask questions of Palomar leadership, or share your birding experiences with the rest of the membership.

For our next issue, I would like to hear about your experiences doing the Christmas Bird Count. Please send us your stories and we shall include some in the next issue of Band Tales.

Looking forward to hearing from you.



4H

Welcome to the 2012 San Diego Bird Festival

March 1-4, 2012



The San Diego Audubon Society invites you to San Diego for the 16th annual San Diego Bird Festival, being held at the Marina Village Conference Center. This year's banquet keynote speaker is Kenn Kaufman. He is a field editor for Audubon magazine and a contributor to every major

(Kenn Kaufman) birding magazine and author of Kingbird Highway, Flights Against the Sunset, and Lives of North American Birds.

To Register: Each person must register individually. To register, visit www.sandiegoaudubon.org/index.php/ events/bird-festival and click on the Register button for each event for which you wish to register. Additional event information can be seen by clicking on the Details button. Events that you select will be held in your shopping cart until you are ready to check out. After making each selection your event will show up in your shopping cart in the Selected Events window. If you wish to delete the selected event from your shopping cart click the Remove button. After making changes to your shopping cart click the Update Cart button. Click the Add More Events button to return to shopping or click the Checkout button to complete your registration. Let us know how you'd like your name to appear on your guest badge. If you decide to cancel events after completing the registration process, contact David Kimball at birdfest@cox.net This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. or (619) 224-4975. Cancellations after February 10 will not receive a refund except in the case of medical emergency. Additional registration information is detailed on the General Information page.

To contact us: Please contact David Kimball at birdfest@cox.net This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. if you have any questions about our events, the registration process, or need other information. Provide us a mailing address and we will mail a copy of the brochure to you. For information about sponsoring or vendor displays, contact Karen Straus at kstraus1@gmail.com This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

We have trips going to all areas of San Diego County. Destinations include the desert and mountains, lake and lagoons, and four pelagic trips aboard the Grande. We have special event for families and children on Sunday, March 4. Kid-friendly activities include a Beginning Bird Art Workshop, the Raptor Rap Workshop, and a Bird Calling Workshop. All family events on Sunday are free with no pre-registration needed, although we do ask you to check-in at the San Diego Audubon Society registration desk at festival headquarters upon arrival for handouts and important information and announcements about Family Free Day events.

Long-time festival favorites such as social mixers, keynote banquet, silent auction, and Birding & Optics EXPO are returning in 2012. EXPO is free and open to the public from 12 to 5 daily. The social mixers are on Thursday and Friday, 5 to 8 pm each night. The keynoter banquet with Kenn Kaufmann is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

All workshops and events are held at Marina Village. All field trips depart from Marina Village where parking is plentiful and free. For directions to and a map of Marina Village click here

Post-Festival Trip

Extend your West Coast festival birding experience with a post-festival trip to lush and birdy Costa Rica, March 5-12. The specially priced trip is sponsored by the San Diego Audubon Society and operated by Holbrook Travel. Reservations are made directly with Holbrook Travel. For more information visit:

www.holbrooktravel.com and click on "Join a Specialty Expedition," call 800-451-7111, or email travel@holbrooktravel.com.



FIELD TRIPS

Jim Beckman

hether 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 7, 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. Look for the "Daley Ranch/Dixon Lake" signs and turn left (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue 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: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

Saturday, January 14, 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 21, 8:30 a.m.

Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Road

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

January 28-29

Salton Sea Field Trip (no local field trip scheduled)

SOLD OUT

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370

naildo@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 4, 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 11, 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 Road. 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 18, 8:30 a.m.

San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612

(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 west on Michelson and then turn left on Harvard. Continue south on Harvard and then turn right on University Drive. Continue on University to Campus Drive and turn right again. Stay in the far right lane and immediately turn right on to Riparian View which will enter the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. (There is a dark green sign by the turnoff, identifying this as the route into the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary) At the end of the road, you will make a sharp left turn down a steep driveway and into the 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 25, 8:30 a.m.

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve

Murrieta, CA

(Thomas Guide to



see **FIELD TRIPS**, Page 5

BFIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

Riverside County, page 957-C30) Rating: 2

Allow 1 hour from Escondido. Travel north on I-15 through Temecula to Clinton Keith Road. Exit Clinton Keith to the right, then turn left 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 3

San Diego Bird Festival – No Scheduled Field Trip (See article on Page 3 for details)

Teshekpuk, from Page 1

him to "Save Teshekpuk Lake America's Greatest Arctic Wetland.")

Despite this positive signals, it's not over yet. The Department of the Interior is in the midst of preparing a first-ever comprehensive management plan for the entire 22 million-acre NPRA. Early next year, a draft plan will be published providing a critical opportunity for you to help ensure long-term, permanent protection for Teshekpuk Lake and other biologically sensitive areas in the NPRA. Stay tuned!





REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH-APRIL ISSUE IS
FEBRUARY 15TH.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com

PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the <u>Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, 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 26

Jeff Anderson, Jeff Senerton

Conserve the Habitat!!

This is going to be a really wonderful and informative program! We will have two speakers who are playing key roles in habitat conservation and restoration in the Escondido Creek Watershed. This watershed covers approximately 54,000 acres stretching from the foothills to the coast.

Jeff Anderson is Parks Supervisor for the Municipal Water District, a public agency, and is involved heavily in all aspects of the Olivenhain Municipal Water District and its interrelationship with the Escondido Creek Conservancy and the Elfin Forest Reserve. Jeff is a true conservationist and speaks through his actions. You will be amazed at what has been accomplished by Jeff and his group.

Jeff Swenerton is a big time volunteer, and a retired elementary teacher and principal. He has devoted many hours to The Escondido Creek Conservancy where he has played many roles and worn many hats. Currently he is chairman of the Advisory Committee which develops educational programs with Jeff Anderson and his ranger staff. He will discuss what is going in and around the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve and their plans to increase educational activities.

Please join us! Remember - it's free!

Thursday, February 23

Mary Talle

Penguin Parade!

After meeting a penguin at SeaWorld in Cleveland, Ohio when she was 14, Mary Talle fell in love. She decided that she would make a career of caring for these unique birds. Focusing her energies to make that dream a reality, Mary has worked for SeaWorld, San Diego for twenty-two years and has worked with penguins for more than fifteen of those years. She has worked with penguins at all four SeaWorld Adventure Parks as a guest keeper as well as several zoos across the country. She has even traveled to exotic locations to observe them in the wild. Come hear her share with us some of her many experiences with these unique birds from the Southern Hemisphere.

JOIN THE "E-COMMUNITY"

Palomar Audubon Society has had a friendly e-mail message list since October 2000. This list is focused specifically on the needs and interests of PAS members and is used to post important messages, including announcements, and last minute changes to events, trip reports, with an occasional comment, boast, or query from members. Unlike many e-mail lists, this has been a "low volume" list that averages only a few messages per week so it doesn't fill up your mailbox.

How to sign up: This e-mail list is administered through Yahoo! Groups. There are essentially two ways for you to participate:

- As an unregistered user. In this case, all you get are the messages when they are sent. To join the email list this way send messages to: Kemer.Thomson@gmail.com with your name and e-mail address. You will receive a confirmation e-mail. Don't reply to that confirmation email or you will immediately be taken off the list. Quit the group at any time by sending a message from the receiving e-mail address to:

PalomarBird-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

- As a registered Yahoo! user. If you have a Yahoo! mail account or belong to any other Yahoo! Groups as a registered user, this is the easiest and most powerful option: it allows you to read the archive of previous postings (seven year's worth) and to change your personal settings. To join the group this way, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PalomarBird/ and click on the "Join This Group!" button.

HELPING CALIFORNIA'S MIGRANT BIRDS

alifornia's migratory birds are a vital part of the state's natural identity. Each year, millions of birds stop over on the Pacific Flyway – a superhighway for birds migrating between Alaska and Patagonia – making California one of the most important areas for migratory birds on the west coast of the Americas.

Coming together to protect migratory birds

Audubon California is part of an innovative partnership that combines the experience and expertise of three leaders in bird conservation – Audubon California, PRBO Conservation Science, and The Nature Conservancy – to create a better California home for migratory birds. This Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership seeks to protect, restore, and enhance lands that support bird populations in California. This partnership is working to:

- Enhance the value of agricultural lands as migratory bird habitat
- Encourage better public and private land management
- Secure reliable water for wetlands
- Apply the best science to our efforts
- Promote policy solutions that will help bolster migratory bird populations and protect and restore their habitat.

Even though California continues to be a haven for migratory birds, the state has seen a steep decline in habitat over the past 150 years. Less than 10% of the state's original wetland habitat remains today, and the threat of losing more habitat persists. By enhancing the places where these birds rest, feed, and breed – and creating new ones – we can honor our natural legacy and reverse the declines that many of these populations have been experiencing.

The Partnership is currently working in three areas. Ultimately, we will apply the lessons learned in these three initial regions to other areas around the state that are important to migratory birds. The result will be a better California, not just for birds, but for Californians as well.

San Joaquin Valley. The recent San Joaquin River settlement offers an unprecedented opportunity to help migratory birds in this 32,000-square-mile habitat area. We're working with farmers to protect and restore bird habitat while maintaining the area's agricultural productivity.

Sacramento Valley. This 27,000-square-mile area supports millions of shorebirds and waterfowl each year. The flooding of more than 300,000 acres of rice lands offers many benefits for these birds, and we're working with rice and other growers to maximize the conservation value of these lands.

Klamath Basin and Modoc Plateau. As we seek policy changes to pave the way for massive river restoration in the Klamath Basin, we are conserving birds by working with private landowners to employ compatible agricultural practices and through conservation easements.

Help us conserve California's migratory birds

For further information about Audubon California's efforts to help migratory birds, contact us at auduboncalifornia@audubon.org.



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 bimonthly newsletter, and an invitation to our monthly programs and weekly field trips.

	New Member - \$20		Renewal - \$20
	New Family Member	- \$25	Renewal - \$25
	(payable to Palomo	ar Audubo	n Society)
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E-ma	il		
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B-2-B

If you have something birding-oriented for which you have no further use, or if you are looking for something birding-oriented, send copy to arnec@juno.com and we'll make sure it's listed here.



2012 HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP IN MAINE -REGISTRATION OPEN!

The National Audubon Society has opened registration for their legendary 6-day birding programs for adults, teens and families at the historic Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul, Steve Kress, Lang Elliott, Don Kroodsma, Bill Thompson III and many more expert ornithologists, naturalists, educators and authors will be in residence during the 2012 sessions. Website: http://hogisland.audubon.org

Hog Island Audubon Camp is run by the Seabird Restoration Program (Project Puffin) of the National Audubon Society. All summer programs include field trips to nearby Eastern Egg Rock, where Dr. Steve Kress and his team of biologists have successfully restored an island colony of Atlantic Puffins, and Roseate, Arctic and Common Terns. Immerse yourself in the joy of birding with expert-led workshops, lively evening presentations, saltwater birding tours and trips to diverse habitats on the Maine coast. Roger Tory Peterson was the camp's first birding instructor in 1936 and many of America's finest naturalists, including Rachel Carson, have spent time on the 330-acre wildlife sanctuary, located in mid-coast Maine, on Muscongus Bay. Participants live in restored wooden buildings dating back to the early 1900's and are treated to three fabulous meals each day, prepared by chef extraordinaire Janii Laberge.

2012 Programs:

Maine Seabird Biology & Conservation - June 3-8 & Sept 9-14

Joy of Birding - June 10-15 & June 24-29

Field Ornithology - June 17—22

Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens - June 17—22 & June 24—29

Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week- July 19—24

Family Camp - August 19—24

Audubon Chapter Leadership Program - August 26—31 Living on the Wind: Fall Migration and Monhegan Island - September 16—21

There is a \$50 earlybird discount for registrations received by Dec 15th and \$25 'snowbird' discount for registrations received by January 15th (all programs except Maine Seabird Biology & Conservation).

Most programs sell out months in advance, so it is worth registering early. Nearly one hundred scholarships are offered each year by local Audubon Chapters and birding clubs - see the website for applications.

For more information or to enroll, visit http://hogisland. audubon.org or call (607) 257-7308 x 14. You may also contact Erica Marx, registrar, at hogisland@audubon.org.

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January-February, 2012

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PALOMAR

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kemer.thomson@gmail.com

Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesdays, February 1st 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 as announced in Band Tales.

THER CALENDAD

		QUICK CALENDAR
January	7	Dixon Lake Walk
January	14	Sweetwater River/Bonita Walk
January	21	Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Road Walk
January	28	General Meeting: Conserve the Habitat!!
January	28-29	Salton Sea Field Trip (no local field trip scheduled)
February	1	Board of Director's Meeting
February	4	Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk
February	11	Guajome Regional Park Walk
February	18	San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Walk
February	23	General Meeting: Penguin Parade!
February	25	Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve Walk
March	3	San Diego Bird Festival – No PAS Field Trip