



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVII
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January-February
2013

Editor
Arne Christiansen

SANDHILL CRANE - CALIFORNIA BIRD OF THE YEAR



One of California's favorite waterbirds is the 2012 Audubon California Bird of the Year. The Sandhill Crane received the designation after it received 43 percent of votes cast during an online poll this fall. Although the bird was a nominee for the past three years, it experienced a surge in popularity this year, going from 234 votes in 2009 to 5053 this year.

Audubon California is increasing the amount of Sandhill Crane habitat in California by partnering with private landowners. In the Central Valley, we're working with farmers and other conservation organizations to improve conditions for wintering cranes on working lands. For the last several years, we have also been identifying opportunities to create conservation easements for nesting Greater Sandhill Cranes on private land in the Surprise Valley.

Nearly 12,000 votes were cast in this year's Bird of the Year poll. The Sandhill Crane took the title with a late surge after the second-place Burrowing Owl raced off to an early start. Ultimately, the owl finished with 22.3 percent. Coming in third for the second year in a row was the Western Snowy Plover with 9.8 percent, while the Tricolored Blackbird followed with 8.1 percent.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's campaign by voting and rallying behind their favorite bird.

Warm regards,
Audubon California

ANNOUNCING A PALOMAR WEEKEND IN THE EASTERN SIERRAS

April 20-21, 2013

The communal mating dance of the Sage Grouse is one of the greatest shows in "bird-dom" no place more so than at their spectacularly located lek near Mammoth Lakes. During this weekend we will also search out specialties such as Sooty Grouse, Rosy Finch, Dipper, Juniper Titmouse and Sage Thrasher plus look for early migrants and other mountain targets.

Our trip will commence Saturday morning at Diaz Lake near Lone Pine and disband near Mammoth Lakes Sunday after lunch. Ed Hall will lead. Ken Weaver and others will co-lead as in the past. Mickey Nail will coordinate. Space will be limited to 24 participants and 6 vehicles plus leaders. There is a donation of \$25 payable to Palomar Audubon Society. More information will follow in the next edition of *Band Tales* and on Palomarbird. For now, let Mickey know if you're interested via phone (760-451-9370) or at naildo@sbcglobal.net) and save the date.



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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break with friends and family. The PAS Board of Directors also took the holiday months off, so I don't have much news for this column. As I look ahead to the new year, I'm concerned about the shrinking pool of volunteers available to keep this organization successful. For example, we have been without a Program Chairperson for over a year and Education Chairperson for two years. As you make your New Year's resolutions, please give some thought to helping Palomar Audubon. Hope to see you on one of our upcoming bird walks or at one the programs.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JEFF'.

**PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY
WELCOMES THESE NEW AND
RENEWING**

CHAPTER-ONLY MEMBERS:

- Sonja & Michael Beeve
- Michelle Marshall
- Jo Daugherty
- Helga Rosser
- Linda Dollins
- Tracy Henchbarger
- Sharon & Bert Kersey
- Jan Behrhorst
- Donna & Al Przecha
- Joan Falconer & Nabih Mansour
- Gail Smith
- Clark Mahrtd
- Julie Szabo

**AND WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE THE
GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THESE DONORS:**

- Ruth & Otto Talle
- Michelle Marshall
- Sonja & Micheal Beeve



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

CONSERVATION NOTES

Doug Nail

Hi, Everyone!
Thought you might like to see what some of our local groups are doing:

The Escondido Charitable Foundation announced recently that the Reveal Escondido Creek proposal for the Plaza del Arroyo project will receive full funding. Reveal Escondido Creek (REC) is a coalition of volunteers and organizations. This project will unify the community of Escondido in new ways that build on old traditions. The waterway that was a natural place to gather in ancient times during the homestead era will again bring people together in the 21st Century through arts, culture and recreation. Let's hope it also gives our birds a more friendly and natural waterway they can use in migration and/or permanent residence.



The Escondido Creek Conservancy has just completed a deal in partnership with The Conservation Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Wildlife Conservation Board to take ownership of an incredible 240 acre tract of land, upland from Escondido Creek, along Harmony Grove Road and Via Ambiente. This property was destined for development with an approved County map so this is a tremendous win for the community and for our resident wildlife. Unfortunately, to save this land TECC had to commit to cover ongoing management costs. TECC has been very successful in acquiring land ahead of land developers. Come out to the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center...come on Thursday morning and you will get a special introduction from the docent on duty at the time...ME.

Good birding!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DOUG'.



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 5, 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: Michael Beeve

209-247-5237

Saturday, January 12, 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 19, 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, but free with a County senior pass.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995



January 26-27

Salton Sea Field Trip (no local field trip scheduled)

SOLD OUT

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370/naildo@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 2, 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 9, 8:30 a.m.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard, and drive 4.4 miles north to Highway 76. Make a right turn on Highway 76 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 16, 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 minutes from Oceanside.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

see FIELD TRIPS, Page 4

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

Saturday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.

Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve
Murrieta, CA

(Thomas Guide to Riverside County, page 957-C30)

Rating: 2

Allow 1 hour from Escondido. Travel north on I-15 through Temecula to Clinton Keith Rd. 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 2

San Diego Bird Festival – No Scheduled Field Trip

**2013 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
(2013 GBBC)**

The 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held February 15-18, 2013. The GBBC is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.cornell.edu) and the [National Audubon Society](http://www.audubon.org) learn more about how birds are doing – and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 104,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"This count is so fun because anyone can take part -- we all learn and watch birds together -- whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up."

-Gary Langham, Chief Scientist

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.



PROGRAMS

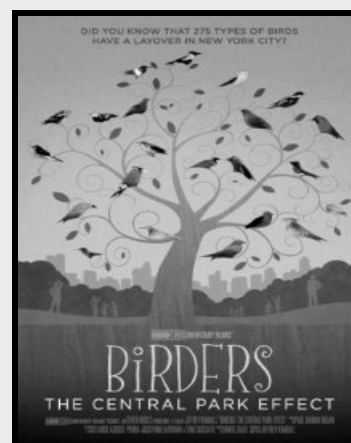
Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the Remington Club, 16916 Hierba Drive, Rancho Bernardo. There is a social period beginning at 7:00 pm with the meeting and program getting under way promptly at 7:30 pm.

Thursday, January 24th

Movie Night

“Birders: The Central Park Effect”

A diverse group of full-of-attitude New Yorkers reveals how a hidden world of beautiful wild birds in the middle of Manhattan has upended and magically transformed their lives.



Thursday, February 28th

Mel Hinton

Past President of San Diego Audubon

**“Cultivating a Natural World
for Birds and Butterflies”**

Bring life and song to your yard and garden by using native plants and a wildlife-friendly design. Mel's presentation demonstrates how you can make your California garden become a slice of our natural landscape that requires minimal maintenance, conserves water, and attracts wildlife. The presentation will serve to get you started on planning your own native plant garden – one that benefits both people and wildlife.

The key lies in having the right mix of native plants coupled with the three things all birds need: food, water and shelter. By using native plants that are adapted to our climate, you will have fewer insect and disease problems than with ornamentals and rarely will soil supplements be needed. Best of all, birds and butterflies are naturally drawn to these plants. A build-your-own solar powered birdbath - like the one used at the Cabrillo Monument - will also be on display.

(editor's note: the following notice of the PAS E-COMMUNITY first appeared in **Band Tales** circa 12 years ago. Since then Kemer Thomson has, without all the credit he deserves, maintained this valuable resource for our birding community.)

THANK YOU, KEMER!!

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.

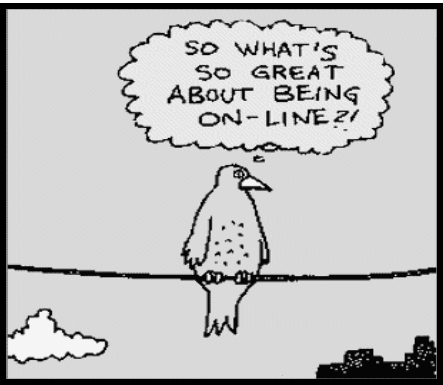
How to sign up: This e-mail list is administered through Yahoo! Groups. There are essentially two ways for you to participate:

- **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@yahoo.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.

THANKS FOR YOUR EXPERTISE, KEMER!!



SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

February 28-March 3

The 17th annual festival takes wing on scenic Mission Bay with keynoter Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and special guest Bill Thompson III. Festival HQ is steps from San Diego's famous "Mile of Birds" river estuary. Events include field trips, pelagic trips, workshops, Birding & Optics EXPO, a Big Sit, and Family Free Day, plus a post-festival Baja endemics trip.

To contact us: Please contact David Kimball at birdfest@cox.net if you have any questions about our events, the registration process, would like to be mailed a brochure or need other information. Provide us a mailing address and we will mail a copy of the brochure to you. If you attended in 2011 or 2012, you are already on our brochure mailing list. For information about sponsoring or vendor displays, contact Karen Straus at kstraus1@gmail.com. Click for Expo information and/or a registration form.



HEY, PAS-ERS ALL!

(an-OTHER note from the editor)

Ever since I assumed the role of editor of the bi-monthly PAS newsletter **Band Tales** (with the encouragement of my everloving and forgiving wife, Sunny) we together have worked to provide a newsletter worthy of its membership.

This is becoming an evermore difficult task. Echoing President Jeff Ebright (see page 2, "A BIRD'S EYE VIEW") we **USED** to have a Director of Educational Outreach who brought programs to local schools, (*now unfortunately nonexistent, to the sad detriment of the next generation of potential birders,*) we **USED** to have a Director of Fundraising (now "Committee") and we **USED** to have a Director of Programs (also now provided by "Committee.") "Committee" generally means one or more of the Board members takes up the slack.

Take an additional look at the page 6 listing of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs. I hope you notice that just a few families fill those posts. **PLEASE**, help and volunteer in any way you can.

I'd be the first to admit that I go on few or no walks, but we all do what we can.

WON'T YOU CONSIDER DOING THE SAME TO KEEP PAS GOING STRONG???

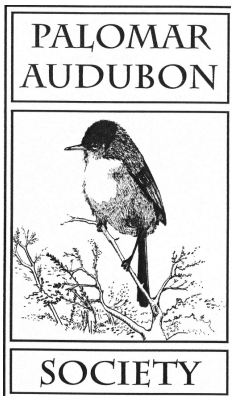
THANKS!!



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January-February, 2013

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.



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 & COMMITTEE CHAIRS
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- Vice-President**
 Jim Beckman 858-205-2819
- Secretary**
 Vicki Ebright 858-484-3932
- Treasurer**
 Mickey Nail 760-451-9370
- Directors-at-Large**
- Janet Behrhorst 858-486-1945
 - Sunny Christiansen 858-487-0731
 - Barbara Dunn 760-846-6867
 - Elinor Foulke 858-538-6788
 - Lyn Gamelson 760-798-7927
 - Doug Nail 760-451-9370
- Committee Chairs**
- Band Tales Arne Christiansen ... 858-487-0731
 - Conservation Doug Nail 760-451-9370
 - Exhibits Penny Hernandez 760-746-8315
 - Field Trips Jim Beckman 858-205-2819
 - Fundraising Committee xxx-xxx-xxxx
 - Hospitality Penny Hernandez 760-746-8315
 - Membership Vicki Ebright 858-484-3932
 - Merchandising Mickey Nail 760-451-9370
 - Programs Committee xxx-xxx-xxxx
 - 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

Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesday, January 2nd
 7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club
 16916 Hierba Drive
 Rancho Bernardo

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

QUICK CALENDAR

<i>January</i>	2	Board of Directors' Meeting
<i>January</i>	5	Dixon Lake Walk
<i>January</i>	12	Sweetwater River/Bonita Walk
<i>January</i>	19	Dos Picos County Park & Rangeland Road Walk
<i>January</i>	26-27	Salton Sea Field Trip (<i>no local walk scheduled</i>)
<i>January</i>	24	General Meeting: Movie Night (<i>see page 5</i>)
<i>February</i>	2	Oak Hill Memorial Park Walk
<i>February</i>	9	Guajome Regional Park Walk
<i>February</i>	15-18	Great Backyard Bird Count
<i>February</i>	16	San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary Walk
<i>February</i>	23	Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve Walk
<i>February</i>	28	General Meeting: Cultivating a Natural World for Birds and Butterflies
<i>February 28-March 2</i>		San Diego Bird Festival (<i>no local walk scheduled</i>)