



Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society
A Chapter of the
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVI
No. 1

July-August
2011

Editor
Arne Christiansen

THE 2011 PAS PICNIC

A Fun Feast in Fallbrook!

June 5th was a beautiful day for a picnic under the oaks at Bert and Sharon Kersey's home in Fallbrook. The weather came through for us big time, as did the cooks, who served up to-die-for filet mignon (grilled to perfection by Tim Burr, Arne Christiansen and guest Mike Smith), Penny Hernandez's fabulous potato salad, Mickey Nail's scrumptious vegetarian dish, Dianne Benham's birder-baked beans, our traditional Friendship Fruit Salad, and awesome do-it-yourself ice cream sundaes!

Hal Benham and Doug Nail dutifully tended bar while the rest of us were hard at work devouring appetizers and swapping tall bird tales.

A bounty of birdiferous gifts were up for grabs during our always-popular raffle, including Mickey Nail's exquisite hand-made quilt and John Sanderson's state-of-the-art barn owl box.

Our birders know a good bird photograph when they see one, and they voted John Walker's gnatcatcher photo as #1 in our quasi-annual photo contest (see it on page 3). 2nd place went to Bob Serling for his hummingbird photo and 3rd to Dianne Benham for her shot of owls.

An after-dinner tour of Sharon's garden and Bert's crazy antique train layout topped off the day's entertainment.

The picnic hubbub probably made the birds a little anxious, but attendees reported seeing plenty of nuthatches, orioles, grosbeaks and the like. The Kerseys have photographs of 81 species that have been spotted on or above their two-acre rural property.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our most popular event of the year a fun-filled day. A marvelous time was had by all 56 of us!



(belly up to the bar, folks!)

*(at the plate - -
it's
Doug Walkley!)*



*(Doug Nail presents a check
for Palomar Audubon's
Donation to SD River Valley
Land Conservancy Executive
Director Craig Adams)*



*(Mickey and lucky winner,
Cheryl Grantham)*



(before & after)

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A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

For this first column, I want to introduce myself and share some of my thoughts entering into the President position. I have been a National Audubon member for eleven years and have served on the Palomar Board of Directors for four years. I feel honored that Doug asked me to take over as President and I appreciate the support from the other Board members. Palomar Audubon has been well served by past presidents Doug Nail and Penny Hernandez, as well as their predecessors, and I hope I can perform up to their high standards. I'm glad that they are both staying on the Board to give me guidance. During my term, I hope to maintain the things that Palomar does well and expand our services to involve more of our members.

I started bird watching about twelve years ago. My wife Vicki and I started walking for exercise and soon expanded our walking to many of the beautiful trails in San Diego. Our daughter suggested we take up birding and started to show us some of the birds in Santa Cruz where she lived. We were hooked! It greatly enhanced our walks. Although I have enjoyed birding on many levels, from the challenge of identifying a bird, to learning about them, to photography and travels to see new birds, it is their connection to the natural world that gives me the greatest joy. We were assigned to San Diego Audubon when we joined and spent our first two years of birding on their field trips. We also tried bird walks with Palomar Audubon and quickly found a home. We loved the relaxed, very friendly attitudes and helpfulness of Palomar birders.

I would like to hear from you all and would like to start with this question: how long have you been bird watching and what got you started? Please send your answer to the question to palomaras@hotmail.com. As space allows, I would like to include your answers in a future issue of Band Tales. You can also use this email for any questions or suggestions you might have for me.

On reflecting on my experience with Palomar Audubon Society, I came to realize the positive influence that it has had on my life. I appreciate nature more, I'm more sociable, engaged more in my community, politically more active, I volunteer and enjoy life more. I will be successful as your President if Palomar Audubon can have a similar influence on you.

Good Birding!

JE



Coming in 2012: The Magee Marsh and Kirtland's Warbler Trip!

In Mid-May of 2012, Palomar Audubon will sponsor a seven-day, six-night trip to Magee Marsh to witness the spring migration, followed by a jog into Michigan to find the Kirtland's warbler. The trip leader will be Adrian Binns, a charismatic and enthusiastic leader of birding tours. In the spring, there are about thirty-seven species of warblers that make an appearance at Magee Marsh.

As they arrive at the shores of Lake Erie, the birds are reluctant to make the crossing and tend to congregate on forested beach ridges around the marsh. The marsh itself covers nearly 2,000 acres and is a critical stopover where the birds rest and re-fuel before continuing their journey.

The plan is to fly into Detroit, where Adrian will pick us up in his van. We will then drive into Ohio to the marsh, spending several days birding the various sites in the area and then drive back into Michigan to get the Kirtland's warbler. We will spend five nights in the Magee Marsh area and one night in Michigan, with a drop-off time of approximately 4:00 p.m. at the Detroit airport.

Adrian is finalizing plans and pricing as well as exact dates, so specific details will be given at a future time, most likely in the next Band Tales and on the PAS website when we get more information. The trip will be limited to seven participants, so if you are interested, mark your calendar and send your email address to Dianne Benham (davinci@san.rr.com) so she can alert you to the posting of the trip via email. This should be a fabulous trip, and one you will definitely not want to miss!



OF INTEREST

COMING TOGETHER TO PROTECT MIGRATORY BIRDS

(from <http://ca.audubon.org/>)

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:

- 1 Enhance the value of agricultural lands as migratory bird habitat
- 2 Encourage better public and private land management
- 3 Secure reliable water for wetlands
- 4 Apply the best science to our efforts
- 5 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.

Helping migratory birds



Alison Sheehy



(Black tailed gnatcatcher taken at Anza Borrego taken by John Walker. It received 1st Place at this year's Annual Palomar Audubon Picnic. Great shot, John!)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ISSUE IS
AUGUST 15TH.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com**

PROGRAMS

*Programs are suspended during the summer months, but check the September-October issue of **Band Tales** for those we have scheduled for the fall. They promise to be great!*

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.

Please Note: Summer birding can be very warm so be sure to bring sufficient water on walks.

Saturday, July 2nd

No Trip – Holiday Weekend

Saturday, July 9, 8:00 a.m.

Lindo Lake

Lakeside, CA

(1232 B-3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52, east to Mission Gorge Road. Continue east on Mission Gorge Road to Woodside Avenue. Go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end of the road, with the parking lot on the left. From San Diego, take I-8 east to Highway 67 north, and take the Riverford Road exit. After exiting, turn left on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) and continue to the end of the road, with the parking lot on the left.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, July 16, 8:00 a.m.

Tijuana Estuary/7th Street

Imperial Beach

(1349-F1) Rating: 2

Travel south on I-5 from San Diego and exit west on Coronado Avenue, which becomes Imperial Beach Boulevard. Turn left on 3rd Street to Caspian Way, turn left and then right to the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center parking lot.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, July 23, 8:00 a.m.

Torrey Pines State Reserve

San Diego/Del Mar

(1207 J1&H3) Rating: 2

Since there is a \$10/vehicle parking fee, carpooling is suggested. We will meet at a nearby Park & Ride and carpool from there. From I-5, take the Carmel Valley Road exit and drive west to the first stoplight at Pointe Del Mar Road. Turn left into the parking lot. Initially, we will bird along the road south to the wastewater pump station. Later, returning to our cars at the parking lot, we will drive west to the Reserve entrance on Carmel Valley Road, and then later, continue on to the Reserve entrance

on South Camino Del Mar (Coast Highway.). Here we will bird on the top of the bluffs overlooking the ocean. Torrey Pines State Reserve is located within the San Diego city limits and yet remains one of the wildest stretches of land on our Southern California coast. Its 2000 acres of land are as they were before San Diego was developed with the chaparral plant community, the rare and elegant Torrey Pine trees, miles of unspoiled beaches, and a lagoon that is vital to migrating seabirds.

Leader: Jack Friery
619-218-7342

Saturday, July 30, 8:00 a.m.

Guajome Regional Park

Oceanside

(1067-D7) Rating: 2

From Highway 78 in Oceanside, exit north on College Boulevard curving left 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. We usually convene on this road beyond the park entrance since we gather well before the park opens.

Leader: David Mathis
760-754-5215

Saturday, August 6, 8:00 a.m.

Robb Field/San Diego River Floodway

San Diego

(1267-J5) Rating: 1

We will visit two locations along the San Diego River Floodway to look for early migrant and returning shorebirds, often still in breeding plumage, and post-breeding dispersal Elegant Terns. From North County, take Highway. Take 163S to I-8W and drive toward Ocean Beach. Make a slight left at Sunset Cliffs Boulevard. and then stay in the right lane. Turn right onto W. Point Loma Boulevard. and then right at Bacon Street. Drive straight ahead to the Robb Field parking area near the tennis courts at the east end. Bring a scope if you have one. We will also visit the nearby San Diego River Flood Control Channel and/or Famosa Slough.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, August 13, 8:00 a.m.

San Elijo Lagoon

Solana Beach

(1167-E6) Rating: 2

A good spot to find early fall migrants. Take I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe Drive. Go west to North Rios Avenue. Turn right (north) and go all the way to the end of North Rios Avenue. Park and meet at the end of the street near the



**FIELD TRIPS**, from Page 4

barricade. Bring a scope, if you have one, and water, and plan for warm weather.

Leader: Doug Nail
760-451-9370

Saturday, August 20, 8:00 a.m.

Santee Lakes
Santee, CA

(1231-A5) Rating: 2

From I-15 go east on Highway 52. Exit at Mast Boulevard. Continue east on Mast Boulevard. to Fanita Parkway. Turn right at Fanita Parkway and the entrance to Santee Lakes is on the right. Car entry fee is \$5. OR from Mast Boulevard, turn left on Fanita Parkway and continue north to Lake Canyon Drive. Turn right, park, and walk in the open gate for FREE. Meet in the parking lot by the Generia Store between lakes 4 and 5.

Leader: Penny Hernandez
760-746-8315

Saturday, August 27, 8:00 a.m.

Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley
San Diego

(1350-D5) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south and merge with the I-5 south to the Dairy Mart Road Exit. Turn right on Dairy Mart Road. (south). Meet just past the concrete bridge next to the large "TJRV Park" sign and the large pond on the west side of Dairy Mart Road. We will also caravan a short distance to the TJRV Park Headquarters (public restroom and bird feeders) and then visit the nearby Bird & Butterfly Gardens where we might see the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, September 3, 8:00 a.m.

Kit Carson Park
Escondido

(1150-C1) Rating: 1

From I-15 in Escondido, exit east on Via Rancho Parkway and drive about one mile northeast to the Park Road entrance at the stop light. Turn left, and proceed on Park Road about ¾ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats will usually get us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Sunny Christiansen
858-487-0731



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**

☐ **New Family Member - \$25** ☐ **Renewal - \$25**

(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)

☐ **Contribution** _____

Name _____

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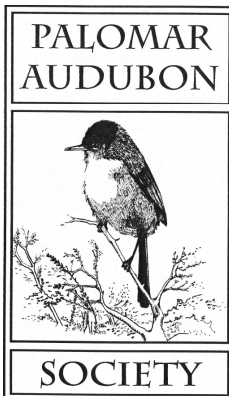
*100% of Chapter Membership dues supports
projects locally.*



Band Tales

July-August, 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.



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NO BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS DURING JULY AND AUGUST

*No General Meetings are scheduled either for the months of
 July and August. Meetings resume in September.
 See the September-October issue of **Band Tales** for details.*

Note: Terrific Bird Walks are scheduled all summer. Join us for the fun..

QUICK CALENDAR

July 2
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30
August 6
August 13
August 20
August 27
September 3

No Trip – Holiday Weekend

Lindo Lake Walk

Tijuana Estuary/7th Street Walk

Torrey Pines State Reserve Walk

Guajome Regional Park Walk

Robb Field/San Diego River Floodway Walk

San Elijo Lagoon Walk

Santee Lakes Walk

Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk

Kit Carson Park Walk