The incredible calls of night insects, thousands of fireflies, common potoos, white-tailed nightjars, parakeets and tropical screech owls made this evening really an experience to remember!

The next two days saw us birding the highlands with David and Mukesh as expert guides. We filled out our hummingbird list quite nicely with species not usually associated with feeders such as the green-throated mango, green hermit and long-billed starthroat. We saw the white-tailed trogon and the collared trogon as well. Can’t forget the white-bearded manakin and the golden-headed manakin and fifteen species of flycatchers! And then there was the bearded bellbird….an amazing sound, like hitting a steel pipe with a hammer is the closest one can come to the call of this species. The call travels for long distances and could sometimes be heard from the veranda at Asa Wright as well.

On January 11th we were led to the oilbird roost. Oilbirds are the only nocturnal birds that feed exclusively on fruit. They have huge eyes and a wide wingspan. They roost in colonies in caves, and in this case, a narrow, steep walled gorge. It was fairly difficult to get to, but well worth it, as this species was a life-bird for all of the group. We got excellent views of this unique bird, which made the long climb back to the lodge worth it.

That same evening, the group traveled to the Caroni Swamp, a saltwater mangrove forest. Traveling by boat, we journeyed to a mangrove island, arriving in late afternoon, just before dusk. There we witnessed the incredible sight of thousands of scarlet ibis coming in to their roost. It was a perfect evening: blue sky, pink clouds, bright green mangrove foliage and absolutely stunning BRIGHT RED ibis streaming overhead. It was an amazing sight, a truly moving experience—one that none of us will ever forget.

Early on Jan 12th we departed the Asa Wright Center and drove back to the airport for the 20-minute flight to Tobago. We arrived in a torrential downpour an hour after arrival.
TRINIDAD-TOBAGO, from Page 1

earlier than scheduled and had to wait under the overhang for our driver and guide, Gladwyn, to arrive. He was to drive us to the Blue Waters Inn and guide us as well. The rain did slacken and we were able to get in a couple of pretty good days of birding viewing white-cheeked pintail, ruby topaz hummingbird (a stunner!), scrub greenlet, blue-backed manakin and white-tailed sabrewing to name a few. Our hotel, the Blue Waters Inn, was excellent, with an ocean view from all rooms, a lovely beach and good food as well. We were well taken care of!

Our last day in Tobago involved traveling by small boat to Little Tobago Island located about ½-mile offsho re from our hotel. The water was fairly rough and it was a bit windy, so several people stayed onshore. Disembarking from the boat was, to say the least, a real challenge as the boat rocked and swayed against an old pier on the island. However, all of the group made it safely and commenced a short but steep climb to the high vantage point where we could do our observation. The view was just incredible, with scores of red-billed tropicbirds, frigatebirds and brown and red-footed boobies (3 color morphs!). Our guide showed us a nesting tropicbird just off the trail as well. Quite a show, for sure! And then, we had to get back on the boat—just as hard as getting on! But we all made it.

After lunch Gladwyn drove us back to the airport for our trip back to Trinidad. After our flight, we spent a final night at the Holiday Inn Express and jetted home on the 15th.

And finally, the top 5 birds as voted upon by the group: 1) Scarlet Ibis (overwhelming choice), 2) Tufted Coquette, 3) Red-tailed Tropicbird, 4) Blue-crowned Motmot and 5) Blue-backed Manakin.

It was a truly memorable trip. Lots of lifers, lots of fun with our friends. To see the entire bird list, visit the PAS website. There will be a link to a YouTube video of the trip as well.
**IT'S RIGHT THERE...**

**IN THE GREEN TREE!**

(from an article by Chuck Almdale & Lillian Johnson, birders from the Los Angeles Area.)

For many of us birding is both fun and art. As with any art, the better you get, the more you enjoy it and vice versa. But like any art, there are certain techniques you can learn that will enhance both your enjoyment and ability to share that enjoyment with others. Many of these techniques and skills are covered in field guide introductions or magazine articles. Neglected - until now - is the skill of getting others onto the bird you’ve found. The joy of finding a new, interesting or beautiful bird increases when you share it with others. But you can’t share the joy if you can’t help others find the bird. In our years of birding, we have personally made and witnessed others make every single error mentioned below, and we find the five suggested techniques to be the most useful and easily learned.

**Five Basics Points**

**Scope:** If you have a scope, it’s easy to put it on the bird and let others look through it. This works well with birds like shorebirds, ducks or resting raptors which don’t move around quickly; it’s nearly useless with birds flitting through foliage. When the bird is cryptic, partially hidden or distant and small, give useful additional hints: look in the upper left portion of the field of view; behind that vertical snag, at the base of the red rock. Knowing which part of the scope’s view contains the bird can quickly ensure a useful look.

**Make sure they are looking in the same direction as you are:** If possible, just glance around. Birders are often looking in completely different directions while arguing about what they’re seeing. This happens so frequently that it’s a standing joke. A quick, “Stand behind me and look where I’m looking,” can at least get them into the general area.

**Clock face:** In many situations, using a clock face can aid speedy location. In an open area, twelve o’clock is always straight ahead, six is directly behind, three and nine are 90 degrees right and left, respectively. Other hours fall in between. For a vertical object such as a tree, twelve is the top, three is ½ way down on the right side, and so on. On a boat or in a car (or line of cars), twelve is always straight ahead down the road, six is straight behind down the road, and so on. It should go without saying (but won’t) that 12 o’clock is not simply the direction in which you happen to be looking at that moment. If you’re young and don’t know how to read an analog clock, now is a good time to learn.

**What Not To Say**

There’s no end to the list of unhelpful, frustrating and irritating directions one might give. And - like speaking to someone in a foreign language - emphasis, raising your voice and waving your arms around does little more than scare away the bird.

Here is a small sampling: It’s right there. Just look. Over there. IT’S RIGHT THERE! There! No, there! Are you blind? It’s right behind the green leaf. Some useless directions are situation specific. For example: out there in the grass (in a large grassy field); on the phone wire (in a city forest of wires); on the pole (with dozens of phone poles stretching off to the horizon); on the bush (in the chaparral); on the water (from the beach). And the ever-favorite classic, frequently heard in the forest: it’s in the tree, the green tree. You get the idea.

Getting into details of distance and size can mislead. “A foot high bird on a 100-foot boulder 500 yards away,” can be really misleading when the bird is really a Rock Wren 50 yards away on a car-size boulder.

When your knowledge of vegetation, rocks, soil, clouds and so forth is better than average, it’s easy to assume your audience knows what you know. “It’s in the Phalanopsis growing by the Dichroendria next to that crumbled intrusion of frantactic gneiss,” can be as useless as saying “over there” to the person who cannot identify those objects. Common English is best.

And if you want to really irritate your birding mates, just give a lengthy description of the bird before giving any clue as to where you’re looking. Make sure you pop in such exclamations as, “Oooh….Wow…what IS that?…It’s soooo beautiful….Pleease tell me what it is!”, ad nauseam, finishing up with “well…it’s….geee…how can I – whoops!, it just took off! You missed it? Are you blind? It was right there….in the green tree!”

I’m definitely guilty of this one! (ed: and who amongst us isn’t?)

Char

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**PAS PICNIC’S A-COMIN’!**

**(NOTE CHANGE FROM NEWSLETTER!!)**

The Annual Palomar Audubon Society Picnic is fast approaching. Put Sunday, June 5th on your calendar now so you don’t miss this year’s bash. Bert and Sharon Kersey have generously offered their wonderful home as this year’s location. **This is one not to be missed.** Additional information will be included in the next issue of Band Tales, but save this date NOW!
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, March 5
San Diego Bird Festival – No Field Trip

Saturday, March 12, 8:30 a.m.
Santee Lakes
Santee
(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 and continue south to the entrance to Santee Lakes on your 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 General Store between lakes 4 & 5.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.
San Jacinto Wildlife Area
Riverside County
(RC 749-B4) Rating: 2
From San Diego County take I-15 north to I-215. Exit at the Ramona Expressway right (east). Continue east to Lakeview (a small town) At the traffic signal turn left (north) on Davis Road. Proceed on the asphalt and gravel road for three miles to the SJWA headquarters parking lot on the right. From Escondido allow 75 minutes drive time.

Leader: Sally Sanderson
760-749-6995

Saturday, March 26, 8:30 a.m.
Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary
Oceanside
(1066-F7) Rating: 2
From Highway 78 west, exit north on El Camino Real and continue to Douglas Drive. From I-5 north exit east on Highway 76 and continue to the Douglas Drive exit. Take Douglas Drive north approximately 1 mile and turn left on North River Road to the entrance gate at the end. Ignore the no trespassing signs. Continue west on the dirt road to the caretaker’s house and the parking area.

Leader: David Mathis
760-754-5215

Saturday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.
Lake Hodges
Del Dios
(1149-E4) Rating: 2
From I-15 in Escondido exit at Via Rancho Parkway and drive west to Lake Drive. Turn left and drive about 1/2 mile. Meet at Del Dios Park across from the Country Store. We should see waterfowl, shorebirds and a whole host of local residents.

Leader: Jeff Ebright
858-484-3932

Saturday, April 9, 8:30 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 and then right to the Visitor Center parking lot. We’ll bird the Estuary and then check for additional species at 7th Street on South San Diego Bay.

Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.
Old Mission Dam
San Diego
http://www.mtrp.org/park.asp
(1230-F6) Rating: 2
Take Highway 52 east to the Mast Boulevard exit in Santee. Turn north/east onto Mast Boulevard. and then right at the 1st traffic signal (West Hills Parkway). Take West Hills Parkway to Mission Gorge Road and turn right. Take Mission Gorge Road 0.2 miles and merge right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Proceed 0.7 miles down Father Juniper Serra Trail to the Old Mission Dam parking lot, located on the right. This should be prime time for spring migrants.

Leader: Penny Hernandez
760-746-8315

Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m.
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Morongo Valley, San Bernardino County
http://www.bigmorongo.org/
(SB 616-J5) Rating: 1
From Escondido, proceed north on I-15 for approximately 36 miles to the I-15/I-215 split in Murrieta. Change to I-215 north and continue about 30 miles to Highway 60 east. Take Highway 60 east then continuing east on I-10 to Highway 62, approximately 40 miles. Go north on Highway 62 to Morongo Valley (a small town), about 12

see FIELD TRIPS, Page 5
miles. About a mile or two into town, look for signs for Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Turn right (south) on East Drive, a dirt road, to the Preserve. The parking lot is just beyond that. Picnic tables and restrooms are available. In the caretaker’s yard, several hummingbird and seed feeders will attract many birds for your enjoyment. This location is always a spring hot spot and favorite PAS field trip. Bring a lunch for an after birding picnic at the bird feeders. Allow 2 hours travel time from Escondido.

Leader: Doug Nail
760-451-9370

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m.
(Note new Spring/Summer start time)
Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley
San Diego
(1350 – D5) Rating: 2
From North County, take the 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 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 Garden, where there is a chance of seeing the elusive Black-throated Magpie Jay.
Leader: Jim Beckman
858-205-2819

Saturday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.
Daley Ranch
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 on La Honda Drive. Continue north toward Dixon Lake and on to the free Daley Ranch parking area on your left. Meet at the trailhead kiosk.
Leader: David Mathis
760-754-5215

Thursday, March 24
SARA MOTHERAL
“Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Project”
Sara Motheral, Research Technician in Applied Plant Research at the San Diego Zoo, will discuss and show slides of the habitat restoration project underway at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Sara and her colleagues, along with a group of volunteers, have been in the process of re-establishing the cactus habitat destroyed by fires several years ago in and around the Wild Animal Park. They are also diligently working on assessing the Cactus Wren population in this area to see what the consequences will be to the Cactus Wren population in the future. Please join us to hear more about this intriguing program and the progress they are making. Remember, it’s free!

Thursday, April 28
Dave Bittner
“Tracking Golden Eagles”
Dave Bittner, Executive Director of the Wildlife Research Institute, will be our guest speaker. Dave, a good friend of Palomar Audubon, will speak to us about tracking Golden Eagles using satellite telemetry to gain even more knowledge of the distances covered by Golden Eagles as they define and defend their territories on a daily basis and as some migrate long distances. Dave’s commitment to defending habitat for the preservation of raptors, especially Golden Eagles, is unmatched.

Dave will connect his group’s efforts to WRI’s mission and hopefully to Palomar Audubon’s donations to the Wildlife Research Institute. Please come and meet Dave and listen to his knowledge and enthusiasm for what he and his group are so diligently working on.
Dear Members and Friends,

This has been a great year for Palomar Audubon Society! **What has made it great is the support of our members and friends.** We look forward to an even more successful year in 2011. For this, **we need your continuing help.** As an organization, we would like to encompass additional events, projects and people. The best way to do this is to present programs that will appeal to the interests of a wide variety of members.

**Some of our accomplishments in 2010 and plans for 2011 are:**

**BIRD WALKS** – We had 48 Saturday bird walks with over 900 participants. On average over 50 bird species were observed on each walk and all areas of San Diego County were visited. We continue to look for new areas to bird and to develop new walk leaders.

**PROGRAMS** – We had 7 programs on a variety of subjects presented at monthly membership meetings. Presenters ranged from experts in their field to PAS members.

**SCHOLARSHIP** – Kenny Kimbrough was the recipient of the PAS 2010 Scholarship Award. Kenny attended the week long ABA Young Birders’ Conference in June in Colorado. Kenny found the conference enriching and shared his experience with our membership at an informative program. We plan on continuing the scholarship for 2011 and have identified a worthy recipient for a camp in Arizona. If possible we would like to sponsor a second child this year to one of the four available camps.

**BIRD COUNTS** - We participated in the Escondido Christmas Bird Count to gather yearly census information. The count in December was very successful with a high level of participation. PAS provided lunch for all the participants.

**PUBLICATIONS** - We continue to publish “Band Tales”, our newsletter, which keeps our membership informed of our meetings, programs, weekly bird walks and items of environmental interest. We are now providing an online copy of “Band Tales” at our website.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT** - We donated to the following organizations in 2010: Wildlife Research Institute in Ramona, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, and Escondido Creek Conservancy. For the Wildlife Research Institute, we sponsored the purchase of a GPS device to track a Golden Eagle. We plan on making similar donations in 2011. We are also exploring ways we can provide additional non-monetary support to these worthy organizations in our community.

**BIRDING TRIPS OUTSIDE COUNTY** – We plan to continue offering these birding trips to our members. We had a very successful trip to Trinidad/Tobago this past January.

We are successful as an organization only with your help. The **MAJOR** support for all of our programs and activities comes through your generous donations. If each one of our members donates only $10, we would meet our financial goals and be able to continue to provide a vibrant and interesting organization for your enjoyment. We hope we have made our case and you will respond using the enclosed envelope. Please make your check to Palomar Audubon Society. We are a 501(c)3 organization, so your gift qualifies as a charitable donation.

**Thank you for your support.**

The Board of Directors, Palomar Audubon Society
THANK YOU
"BAND TALES" FOLDERS
Gill Moreland

As a last hurrah I’d like to thank everyone, and especially the more regular “folders” for their loyalty. We gathered around the table sixty times including three at Ann Wier’s home. All numbers are approximate -- I have no records for June & August 2005!!

For coming 25+ times thanks to - Leah French, Delores Grant, Dale Swank, Ann Wier, Ilene Littlefield (cookie lady), Joan Buddenhagen; 10+ Eugenia Palmer, Ruth Hummel, Marjorie Miller, Pat Jensen; AND others who came at least once -Barbara Anderson, Jean Meadowcraft, Mary Lou Kaae, Jan Owen, Peggy Keifer, Tina & Don Somers, Char Glacy, Orval Carter, Bob Jones, Leroy & Linda Stewart, Verla Scambler, Helen Borchelt, Joyce Weidling, Elizabeth Pappageorge, Hazel Thielin, Maria van Zanen, Carl Mitchell, Kim Ronin, Wayne Pray, Joyce Richards, Ron Grant, Arne Christiensen, Orval Carter, Alvin Friedman, Jean & Chuck Bogner, June Keibler, Don Moreland, Rosalyn Fish, Marjorie Allen and Moira Perritt - all the way from Scotland. PAS Members and Friends alike. Some, sadly, are no longer with us, but thanks to everyone for getting the job done well and making it fun. See you at the meetings and field trips!

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR OPEN SPACE IN ESCONDIDO

The California Wildlife Conservation Board granted the Escondido Creek Conservancy $3.5 million to purchase 418 acres on Bottle Peak. This area at the headwaters of Escondido Creek is a pristine landscape that will be preserved for generations to come. The Escondido Creek Conservancy will be responsible for the ongoing management of the property.

In 2010, we made a donation to support the efforts of the Escondido Creek Conservancy and as a member of Palomar Audubon, I am proud to see our continued support of organizations that work successfully for conservation. They now have an opportunity to leverage contributions since an anonymous donor through the San Diego Foundation committed to match donations up to $100,000.

As you think about your future donations to Palomar Audubon know that they do make a difference to conservation in our local areas including Escondido and the Ramona Grasslands.

CONSERVATION NOTES
Char Glacy

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 Palomar Audubon Society)

☐ Contribution __________________________

Name______________________________

Address _____________________________

City______________State____ZIP________

Telephone ____________________________

E-mail ______________________________

100% of Chapter Membership dues supports projects locally.

☐ Please check here if you are interested in National Audubon Society membership.

☐ Please check here if you are a member of National Audubon Society.

(Chapter Affiliation)
Band Tales
March-April, 2010

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

Band Tales
March-April, 2011

Quick Calendar

March 3 Board of Director’s Meeting
March 5 San Diego Bird Festival – No Field Trip
March 12 Santee Lakes Walk
March 19 San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk
March 24 General Meeting: Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration
March 26 Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk
April 2 Lake Hodges Walk
April 7 Board of Director’s Meeting
April 9 Tijuana Estuary & 7th Street Walk
April 16 Old Mission Dam Walk
April 23 Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Walk
April 28 General Meeting: Tracking Golden Eagles
April 30 Dairy Mart Pond/Tijuana River Valley Walk
May 7 Daley Ranch Walk

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

Board of Director’s Meeting
Thursday, March 3rd April 7th
7:00 p.m. at the Remington Club
16916 Hierba Drive
Rancho Bernardo

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…………………..858-484-3932
Treasurer
Jeff Ebright…………………………..858-487-0731

Directors-at-Large
Jim Beckman………………………….858-792-5526
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 ……… 858-792-5526
Fundraising ……… Committee ……..760-746-8315
Hospitality ……… Panny Hernandez…760-746-8315
Membership ……… Vicki Ebright …858-484-3932
Merchandising…… Mickey Nail ……… 760-451-9370
Programs ………… Doug Nordenberg…760-451-9370
Publicity ………… Mickey Nail ……… 760-451-9370
Scholarship ……… Jim Beckman………..858-792-5526

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