

Band Tales Palomar Audubon Society A Chapter of the NATIONAL AUDURON SOCIETY NATIONAL AUDURON SOCIETY

A Chapter of the

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Volume XXVI May-June **Editor** No. 6 **Arne Christiansen** 2012

CELEBRATE SPRING WITH CITIZEN SCIENCE

7ith May flowers and birds well on their way back to us, it's a great time to think about a new season of citizen science. Cornell Lab of Ornithology's newest project, YardMap, is perfect for people who enjoy gardening and bird watching. Using simple point-andclick tools, you can map out the parts of your yard while keeping track of the birds that visit it. The data you help their scientists understand neighborhoods function as bird habitat. For those who want to take a closer look at nesting robins, wrens, chickadees, swallows, and other backyard birds, NestWatch offers a structured, supportive way to help, with tons of advice on attracting nesters and finding nests: Explore YardMap at http://content.yardmap.org/ and NestWatch at http://nestwatch.org/

Amateur naturalists are helping scientists answer questions about shifts in seasons by observing things like the date robins start building a nest. It's a huge effort coordinated by the USA National Phenology Network. Phenology (the timing of seasonal activity of plants and animals) is a leading indicator of changes in the earth's environment. Scientists use the collected data to monitor invasive species, predict wildfires and study how plants and animals are adapting to climate change. To track and compile data, professionals rely on more than 4.000 volunteers who record their observations online. For more information, go to http://www.usanpn.org/.

BLUEBIRD CONFERENCE COMIN' UP

he 35th Annual Bluebird Conference of the North American Bluebird Society is October 4-7, 2012 in Newport Beach, CA. The conference is being organized and hosted by the Southern California Bluebird Club. The meeting will be held in the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach. Already workshops on Western Bluebirds, Mountain Bluebirds, Owls of California, the Lewis Woodpecker and field trips to local wetlands and wildlife areas are planned. The keynote speaker will be Laura Ericson, speaking on "How Birds Learn". She is writer and editor for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Register now for a discounted fee. The entire conference packet is available at http://bluebirdssc.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/ nabs-2012-registration-packet.pdf

ELECTION TIME AGAIN!

ur nominating committee (Jim Beckman & Doug Nail), has done its job by presenting our membership with a slate of Officers and new Board Members to be voted on at our General Meeting on May, 24th. The PAS membership must now do its work by voting on this slate, and we encourage a full turnout for that purpose. Here are the nominees:

OFFICERS

President: Jeff Ebright Vice President: Jim Beckman Secretary: Vicki Ebright Treasurer: Mickey Nail

DIRECTORS Jan Behrhorst Sunny Christiansen Barbara Dunn Elinor Foulke Doug Nail Lyn Gamelson

"CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER?" SEE P. 4 FOR AN EXPLANATION



Inside this Band Tales

A Birds-Eye View	page 2
Conservation Notes	page 2
Field Trips	pages 5,6
Programs	page 6

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Jeff Ebright

F irst a correction from last the Band Tales issue, our fine webmaster is Kemer Thomson. I spelled his last name incorrectly not once, but twice. The board approved



the next phase of our project to improve PAS website, so keep an eye out for the planned changes.

There was a good article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy about the changes taking place with National Audubon. I have posted it to the PAS website in the Article page. I have also added several other

articles on conservation, global warming, and how to make your backyard bird friendly.

I want to thank all that took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count. The 15th annual count was the most successful ever. 17 million bird observations were recorded across North America, and 618 species were identified. This wealth of information helps scientists track changes in bird populations on a continental scale from year to year.

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 palomaraudubon@gmail.com.

Good Birding!



FROM PAS INBOX

Jeff Ebright

o questions received since last newsletter, so I have a question for you. What are your favorite birding websites? I plan to reorganize the Links page on PAS website to make it easier to use. I plan on adding some of my favorite websites and would like to see if there are others our members would find useful.



CONSERVATION NOTES

Doug Nail

ast month, I talked about the Ramona Grasslands

and the new trail that has been developed by San

Diego County. I have been out there several times now and frankly I haven't been concerned with what I have seen. However, I just found out the trail is just the start of a plan to increase access throughout the grasslands and over the mountains to where there are great concerns about the impact on Golden Eagles. We will be keeping and eye on this issue and are currently trying

to get a meeting pulled together with other interested groups so we can see exactly what San Diego County is planning. We will keep you posted!

On another subject, below is a Q and A about wind turbines which are starting to spring up all over the country. This is another issue we need to continue to stay focused on as the guidelines are "voluntary" which means we need to keep abreast of what and where things are going in around us. This came to us from National Audubon. Read on:

New Federal Guidelines Issued to Reduce Impacts of Wind Development on Birds

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Audubon says the new guidelines are a "step forward for bird-friendly wind development." Why do you think that?

A. The Federal Advisory Committee advising the Secretary of the Interior on the guidelines (on which Audubon served) worked over three years to produce a consensus document. Participants included the Fish and Wildlife Service, state wildlife agencies, the conservation community and the wind industry. We think the product of that expertise and that enormous effort has value and real potential for improving bird protection.

The voluntary guidelines will set nationwide standards for study protocols, recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts, and post-construction monitoring. Audubon also worked hard to incorporate language related to habitat fragmentation -- cooperating wind companies will be expected to analyze (and avoid, minimize and mitigate) habitat impacts under this regime.

Q. Why is Audubon supporting voluntary guidelines instead of mandatory guidelines?

A. Because we think advocating for strong voluntary guidelines will yield the best result for birds and for the

CONSERVATION, from Page 2

build-out of renewable energy sources.

We believe there is little appetite for mandatory guidelines in Washington, DC, as evidenced by the Interior Department's rejection last week of a petition asking for mandatory guidelines.

On the other hand, the voluntary guidelines will put in place an important new industry-wide standard for how wind development will be planned and how impacts on birds will be avoided, minimized, and mitigated. If the Interior Department follows through with strong enforcement, we could see really meaningful change. "Voluntary" is also a bit of a misnomer. In fact, virtually every major wind company in the U.S. is on record having voluntarily pledged to comply with these guidelines. That's why Audubon, and nearly every other national conservation group (including TNC, Defenders of Wildlife and many others), supports the guidelines as an important step forward.

Q. Why did the Interior Department reject the petition for mandatory guidelines?

A. The Department of the Interior does not believe the Migratory Bird Treaty Act can be used in a practical, implemental way to regulate activities like wind development. That is because the MBTA would require setting "take thresholds" for more than 1,000 species of protected migratory birds at every project. It just would not be workable in practice and would likely result in bureaucratic paralysis.

In addition, it is not clear that DOI could issue mandatory regulations for wind power without also addressing many other activities that harm birds -- like construction of tall buildings, construction of cell towers, or approval of pesticide applications. So, from Interior's perspective, a mandatory permitting process could quickly become enormously complex and burdensome on an underfunded agency.

Q. What do the new guidelines mean for endangered birds like California Condor and Whooping Crane that are threatened by wind development?

A. The guidelines include explicit language directing wind developers to obtain all necessary permits under federal wildlife law, including any permits that may be required under the Endangered Species Act. The guidelines do nothing to change regulatory requirements under the Endangered Species Act, so the condors and cranes remain well protected.

O. Are the voluntary guidelines enforceable?

A. The guidelines have explicit ties to federal wildlife law. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service has not prosecuted a wind company under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The success of the framework will depend on strong enforcement of wildlife law and a high standard for

assessing adherence to the guidelines going forward. That's why we are spearheading a <u>letter</u> to the Interior Department that urges strong enforcement of the guidelines (to which more than 60 groups, including dozens of Audubon chapters, have already signed on).

Good birding!



DID YOU EVER WONDER HOW?

Marj Freda

id you ever wonder how the bi-monthly newsletter you are reading right now gets done? Well, by volunteers, as you probably guessed. For many (say about ten) years Gill Moreland and her "elves" were responsible for collating, stapling and mailing Band Tales. Gill thought it was time for others to participate, and new folks stepped up to the plate. Thanks you Penny Hernandez, Sunny and Arne Christiansen for their part in putting the newsletter together for mailing. Arne also is our Editor-in-Chief; no small task.

When all the copies are ready for mailing Donna and Al Przecha put on the labels and get them to the post office. Donna also handles the membership list provided by National Audubon and integrates the chapter-only memberships with Vicki Ebright. Now that's team work, and your busy staff at Band Tails wouldn't mind a few more hands to help out occasionally. You might even get a cup of coffee and a homemade muffin. If you are so inclined contact Sunny (858-487-0731) to find out when the next mailing "party" gets under way.



Thanks to the folders of the March-April issue of **Band Tales.** From left to right: Sunny Christiansen, Elinor Foulke, Marj Freda, Mickey Nail and Penny Hernandez.

IT'S TIME FOR THE 2012 MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY & PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 at 4:00 P.M. FELICITA PARK, ESCONDIDO



he 2012 PAS Picnic is one not to be missed. It will be held under the beautiful oak trees at Felicita Park in Escondido near the Nature Trail and Creek so bring your binoculars to check out the park's birds. You are all invited to join our Tea Party and the Mad Hatter hopes to see you modeling your best Mad

Hatters hat. A prize will be awarded for the best hat as voted on by the attendees.

ON THE MENU

Back by popular demand: filet mignon steaks (grilled to order!) along with Penny's potato salad, various other salads and our "Friendship Fruit Salad," created from everyone's fruit contributions (please bring your fruit prepared for the salad as there are no kitchen facilities at the park). Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served by our friendly and highly skilled PAS bartenders.

FUN FOR ALL, AND A RAFFLE, TOO!

We encourage everyone to bring a new bird-related item for this year's raffle - maybe a bird book or a birdhouse or even a nice fancy pair of bird suspenders or hat! Be creative; it's fun and this could be your lucky year!

The Palomar Audubon Society expects this to be a super event, and everyone wants YOU to attend!

PARKING IS \$3.00.
PLEASE CARPOOL IF YOU CAN.

GETTING THERE:

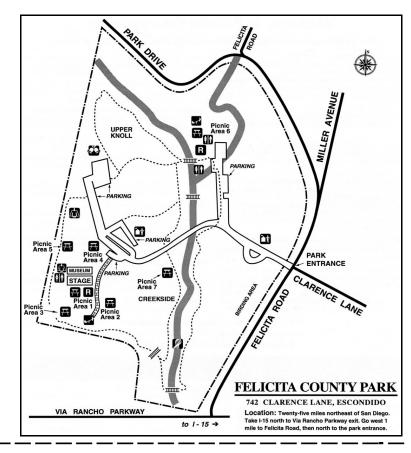
The picnic is at Felicita County Park in Escondido, 742 Clarence Lane, Escondido for those using GPS

DIRECTIONS:

- Take Interstate 15 to Via Rancho Parkway.
- After you exit go west 1 mile to Felicita Road, then right (north) to the park entrance.
- Turn left after entering the park until you reach Picnic area 7, which is by the Nature Trail and creek.

PARKING FEE:

There is a \$3.00 parking fee collected at the park entrance.





PLEASE RSVP BY JUNE 2ND

\$ 20 PER PERSON — PLEASE MAKE OUT YOUR CHECK TO PAS AND MAIL IT WITH THIS FORM TO SUNNY CHRISTIANSEN ~ 1 2480 POMERADO PLACE ~ SAN DIEGO, CA 92128



NAVV(E(3)	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE	PHONE NUMBER

HOW MANY OF EACH: #__STEAK #__CHICKEN #__VEGETARIAN

__I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH SET-UP OR CLEAN-UP.

NOTE: PLEASE REMEMBER TO

1. BRING A NEW BIRD-RELATED ITEM FOR THIS YEAR'S RAFFLE.

2. BRING A PIECE OF FRUIT FOR THE FRIENDSHIP FRUIT SALAD.

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, May 5, 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 (north) on La Honda Drive. Continue on toward Dixon Lake and to the free Daley Ranch parking lot on your left. Meet at the kiosk.

Leader: Jeff Ebright 858-484-3932

Saturday, May 12, 8:00 a.m.
Wilderness Gardens Preserve
Pala

(409-E6) Rating: 2

This small wilderness area represents a fine example of oak woodland habitat. Meet in the Wilderness Gardens parking lot, which is about 10 miles east of I-15 on Highway 76, on the south side of the highway. Parking fee required, but free with senior County pass. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Michael Beeve 209-247-5237

Saturday, May 19, 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 1 mile to Park Road entrance on your left – at the fire station. Proceed on Park Road about ³/₄ mile to the Amphitheater parking lot on the right. Woodland, riparian, and open-area habitats usually get us a nice list of resident birds.

Leader: Sunny Christiansen

858-487-0731

Saturday, May 26, 8:00 a.m.

Lindo Lake
Lakeside

(1232-B3) Rating: 2

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52 east to Mission Gorge Road. Turn left and continue east to Woodside Avenue. Go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end,

with the parking area 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 with the parking area on the left.

Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

Saturday, June 2, 8:00 a.m.

Sweetwater River Gorge

Rancho San Diego

(1271-J6) Rating: 2-3

From I-5, I-805, or I-15, take Hwy. 94 east; stay on Highway 94 as it becomes Campo Road, then turn right on Singer Lane, and then an immediate left onto the dirt parking area near the old steel bridge. This area is a rich stream habitat surrounded by native chaparral and sage scrub. There are no restrooms or drinking water available, so plan accordingly. Expect warm weather. It's a PAS tradition to eat lunch at close-by Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill after birding.

Leader: Jim Kerr 858-442-4726

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

William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Julian

(1156-C5) Rating: 2-3

From Escondido take Hwy 78 east (from San Diego take Highway 67 east) to Ramona, then Highway 78 toward Julian, past Santa Ysabel. At Wynola start looking for the sign for William Heise Park (1 mile west of Julian). Turn right on Pine Hill Road and drive south for 2 miles to Frisius Road. Turn left (east) onto Frisius Road, and drive another 2 miles to the park entrance. We will meet in the parking lot. There is a parking fee, but free with a senior County pass. We will also drive to Santa Ysabel Mission to look for orioles and other spring/summer migrants. Bring a lunch for an after-birding picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jeff Ebright 858-484-3932

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

Agua Dulce Creek Laguna Mountains (430-B5) Rating: 2-3

We will meet at the old parking area for Agua Dulce Creek Group camp. Driving east on I-8, and after Pine Valley, look for signs indicating the Sunrise Highway Exit and Laguna Mountain Recreation Area. Go north on Sunrise Highway (S-1) approx. 8 miles to Wooded Hill Road, the first road on the left and directly across the road

see FIELD TRIPS, Page 5

FIELD TRIPS, from Page 4

from Morris Ranch Road. Restrooms, picnic tables and water are available in the Lagunas near the General Store at Burnt Rancheria Picnic area. A Forest Service Adventure Pass is required and is available locally in San Diego County at major sporting goods stores and at other areas in the Lagunas. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Sally Sanderson

760-749-6995

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

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Julian

(429- L3) Rating: 2-3

From San Diego, take I-8 east and exit north on Highway 79. Continue approximately 12 miles to the Paso Pacacho Campground on the left. From the North County, take Highway 78 (or Highway 67) to Ramona, and then continue on Highway 78 just past Julian, to Highway 79. Take Highway 79 south approximately 10 miles to the campground on the right where we will meet. There is a day use fee. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Doug Nail 760-451-9370

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

Palomar Mountain San Diego County (409-G7) Rating: 2

This field trip will start from the parking lot at Doane Pond. Leave the Escondido area before 7 a.m. From I-15, take Highway 76 east to Highway S6, north to Palomar Mountain. Or from Escondido, take Highway S6 to Palomar Mountain. At the mountaintop, at the S7 intersection stop sign, turn left and continue for 3 miles on State Park Road to the Palomar Mountain State Park entrance. There is a day use fee. Proceed 1.5 miles to the Doane Pond/School Camp area. Bring a lunch for an after-walk picnic. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

Saturday, July 7, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Murray La Mesa

(1250-E6) Rating: 1

Take I-8 east to the Lake Murray Boulevard exit and proceed 1 mile north (right turn) to Baltimore Drive. Turn left and drive about 1 mile to Jackson Drive. Turn left again, proceed ¼ mile and make another left turn onto Golfcrest Drive. Continue about one mile on Golfcrest Drive to the Mission Trails Regional Park entrance on the left. Meet in the parking lot near the softball field bleachers. This location is at the northwest end of Lake Murray. Expect warm weather.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

PROGRAMS

Please join us for our interesting monthly program and refreshments at the <u>Remington Club</u>, 16916 Hierba Drive, <u>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, May 24

Kody Fluck and Doug Nail

"Learning to Bird" and "Birding Ghana"

PAS's Young Birder Scholarship winner last year was Kody Fluck. Kody enjoyed the birds and adventures of Arizona for a week and looks forward to sharing with us what he saw and learned.

Doug Nail experienced a trip to Ghana for an "off the beaten" track birding adventure. Join us as Doug tells of the birds, people, and flavor of this west African country. Doug and his group had a mission while there: to view and photograph an endangered avian species in order to aid in its protection. Did they meet the goal? Come find out!

Sunday, June 10

PAS Annual Picnic

"Mad Hatter's Tea Party

And Picnic

See page 4 for details and a reservation form. Don't be left down the rabbit hole on this one. You may even get a chance to see The Queen play croquet with a flamingo! (NOT)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

F-9
□ New Member - \$20 □ Renewal - \$20
☐ New Family Member - \$25 ☐ Renewal - \$25
(payable to Palomar Audubon Society)
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Name
Address
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Telephone
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100% of Chapter Membership dues supports



REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR THE
JULY-AUGUST ISSUE IS
JUNE 15TH.
SUBMIT COPY TO
arnec@juno.com

projects locally.

SOUTHWEST WINGS FESTIVAL 21ST YEAR

Registration time for the 2012 Southwest Wings Birding and Nature Festival is fast approaching. It will be held August 1st- 4th in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Some of the educational highlights of the Birding and Nature Festival will be Mexican Birds, Trogon, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Ornithology, Hummingbirds, Bats, Bugs, Snakes, and Owls. It takes place in the spectacular high desert environment of Cochise County, home to the Huachuca Mountains and the San Pedro River. Paul Bannick, a wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North America with a focus on birds and habitat, will give the keynote address entitled The Owl and the Woodpecker. For more information on the festival and registration, visit http://swwings.org/.

NEW FEDERAL GUIDELINES A STEP FORWARD FOR BIRD-FRIENDLY WIND DEVELOPMENT

n Friday, March 23, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe released unprecedented federal wind guidelines intended to improve siting of wind development across the country and reduce impacts on birds and other wildlife. The guidelines were developed with the assistance of a 22member Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee which included experts from the National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife, Massachusetts Audubon, and Bat Conservation International. The committee, created under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) in 2009, worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend guidelines to avoid or minimize impacts to birds and their habitats by land-based wind energy facilities.

Audubon was instrumental in making sure the guidelines address habitat fragmentation, one of the most significant potential impacts of wind development on birds. As a result, wind developers who cooperate with the guidelines will be expected to avoid approaches that cut up and divide important habitats like forests and grasslands and make them less suitable for wildlife. Audubon is now urging strong implementation of these guidelines across the country. More than 70 local Audubon chapters have already signed Audubon's letter to the Interior Secretary urging use of the guidelines to ensure strong protections for birds.

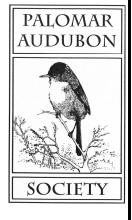
Band Tales

May-June, 2012

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

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Programs Committee xxx-xxx-xxxx
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Scholarship Jim Beckman 858-792-5526
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kemer.thomson@gmail.com

Webmaster: Kemer Thomson:

Board of Director's MeetingWednesday, May 2nd & Wednesday, June 6th

Wednesday, May 2nd & Wednesday, June 6th
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.

OUICK CALENDAR

May	5	Daley Ranch Walk
May	12	Wilderness Gardens Preserve Walk
May	19	Kit Carson Park Walk
May	24	General Meeting: "Learning to Bird/Birding Ghana"
May	<i>26</i>	Lindo Lake Walk
June	2	Sweetwater River Gorge Walk
June	9	William Heise County Park/Santa Ysabel Mission Walk
June	<i>10</i>	Annual PAS Picnic
June	16	Agua Dulce Creek Walk
June	23	Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Walk
June	<i>30</i>	Palomar Mountain Walk
July	7	Lake Murray Walk