



# Band Tales

Palomar Audubon Society  
A Chapter of the  
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November-December  
2010

Editor  
Arne Christiansen

## ARIZONA TRIP A SMASH HIT

The latest PAS field trip to Southeast Arizona was a big success, with 10 birders recording 200 species over 8 days of birding. Participants were Doug Nail, Brian Coleman, Sue Smith, Richard Griebbe, Joan Comito, Beverly Warburton, Bruce and Kay Campbell and Hal and Dianne Benham. The group was guided by Melody Kehl, an absolutely fantastic birder who found lifers for everyone.

We stayed two nights in Green Valley, birding the Madera Canyon area, two nights in Sierra Vista, one night in Portal and three nights in Tucson. The plan was to visit as many habitats as possible in order to view the maximum number of birds.

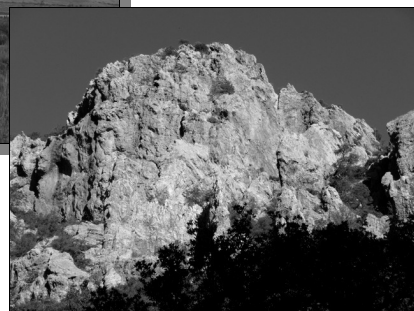
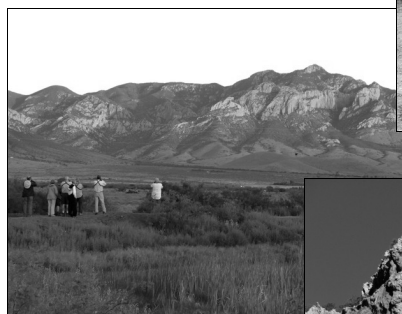
Highlight birds included the Elegant Trogon, Lucifer's Hummingbird, Beryline Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Magnificent Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Mexican Whip-poor-will, Whiskered Screech Owl, 5-Striped Sparrow, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet, Harris Hawk, Grey Hawk, Sulfur-bellied Flycatcher, Mississippi Kite, Northern Goshawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Baird's Sandpiper, Scaled Quail, Spotted Owl, Lesser and Common Nighthawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Gila Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Arizona Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, Thick-billed Kingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Canyon Wren, Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, Mexican Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Canyon Towhee, Botteri's Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Yellow-eyed Junco, Pyrrhuloxia, Varied Bunting and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

We had great fun observing mixed flocks of warblers on Mount Lemmon, descending into California Gulch for the 5-Striped Sparrow, braving lightning, thunder, rain and hail in the Chiracauas, and enjoying each other's company during our wonderful picnic lunches provided by Melody, her husband, Eric and her assistant, Nancy. Dinners were group affairs with lively discussions of the birds and sights we had seen during the day.

If you ever have the opportunity to hire Melody as a guide for the area, it will be worth the experience. She is talented, fun and driven to provide the ultimate birding adventure for her clients. We all came away very

impressed and happy to have made her acquaintance.

Our next trip is to Trinidad and Tobago in January. The trip is filled, but read about it on the PAS website.



## 2010 NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2011. See page 4 of this issue for more information.

**Sign-up now and join the fun!**



### *Inside this Band Tales*

- A Birds-Eye View* ..... page 2
- Field Trips*..... pages 3,4
- From California Audubon* ..... page 4

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

*Doug Nail*

**W**ow, we have been seeing a lot of nice birds this fall, both shorebirds and migrating passerines! I hope you all are enjoying the season. When you read this, the migrating passerines will have made their way to Central and South America. The good news is the wintering birds will stay until spring. I know Jim Beckman is putting some great trips together for the Saturdays we will be birding. Be sure and check your Band



Tales or the [Palomaraudubon.org](http://Palomaraudubon.org) website to see where and when we will be birding. Remember, it's free!!

We had a wonderful trip to Southeast Arizona with Palomar Audubon thanks to Hal and Dianne Benham's efforts. We saw many of the target birds we had on our list and we saw some fantastic scenery as well. Over two hundred species were tabulated and a few people had over twenty life birds!

Our Palomar Audubon Trinidad-Tobago Trip is filled, just in time! We leave January 6<sup>th</sup> and return on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We will be sure to save a spot on one of the upcoming Palomar Audubon program nights to tell you all about it, probably in February. Check our website or look for it in the next Band Tales!

I presented a program on "Birds of Your Area and How to Keep Them in Your Area" to The Escondido Creek Conservancy on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. They have a new small but beautiful Interpretive Center located at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, and if you haven't been out there lately, I encourage you to spend some time there. It is on Harmony Grove Road between the 6 and 6.5 mile markers. If you have grandkids, they would love to spend a little time there. It's free and it's a nice way to spend some quality time with children of all ages. There is a nice short walk and a very difficult long walk that goes uphill to Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir. We will scout it out and see if we can benefit from a hike up to the reservoir.

Mickey and I are off to spend a week with the grandkids in Gilbert, Arizona. The parents are off on a vacation so I'm hoping to get the grandkids out for at least half a day of birding just to see if I can "tempt" them a little more. It's a slow process.

Hope you all have a great Holiday Season; maybe a new pair of binoculars or a scope will be under the tree if you are good!

Good birding!

*Doug*

## FROM THE ESCONDIDO CREEK CONSERVANCY

Hi Doug,

**I**t was lovely to meet you on Saturday at the wonderful talk you gave at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center. We had some great feedback on your presentation. Thank you so much for waiving your honorarium of \$200 and directing this to The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) land acquisition capital campaign where it will attract matching funds. We really appreciate this gesture.

As you know TECC has an office in downtown Escondido and our President, Steve Barker, has asked me to let you know that TECC would be delighted for the Audubon Society to make use of these facilities for free any day or evening that they are not being used by TECC. The office can be found at 111 N. Broadway (at the junction with Grand) and has a boardroom desk which seats 12 people. We have a screen for presentations and also a wide screen TV which can be hooked up to a laptop for presentations. Do drop in next time you are passing to see if you could make use of it. I am usually at the office on week days from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except for Wednesday). It might be a good idea to phone before you visit to make sure the office is open.

As requested I am attaching the photo of you handing the check back to Steve.

Thanks once again for your support and I hope that you will consider giving another talk at the Interpretive Center during 2011.

Ann Hough  
Office Manager  
The Escondido Creek Conservancy



## 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, November 6, 8:30 a.m.**

### **Mission Bay Flood Control Channel & Famosa Slough**

**San Diego**

**(1268-C4) Rating: 1**

Take I-15 south to I-8. Go west on I-8 and exit north on I-5. Take the first off-ramp, Sea World Drive west to South Shores Park Drive, (stop light). Turn left and proceed to our meeting place along the frontage road adjacent to the Flood control Channel. We will be looking for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds in the channel and bay areas and then we will drive to Famosa Slough.

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451- 9370

**Sunday, November 14, 8:30 a.m. (note: Sunday)**

**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 stoplight, 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, November 20, 8:30 a.m.**

**Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay**

Rancho Bernardo

**(1150 – A6) Rating: 2**

From I-15, exit west at Rancho Bernardo Road and turn right onto West Bernardo Drive going north. Proceed to the street marked Rancho Bernardo Recreation Center (stoplight) and turn left. Drive west to the parking areas by the N. Brown Senior Center (18402 West Bernardo Drive).

Leader: Jeff Ebright

858-484-3932

**Saturday, November 27, 8:30 a.m.**

**Lindo Lakes**

Lakeside

**(1232-B3) Rating: 2**

From North County, take I-15 south to Highway 52, east to Mission Gorge Road. Continue east to Woodside Avenue, go under the Highway 67 overpass staying on Woodside Avenue (into Lakeside) to the end, with the parking lot on the left. From San Diego, take I8 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 to the parking area on the left.

Leader: Penny Hernandez

760-746-8315

**Saturday, December 4, 8:30 a.m.**

**South Bay Salt Works (New Location)**

National City

**(1330 F4) Rating: 2**

From North County, take I-15 south to I-5 and exit at Palomar Street in National City. Go west a short distance and turn left on Bay Boulevard. Continue south to 1470 Bay Boulevard and the dirt parking lot on your right. Use a restroom at a fast food joint in National City before arrival – Palomar Street east etc. This location is a restricted area not open to the public. We will be hiking out on the dykes extending into South Bay to view waterfowl and shorebirds. FWS Ranger Debbie Good will accompany us on this field trip.

Leader: Jim Beckman

858-205-2819

**Saturday, December 11, 8:30 a.m.**

**Lake Elsinore**

Riverside County

**Rating: 2**

Take I-15 north to Lake Elsinore and exit at Railroad Canyon Road/Diamond Drive. Proceed west towards the Baseball Stadium past Lakeshore Drive and turn right on Pete Lehr Drive. Park at the Baseball Stadium, near the lake levee entrance. Joining us will be PAS member and local Wildomar birder, Julie Szabo, who frequently birds this Riverside County birding hotspot.

Trip Leaders: Jim Beckman 858-205-2819

and Julie Szabo 909-239-4374.

**Saturday, December 18, 8:30 a.m.**

**San Elijo Lagoon**

Solana Beach

**(1167-E6) Rating: 2**

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 barricade. This is a good spot to view wintering waterfowl and shorebirds.

Leader: Doug Nail

760-451-9370

*FIELD TRIPS, from Page 5*

Saturday, December 25

**CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY – NO FIELD TRIP!**

Saturday, January 1

**NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – NO FIELD TRIP!**

Sunday, January 2

### **Escondido Christmas Bird Count**

Palomar Audubon Society would like to extend an invitation to all birders to participate in the annual Escondido Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The count circle incorporates mostly rural areas near Escondido, Valley Center, and Ramona. Fantastic birding skills are not a requirement – an extra pair of eyes is always helpful. The participation fee, as required by National Audubon, remains at \$5.00. The after-birding compilation meeting will be held in the early afternoon at Kit Carson Park's covered picnic shelter. The highlight of the day will be the deli-style lunch provided, courtesy of Palomar Audubon Society. For more information and/or team assignments, contact Ken Weaver by phone at 760-723-2448 or email [gmatcatcher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmatcatcher@sbcglobal.net).

**Sign up now and join the fun!**



August 24, 2010

Dear Palomar Audubon,

**T**hank you for planning such a well-organized and enjoyable trip to SE Arizona. Our activities and bird list exceeded my expectations, and I enjoyed every minute! Hal and Dianne are wonderful people to travel with. I would encourage every birder to jump at the chance to participate in any activity Dianne and Hal are involved with. They did an excellent job of organizing our birding trip and keeping everyone happy throughout the trip. Everyone had a great time birding in SE Arizona's mountains, and I can't thank them enough for their role in facilitating the trip.

People will remember this trip for a long time!

Sincerely,  
Richard Griebe

### **PROGRAMS**

*No programs are scheduled during the months of November and December. General meetings will resume in January on the regularly scheduled fourth Thursday of each month.*

## **FROM CALIFORNIA AUDUBON**

### **CALIFORNIA CONDOR POPULATION HITS 100**

*(from The Los Angeles Times, 10/10/2010)*

**T**he number of wild, free-flying condors in California has reached one hundred, the most in half a century.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the landmark Wednesday, crediting a captive breeding program started in Southern California in 1982, when there were only twenty-two wild condors in the state.

Young condors born in captivity are released into the wild every fall at Pinnacles National Monument in Central California and Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge on the southwest side of the San Joaquin Valley. The flock will get another bump over the next few months with the release of eleven juveniles.

The big birds are also reproducing on their own in the wild, adding sixteen young to the California population since 2004.

The carrion-eating birds, known for their huge wingspan (9.5 feet) and memorable visage, soared from Mexico to Canada at the time of settlement. Their numbers plummeted with loss of habitat and the decline of the large mammal populations they fed on. More recently, lead poisoning from ammunition and the ingestion of bits of trash have taken a toll.

Arizona, Utah and Baja Mexico also have wild populations. But even when captive birds are counted, there are fewer than four hundred California condors in the world.



### **NEW AUDUBON PRESIDENT VISITS CALIFORNIA**

**N**ew Audubon President David Yarnold spent his first month on the job touring the country seeing the various places where Audubon is making a difference. He spent a lot of time in California, and we recorded much of his visit on video. The video below features Yarnold talking about his visit to San Francisco Bay and the Richardson Bay Audubon Center & Sanctuary.

# 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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)*

## 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.
- ... and while you're at it, you may want to consider visiting these sites if you aren't already familiar with them:
- **Audubon California:** **http://ca.audubon.org/** for lots of news which may be relevant to your life as a California-oriented birder.
  - **Audubon National:** **http://www.audubon.org/** for news that is relevant to birders nationwide.



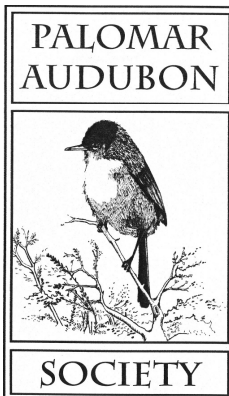
**REMINDER:  
DEADLINE FOR THE  
JANUARY-FEBRUARY ISSUE IS  
DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.  
SUBMIT COPY TO  
arnec@juno.com**



# Band Tales

## November-December, 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.



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**Palomar Audubon Society**  
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- PALOMAR AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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 & COMMITTEE CHAIRS  
 2010-2011**
- President**  
 Doug Nail..... 760-451-9370
- Vice-President**  
 Dianne Benham..... 858-679-7904
- Secretary**  
 Sunny Christiansen..... 858-487-0731
- Treasurer**  
 Jeff Ebright..... 858-484-3932
- Directors-at-Large**  
 Jim Beckman..... 858-205-2819  
 Orval Carter ..... 760-489-5602  
 Vicki Ebright..... 858-484-3932  
 Char Glacy ..... 858-538-6788  
 Penny Hernandez..... 760-746-8315  
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- Committee Chairs**  
 Band Tales ..... Arne Christiansen ... 858-487-0731  
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 Field Trips ..... Jim Beckman ..... 858-205-2819  
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 Hospitality ..... OPEN..... xxx-xxx-xxxx  
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 Merchandising..... Mickey Nail ..... 760-451-9370  
 Programs ..... Doug Nail..... 760-451-9370  
 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](mailto:kemer.thomson@gmail.com)

**Board of Director's Meeting**  
*Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>*  
**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.*

<b>QUICK CALENDAR</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Board of Directors' Meeting</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Mission Bay Flood Control Channel &amp; Famosa Slough Walk</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>San Jacinto Wildlife Area Walk</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Lake Hodges East/Bernardo Bay Walk</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Lindo Lakes Walk</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>South Bay Salt Works Walk</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Lake Elsinore Walk</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>San Elijo Lagoon Walk</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY HOLIDAY – NO FIELD TRIP!</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLIDAY – NO FIELD TRIP!</b>	
<b>January</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Escondido Christmas Bird Count</b>	